

Brampton and District 50+ Forum

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2009 in Brampton Community Centre.

25 members were present for lunch and 29 at the meeting.

The chair, Ann Oswin, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the main speaker, Howard Long of Sustainable Brampton. Apologies were received from Maureen Granville. Ena Hutchinson, the Forum's representative on the Brampton Hospital League of Friends, gave a full report of the previous week's meeting at which:

- Sue Watson, the new hospital manager had been welcomed.
- Dr Royle, the main doctor in charge at the hospital, had explained that there had been no further developments regarding the new health campus. A 'lift' company, who would be providing the finance, had yet to be appointed, and no decision had been made on the choice of site, though the Union Lane site would be cheaper. [Decisions on these might emerge at a meeting on 22 September.] She had then outlined how the new hospital would have some different roles, the reduction in bed numbers being compensated by a greater emphasis on returning people to their homes more quickly.
- Sue Watson had then given a resumé of what happens in the hospital.
- The treasurer had presented his report. All money that had been invested in the Icelandic banks had been recouped. Before the collapse of these banks the money invested had earned good interest. Fewer people had attended the garden party, bad weather and poor publicity were blamed; for reasons of health and safety the garden party can no longer be held at the hospital.
- New equipment means that new tests are now possible at Brampton.
- Younger members are being sought to help with fund-raising. It was noted that the local Young Farmers do already help.
- Friends week begins on 21 October.

Leonard James, a Trustee of the League of Friends, outlined to the Forum how the Friends had provided equipment to the hospital in the past and that once a new building had been established and needs assessed there would be further provision.

Ann Oswin then gave an update on events and activities relevant to the Forum members.

- Picnic on 9th October at the Brampton Community Centre. This is being funded by money received from Age Concern. Invitation has been widened to include anyone who normally has difficulty getting out. The centre minibus has been booked and will be available.
- A questionnaire about public transport was circulated at the meeting and should be returned to Ivan Whetton via the centre. Responses will be forwarded to the Brampton Development Trust.
- Wooden Hut. Members were encouraged to support activities and events being arranged to demonstrate that there is a need for this type of venue. On 30th October there is the Big Brampton knit-in. A request for wool and knitters was made.
- Brampton Development Trust. In October there will be a series of public meetings.
- Concert on 14th November - a duo playing a variety of instruments in a folk-jazz style. Tickets £4 (concession) from the community centre.
- Computer help. A helper from Age Concern will be present at some afternoon drop-in sessions. What would be a good day for you? Katie Douglas continues to provide help on Tuesdays.
- The big coffee morning is on Friday 25th September in the Moot Hall.

Ann then invited Howard Long to speak to the Forum.

Howard explained that his role in Sustainable Brampton is to encourage more people to join and to give their time. He is a time-broker for the Timebanks scheme in which members gain time credits by doing jobs for others and have jobs done for them in return. Everyone's time is credited equally. A short film helped show how everyone has something to offer, including the housebound. The scheme obtains any necessary security checks on potential members. Ideally the time-broker should be someone in the community; in some places the time-broker has been

supported by the PCT. Funding is needed to get the scheme up and running, organisations such as Age Concern might offer support. Locally, Sustainable Bampton could provide the framework if sufficient people were interested; the scheme has a community building aspect to it.

In the final part of the meeting, Ann Oswin drew attention to the key points in the recent green paper on the care and support system and encouraged discussion. With an increasingly aging population expecting a good standard of living and care the cost of providing this will be a problem. The vision presented in the paper is that any system would be fair, affordable, have national rights of entitlement and be tailored to individual needs. Old ways would not necessarily be the most appropriate. The emphasis would be on prevention and 're-enablement' - removing obstructions to independence. There would be personal budgets. There would need to be better communication between health and social services. Whether assessment of needs is done at local or national level is a question still to be answered but the aim is to eliminate duplication of assessment. Various options for funding are being considered but most models assume a financial contribution to their own care from those who can afford it.

A request for books, DVDs, CDs and boiled sweets for members of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan was made. Contributions should be packaged and addressed to:
Rev. P Scott, Logistics Regiment RM, Bastion, BFPO 792.
Postage is free on packages up to 2kg or 5kg for printed papers.

Ann thanked our guest and the meeting ended with tea and biscuits.

The next 50+ Forum meeting is on 24th November 2009.