

Brampton and District 50+ Forum

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday 28 September 2010 in Brampton Community Centre.

18 members were present for lunch, on this occasion prepared mainly by the café staff, and 25 members attended the meeting.

The chair, Ann Oswin, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the speaker we had hoped for, from a local optician, had been unavailable. She then invited forum committee member Mr Leonard James to give a League of Friends perspective on the government's proposed changes to the organisation of health care in Cumbria. He told us that Primary Care Trusts and the Strategic Health Authority will disappear; Cumbria's budget will be £850 million. Brampton will be linked with Longtown for practically all health services, adult social care, children's services and crime prevention. The Brampton practice will have a fixed budget, but is still working on a plan for the delivery of services and how they will work with the Brampton community hospital. Out of hours provision continues to be Cumbria Health On Call Ltd (CHOC), telephone 03000 247 247 or via your local surgery number.

Ann had received a feedback form from the community meals service (formerly 'meals on wheels') and invited forum members to give their opinions. Whilst few received the service, some members had helped deliver meals. There seems to be a move towards provision of frozen meals, not appropriate for some older people. It was felt that for some recipients the main value was in the social contact that the service provided. There was then some general discussion about the difficulty some elderly members of the community have in maintaining a suitable level of social contact and whether the forum or the community centre could play any part in addressing this.

Notice of future events:

Friday 1st October: Fair Trade AGM in the community centre.
Sunday 3rd October: Harvest market in the market square.
Friday 8th October, 4:30pm: 'Who's been sitting in my chair?' entertainment for young children.
Saturday 30th October: Happy Hour Theatre present a comedy 'My brilliant divorce'.

The main activity of the meeting was a discussion in three groups of the questions asked in a Cumbria County Council questionnaire. This asked about priorities in the provision of services in anticipation of cuts having to be made. The questionnaire was accessible from a laptop computer on each table and printed copies were also available. Most members had views on which services they felt were important to them and also about where possible cuts could be made. There were no universally accepted recommendations and though members were generally sceptical that councillors would take account of their views most seemed to have enjoyed the discussion.

The meeting ended with tea and biscuits in the community café.

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