

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD

8 June 2011

### Report of the Chief Executive

#### Part 1- Public

#### Matters for Information

#### **1 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING SENIORS (TAMS) FORUM – UPDATE**

**To provide an update on recent meetings held by the TAMS Forum**

##### **1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 In 2009, the former Older Persons' Issues Advisory Board led work on the formation of an older persons' forum for the Borough. Consultation events were held in Borough Green and Tonbridge and a number of volunteers came forward from those events to form a management committee. With the assistance of the Borough Council, Age UK and Age Concern (Malling), the committee arranged a formal launch of the Tonbridge and Malling Seniors' Forum which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010.

1.1.2 The work of the former Older Persons' Issues Advisory Board has now been included within the remit of the Communities Advisory Board. The purpose of this report is to provide an update of the work of the TAMS Forum since its launch.

##### **1.2 Progress to Date**

1.2.1 From the outset, the TAMS management committee, chaired by Barry Hughes, decided that six formal meetings should be held each year: three in the Tonbridge area and three in the Malling area. The aim is to engage as many older people in the Borough as possible. The management committee promote their meetings via local groups and agencies, posters and fliers. They intend to development a website at a later stage but, at the current time, information about the Forum is hosted on the Borough Council's website.

1.2.2 Two formal TAMS meetings have been held to date: on 26<sup>th</sup> January at Blue Bell Hill (also covering the Walderslade area) and on 14<sup>th</sup> April at Tonbridge. Minutes of both meetings are attached as Annex A to this report. As can be seen, the meetings have involved discussion on a wide range of issues and focus on presentations from invited speakers. Whilst both meetings have been well attended, the management committee acknowledge that more needs to be done

to promote the role of the Forum and encourage more older residents to get involved.

- 1.2.3 Two further meetings of the Forum are being planned: at West Malling on 4<sup>th</sup> July which will address transport issues and access to Pembury Hospital; and a second meeting for the Tonbridge area on a date to be arranged during September.

### **1.3 Legal Implications**

- 1.3.1 None

### **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.4.1 Support funding for the TAMS Forum has been provided by the Local Strategic Partnership and by Kent County Council.

### **1.5 Risk Assessment**

- 1.5.1 N/A

### **1.6 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

David Hughes  
Chief Executive

| <b>Screening for equality impacts:</b>  |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| <b>Question</b>   | <b>Answer</b> | <b>Explanation of impacts</b>                               |
| a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? | No            | The membership of the Forum is open to all older residents. |

| <b>Screening for equality impacts:</b>  |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| <b>Question</b>   | <b>Answer</b> | <b>Explanation of impacts</b>  |
| b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? | Yes           | The focus of the Forum is on promoting and meeting the needs of the elderly population in the Borough. |
| c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?                     |               | n/a  |

*In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.*