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R. Brookfield, Esq.
Secretary of the West Lancashire
Pensioners Forum
Halsall
Ormskirk
West Lancashire

21st March 2011

KW/CMT
Ms. K. Webber
01695 585005
5005

Dear Mr. Brookfield,

PETITION: DESIGNATION OF WEST LANCASHIRE PENSIONERS' FORUM AS A KEY STAKEHOLDER AND CREATION OF A PUBLIC FORUM

I refer to your petition regarding the above which was received on 16th February 2011, and to Mrs. Denning's subsequent letter to you of 8th March 2011.

In your petition you request that:

"Council... meet with officers of the West Lancashire Pensioners' Forum as soon as possible to establish a public Forum consisting of Over 60's, Residents and Councillors that will meet quarterly at the Council offices to discuss any and all proposals before decisions are made about us, our homes, our safety, our well-being, our community, and address all issues of age, equality and discrimination, and that Council puts forward to the West Lancashire Pensions' Forum a draft document in the form of a proposed constitution of such a Forum."

In providing this response I have taken account of all the contents of your petition, and have had full regard to both the Council's relevant policies and legislation.

The Council has a range of approaches in place for informing, consulting and involving relevant stakeholder groups, a number of which exist in the form of fora. The Council also consults stakeholders, individuals and collectively on topics as appropriate. To give an example of this, the West Lancashire Pensioners' Forum was recently included in the consultation undertaken in relation to the future of Travel Concessions. As highlighted by this example I can confirm that the Council already regards the West Lancashire Pensioners' Forum as a stakeholder group with which to consult on appropriate issues.

In relation to your request that a public Forum be established, the Council recognises and values the role of such fora. In this regard, the Council supports and inputs to a range of fora as part of the Local Strategic Partnership arrangements, and these provide an

opportunity to meet with, inform, consult and involve local residents and groups on a range of topics.

As you may be aware, the Local Strategic Partnership has a thematic group called the Older People's Partnership Board. This body, as one of its functions, provides a means for consulting with and involving older people and provide a formal consultation body on Older People's issues for partners working to improve the well-being of residents, including this Council, in West Lancashire.

You may also request to join this body, and also the wider West Lancashire Strategic Partnership Forum. Further details of these bodies can be found at: www.westlancslsp.org and should your organisation wish it, I can provide contact details to enable you to request membership.

In summary, it is the Council's current view that there are sufficient arrangements in place for the purpose outlined in your petition.

I hope you are satisfied with this response, however in the event that you are not, Mrs. Denning has outlined the process you should follow in her letter to you of 8th March 2011.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Webber
Director Designate
(Assistant Chief Executive)

c.c. Director Designate (CSS),
Jacky Denning, Assistant Member Services Manager