

Brampton and District 50+ Forum

Report of the AGM held on Tuesday 21st May 2013 in Brampton Community Centre. 17 members were present for lunch and 20 members attended the meeting. Apologies from Audrey Bowers, Joan Bailey and Ivan Whetton

The Chair, Jean Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave her annual report which was circulated .

The treasurer, Ivan, had provided the financial report which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Further copies were available. Ann reiterated that members' contributions cover only the cost of food, the overheads are covered by generous grants, primarily from Age UK and Laurel House. We have just had a further grant of £200 from Laurel House committee, which is not shown yet in the accounts; thanks for this were expressed.

Ann then gave some updates:

- Brampton and Beyond Community Trust had appealed against the recent decision to refuse planning permission for the Extra care housing project, this process will take several months. Responses from the elected councillors to our letter of concern at the refusal had been received from Judith Prest, and Jessica Riddle .
- Healthwatch is the new organisation which is replacing Links, leaflets distributed .
- A new programme is being introduced across Cumbria – Neighbourhood Care independence programme, designed to help maintain individuals in their own homes, funded for 3 years . A consortium of third sector organisations (MIND, Carlisle Carers etc.) is working together to give people support .The community centres across the Carlisle district are part of a joint project of volunteer development being piloted in Brampton area and at an urban centre yet to be finalised. (leaflets distributed)
- Care Bill, welcomed carers assessments & support to have legal backing.
- Joan Bailey has a new role as health and wellbeing coordinator within Carlisle. Role is to help those over 75 access community activities to try and reduce social isolation. Aim is to enable health professionals to be more aware of community non medical interventions which can be used to support the health and wellbeing of older people

Election of the committee: Audrey Bowers resigned from the committee; current other committee members were willing to remain as members and the proposal by Ann Oswin that they should continue was seconded & agreed by the meeting .

Our guest speaker was Councillor Jessica Riddle of Carlisle City Council, who had worked for many years for Age Concern in Carlisle. She described the development of the organisation, the life work balance she achieved and her interest in the people she has met during her work and more recent role as councillor. This is a difficult role keeping in touch with the people she was elected to represent .

As a member of the development planning committee she was unable to discuss the Extra care housing planning refusal decision.