

North Norfolk Older People's Forum
North Norfolk District Council
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday 12th September 2011

Attended by: Mary Granville-White, Sonia Shuter, Gordon Little and Jeanne Norman,

Guests: Hilary Widdall and Susan Darbyshire from Hayes + Storr Solicitors

Mary said that she had received apologies from David Russell but from no-one else. She said that there are many people who are keen to join The Forum but she needs to check with the other executive members first to see whether they still wish to serve. At today's meeting there are not enough people to satisfy the quorum and so it is essential that we persuade more people to attend meetings so that decisions can be made moving forward.

Mary said that the councillors are all very busy and rarely attend and although there is an executive of 12, clearly the last few meetings have been well short of that number in attendance. Mary will arrange to write to the people who are less than active in the executive and ask them if they wish to continue and then encourage the people who have expressed an interest to come along to the next meeting in October.

As discussed at last month's meeting, there are plans to contact Age UK along with the Stroke Partnership, Alzheimer's Association and Community Partnership Groups to see if active members can be found for the executives. Jeanne also suggested that perhaps the occupational therapists at Kelling may well be interested in joining. Once full attendance is attained by executives then it will be easier to look at the skills within the group and move various projects forward. One idea raised was to contact Voluntary Norfolk who were based in Cromer and ask them to point people in The Forum's direction. It may be that there are people looking to do volunteer work and who have excellent skills that may be able to assist. Mary suggested it may be a good idea to contact other voluntary organisations to see how they recruit people for their executives and persuade them to attend their meetings.

Annual General Meeting

Minutes have been circulated to the speakers for their confirmation and once received back will be put on the web-site for the time being and there will be circulated a hard copy at next year's AGM. Mary said that her Town & Country Newspaper article mentions the AGM and that the Minutes will be on the web-site. Mary explained that the North Norfolk Forum web-site is part of the District Council and there are plans to go ahead with a web-site redesign. It is hoped to have a Questions and Answers section on the web-site, a type of forum whereby people can ask questions and other forum members can answer them. The Forum again suggested that it may be an idea to take meetings out into the community rather than just having them in Cromer so that other people can more easily attend.

Chair's Report

Mary said that she was pleased to announce that she had won the Sheila McKechnie Foundation Award for local campaigners. She is due to attend London on the 13th September 2011 to accept her award and she is very much looking forward to having a mentor over the coming year to assist with campaign techniques.

The discussion moved to the Carer's Day arrangements for the 2nd December 2011. Mary and Jeanne have met to brainstorm ideas and Mary has asked The Parish Hall in Cromer if the day could be run from there, as they have a coffee room and back rooms so it would be easy to provide teas and coffees, soups and cakes. There are also plans to hold a raffle, Excel 2000 sessions, Reiki sessions, story book, relaxation, and reminiscence sessions and hopefully have people there who can talk about personal budgets, representatives from the G.P consortium, Age UK and so on. The Forum also discussed whether we should attempt to bring in a mobile gym and look at live music, perhaps from The Shantymen, Simon Thurso will be contacted in relation to Cromer Parish Church and there is a possibility of either the Sing Your Heart Out Group or Hearts and Voices attending. There will also be craft groups for people to try out new crafts. Mary is going to speak to Councillor Perry-Warnes to see if he can persuade the District Council to produce flyers and posters for the event. The idea is that the day will run between 10.00am and 3.00pm and it is hoped that the Parish Hall in Cromer will confirm that The Forum can use that venue on the day. Should the Parish Hall not be available on the 2nd December 2011 then it is possible that Mary will contact First Focus and/or The Salvation Army in Fakenham to see if they have facilities which The Forum could use on that day. The Forum thought that Fakenham may in fact be a better venue as it will be market day and there will be a lot of people around. Mary said that she would make enquiries and report back to The Forum.

Gordon said that there are over 200 members of The Forum and questioned whether they knew what The Forum could do to help them. Mary said that the next open meeting was due in October and perhaps a workshop should be run as to what the members find valuable to them so that The Forum can try and address other issues. Mary said that she would produce the news-sheet and advertise the open meeting to try and encourage more people to come along.

There was also a discussion about the balloon event which will take place on Carers Day and Mary thanked Hayes + Storr for their £200.00 sponsorship money.

Treasurer's Report

Gordon said that the "spending" account currently has £523.23 in it and explained that this account is generally kept topped up to the £500.00 level. There is £465.30 in the "savings" account. However, there has also been a £200.00 donation from Age UK which Gordon has paid into the account but it is not yet appearing on the statement and Norfolk District Council has promised a £500.00 contribution. Gordon will write to the District Council with regard to this. Once the Forum has received these monies there will be £1,688.53, although this will then reduce in relation to the organisation of Carers' Day.

Any Other Business

Mary mentioned that she had been trying to get people to nominate “Community Hero’s” for the Community Hero’s Award which is sponsored by Victory Housing and the North Norfolk Older People’s Forum. Mary said that nominations had been sparse and the closing date had already been extended once. Closing date for nominations was 16th September 2011.

Gordon mentioned that the Forum was still receiving the odd £2.00 contribution from people from when the Forum charged membership fees. These £2.00’s are to be refunded to the members.

Next Meeting – Monday 10th October 2011 at North Norfolk District Council Offices, 2-4pm.