

## **Brampton and District 50+ Forum**

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 September 2008 in Brampton Community Centre. 38 members were present for lunch; just over 40 attended the meeting.

The Chair, Maureen Granville, welcomed members. She explained that our key speaker had withdrawn the previous day and that the time would be used to hear members' views and concerns about the proposed changes to local health provision. After reminding members of the importance of giving adequate notice of their intention to attend for lunch and then commenting on the success of the picnic, Maureen then asked Ann Oswin for the latest news, updates and campaigns.

- A letter from Julian Legat with an invitation for two people to attend a meeting on Wed 8th October in Carlisle concerning a strategic review of day care services. The meeting would discuss the Appleby model which is similar though on a much smaller scale to the Brampton proposals.
- *Independent Age, Cumbria* are holding a fund-raising lunch at the Shepherd's Inn on 6th November. Tickets are £20; the speaker is Judith Holder (series producer of 'Grumpy Old Women').
- 'Better Government for Older People'. On 27th October there will be a day of events in Blackpool as part of the 10th anniversary. There will be exhibition stalls and discussion; the key speaker will be Mike O'Brian, minister of state for pension reform.
- The latest edition of *Forum to Forum* is available.
- *Sustainable Brampton* have produced a new leaflet - 'Transport around Brampton'. One of the options described is 'Rural Wheels'. One of the members described how this service operates, how she had found it useful, and the limitations of the service.
- Fair Trade in Brampton have their AGM at 7:15pm on Wed 8th October. There will be an international speaker.
- RSPCA are holding a quiz night at Brampton Community Centre on 18th October.
- A key ring alarm can be obtained from Brampton Police Station for £1.
- Help the Aged campaigns: 1st October, 'International older people's day'.  
Support the fuel poverty lobby: 2.5 million pensioner households are living below the poverty line.
- Brampton Community Centre, 'Wellbeing': Alison has been speaking to the Alzheimer's Society and Mind and in October is holding a 'Get moving' week. This will involve gym, relaxation sessions, bulb planting sessions. Leaflets are available.

Instead of the advertised talk there was then a question and answer and discussion session about the proposals for the Brampton health campus. Bob Allan, who is on the development board, was available to try and untangle some of threads which had emerged at the recent Neighbourhood Forum and to respond to questions from members. Although the architect currently responsible (employed by Capita Symonds) seems to favour the community centre site, a decision has still to be made. It is not clear what use could or would be made of the redundant buildings (Moot Lodge, the Brampton hospital, the surgery and also Brampton Infants School) or what activities would take place in the new buildings. Many members expressed concern that activities which at present use the community centre site would be lost during the transition period if buildings on that site were demolished. It is not clear how much government funding is going to be available nor, if the activities are not directly related to health, who would pay. Some members questioned the need for change.

Over tea and biscuits, members were asked to express their opinions on a range of related questions such as:

What do you value about living where you do?

What would improve life for you?

What fears do you have and who do you turn to for help?

What do you expect from the new health campus?

What use could be made of the buildings of Brampton Infant School, Moot Lodge, Brampton Surgery?

The responses were collated by Ann Oswin.

**The next 50+ Forum meeting is on Tuesday 18th November 2008.**