

Brampton and District 50+ Forum

Report of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 22 May 2007 in Brampton Community Centre. Over 30 members were present for lunch and about 40 members attended the meeting.

In the absence of Ann Oswin, Maureen Granville took the chair and welcomed the members. She described the active role Ann had played as Chair and that though Ann had now reached the end of her two-year term she was willing to carry out many of the same tasks but as Vice-Chair. The previous members of the committee were all willing to continue and were introduced to the meeting. Before the meeting three other Forum members, Joyce Smith, Pauline Ferrier and Norma Stockwell, had expressed a willingness to join the committee and Maureen herself was willing to act as Chair. No other volunteers came forward from the meeting and the proposed composition of the committee was accepted, without a formal vote.

Maureen explained that our speaker, Noreen Haselden, was unable to be present because of family illness. News and updates:

- Wellbeing Scrutiny committee: Ann and Jean Taylor will be attending a meeting in Whitehaven on 26 July. Members were asked to think of any issues they would like to be discussed so that views could be taken to the meeting.
- "Do we eat or do we heat?" Members were encouraged to lobby their MP on this issue.
- Brampton mobility plan. A booklet on local walks is to be produced. There is an opportunity for input from Forum members about mobility problems in and around Brampton.
- Brampton 2020. Over the last couple of years Brampton and local parishes have been encouraged to produce development plans. Bob Allen was on hand to explain that Brampton Community Association had criticized both the process and outcome of the Brampton Plan and so were invited to make suggestions. In the review of current plans the community association are seeking to open the procedure to everyone, including the 50+ Forum.
- CCC – Cumbria Care Modernisation. The district working group is also seeking information about issues affecting carers and users.

The meeting was given an opportunity to discuss the problems faced by carers and those they care for. Specifically mentioned were:

- the special difficulties encountered when the carer is either very young or when the carer is also old.
- the lack of continuity of care, especially for those with Alzheimer's;
- the difficulty in arranging major financial transactions when unable to get to a bank or building society - (a home visit service was suggested).

Maureen read some of the key comments from the report of the Wellbeing Scrutiny committee.

- 'Celebrating Age' on Thursday 21 June in Whitehaven, starting at 10.00am, a celebration of the energy, skill and activity of the over-50s. Transport by coach is available.

Members were then invited to suggest subjects they would like speakers to talk about at future meetings.

Suggestions included:

Digital TV changeover; mental health and learning difficulties; diet and nutrition; living wills and similar firm decisions; Colleen Locke (an author who runs active writing classes); Annie Mawson (who runs 'Sunbeams'), easier gardening; trusted tradesmen; falls prevention / accidents in the home.

- Leonard James, a committee member of both the Forum and the Brampton Hospital League of Friends, addressed the meeting. At this time when the future of the Brampton Hospital is still insecure, the League of Friends would like a representative of the Forum as a committee member. Aureole Charteris-Hough volunteered.
- Maureen then gave a short talk about the history of Wilson Memorial Homes, the 44 houses in Brampton, Milton and Walton built in the interwar years by two brothers for 'the elderly and poor of the parish'. Doris Watson, Forum Treasurer, gave her financial report. Large expenses this year have been offset by considerable financial support and there is £728 in the Forum's bank account.
- Valerie Stephenson gave notice of two Age Concern events:
 - 'Falls awareness': 2-5pm Tue 22 June in Newtown Village Hall;
 - 'Nutrition and wellbeing' + arts and crafts: 2-5pm Wed 18 July in Talkin Village Hall.
- Leonard James offered thanks to Maureen, to Ann for her work during the year, to the ladies who do the catering, and to those who supported the tea dance and the art exhibition.

The meeting ended with tea, biscuits and quizzes. **The next 50+ Forum meeting, is on Tuesday 24 July.**