

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

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 May 2010 in Brampton Community Centre.

20 members were present for lunch and 27 at the meeting.

The chair, Ann Oswin, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the speaker, Peter Woodhouse, Cumbria County Council Adult Social Care.

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

- Faced with cuts to their grants the community centres of Carlisle and district have organised a petition to the city council for grants to be maintained. A cut to Brampton community centre's grant of £40,000 would lead to a loss of some activities and staff. Members were encouraged to sign.
- The latest community centre quiz sheet is available for £1.
- The café is organising a French evening on Saturday 3 July, cost £10, only 35 places available.
- The walks programme restarts next Tuesday (25th). The walk, arranged by David Ashton, is along the river bank by Warwick Hall with a visit to St Leonard's church.
- A reminder that the community computer is available. Mr Wight, our volunteer, is very helpful.
- Katie Douglass has organised a series of taster sessions of the Wooden Hut activities. These will be held in various neighbouring villages during June. A flyer is available giving details.
- The latest edition of 'Activate', when it arrives, will be made available in the café.

### **AGM business**

- Ann Oswin presented the chair's annual report. She thanked members for their attendance and support and Laurel House for their financial support.
- Maureen Granville presented the financial statement.
- The current committee members were all willing to continue. Joan Bailey of Age UK Carlisle asked to join the committee. It was proposed by the chair that these people form the new committee and the meeting accepted this proposal, *nem con*, without a formal vote.

Ann then invited Peter Woodhouse to speak to the Forum on 'Elderly care. What now?'

Mr Woodhouse confirmed that because of severe financial constraints the proposed health campus in Brampton would no longer be going ahead. Analysis by 'Planning4Care' predicted that the requirement for residential beds for the elderly in the Carlisle area, including Brampton would continue to fall. Whilst for some, residential care remains the preferred choice, there is a greater preference for home care. Residential care is expensive both for residents and the council. Sheltered housing and extended care housing (which has purpose-built accommodation and a 24/7 on-site care team) provide more care for the limited financial resources available whilst also allowing individuals to have greater independence living in their own home. This type of housing can usually be rented, part- or fully owned. In Brampton, Moot Lodge would not be replaced by a council owned home. More likely was the private development, for example by a housing association, of extended care housing, the county council eventually paying for the on-site care team. A development of 40 one- or two-bedroom flats with rooms for care staff, treatment and assisted bathing rooms could be sited, for example, on land beyond the community centre with access from Union Lane. Potential occupants would have to fulfil criteria, including age, care need and local residence. There were questions from members concerning dementia, pets and the proposed time scale for any development.

Ann thanked our guest and the meeting ended with tea and biscuits and a demonstration of the gym equipment (exercise cycle and kettle weights) available during free sessions at William Howard School. (Printed schedule of sessions is available from the school or community centre.)

**The next 50+ Forum meeting is on Tuesday 20th July.**