

Brampton and District 50+ Forum

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 January 2010 in Brampton Community Centre.

28 members were present for lunch and 33 at the meeting.

The chair, Ann Oswin, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the main speaker, Judith Pattinson, Chair of Brampton Parish Council.

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

- An Arts and Crafts programme, 'In the Hut', is being maintained. (Katie Douglas)
- Computer sessions in the community café take place on Tuesday afternoons with Katie and Maurice, on occasional Wednesdays with another helper and starting in February another weekly session, on a day still to be decided, with a fourth volunteer, Alan Wight. Computers provided by the community centre as well the Forum's computer will be available. Secure permanent housing in the café is soon to be constructed.
- Dementia project - a lunch will take place on Monday 1st February in the community centre with the possibility of setting up a peer support group. (Mike Goodrich)
- Tai-chi: this group will re-start mid-February; it is hoped that some Brampton hospital patients will be able to attend.
- A police 'Meet and greet' will take place each month starting Wednesday 17 February from 09:00 to 12:00, upstairs in the Moot Hall. Some security items will be given away and there will be crime prevention quiz.
- A quiz sheet to raise money for the community centre is available at reception.
- Rural health forum: Ann and Jean Taylor are attending the February meeting in Penrith. Anyone with questions should let Ann know.
- The LINK officer, Jane Macfarlane, sends a newsletter; a link to the LINK website is on the Forum computer.
- Recent editions of the newsletters *Activate* and *Forum to Forum* are available.
- Local groups are encouraged to display their information on the board in the community café.

Ann then invited Judith Pattinson to speak to the Forum.

Mrs Pattinson gave an overview of how the parish council works and explained that although councillors were elected for 4 years there was seldom sufficient interest to trigger elections, members being co-opted. She then described how the council's current precept of £88000 is spent, mainly on employing a clerk, two contractors and part-time workers. She explained that there is little available cash. Statutory obligations include the provision of allotments but not the gritting of road or footpaths. There were questions from members about gritting and suggestions for reducing the risks during icy conditions. Other topics raised and discussed included: the role of the highway steward; the Christmas lights; 'Brampton in bloom'; improving the appearance of shop fronts; new bus shelters; policing; changes at Talkin Tarn; meetings with members of the city and county councils at Neighbourhood Forum meetings; the health campus. Members raised specific concerns about car-parking and litter, especially near William Howard School. Mrs Pattinson explained that the council's main lines of communication were through the Big magazine and in reports of meetings in the local press. Parish council meetings, which are held at 7:00pm in the Moot Hall on the last Tuesday of every month, are open to the public but these tend to be well attended only when a particular issue, such as allotments, is being discussed. Mrs Pattinson said that she was pleased to have had the opportunity to hear the questions and concerns of the forum members. She was encouraged to see so many present.

After thanking Mrs Pattinson Ann Oswin introduced Liz Turner and Carly Watson, two community officers with Cumbria police. They explained their role and answered members questions. They are available once a month in the community café (see foyer for date and time). On this occasion they had small personal alarms to give away and were available to continue conversations with members after the meeting adjourned to the café for tea and biscuits.

The next 50+ Forum meeting is on Tuesday 23 March 2010.