



Mr R Brookfield
Secretary
West Lancashire Pensioners Forum
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Halsall
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L39 [REDACTED]

Mrs Kim Webber B.Sc., M.Sc.
Assistant Chief Executive
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April 1st 2011.

Dear Mrs Webber

Thank you for your letter of 21st March 2011 about the Petition: Designation of West Lancashire Pensioners' Forum as a key Stakeholder and Creation of a public Forum

I note your reference to the Forum being recently included in the consultation undertaken in relation to the future of travel concessions and your belief that council regards the Pensioners Forum as a stakeholder group with which to consult on appropriate issues. I doubt the Forum members will look seriously on completing a questionnaire as consultation, but I will ask them in due course.

Noting your comment that we may request to join the Older People's Partnership Board I can advise you Forum officers have attended that Board since its inception, and perhaps your lack of knowledge about our membership of it reflects how ineffective that Board is. The body as you describe it, that one of its functions provides a means for consulting with and involving older people and providing a formal consultation body on Older People's issues for partners working to improve the well-being of residents, is unsuitable for purpose

For example, from the minutes of a Partnership Board meeting held on 20 January 2010

"6. Feedback from Pensioners Forum. The issue of free travel for pensioners in West Lancashire had been raised at previous meetings but it was agreed that it was not an issue for the Partnership Board. Jim Bevan advised that this issue had now been raised in the House of Commons by Rosie Cooper MP.

"Not an issue for the Partnership Board" says it all. In the light of your not being aware of how our membership of the Partnership Board has not fulfilled our expectations of consultation, and having discussed your response with some signatories to the petition I do not feel that you have dealt with our petition properly and I therefore request that the Executive Overview and scrutiny Committee

review the adequacy of the step that the Council has taken, or proposed to be taken, in response to the petition

Yours sincerely

R Brookfield
Sec to WLPF.