

Brampton and District 50+ Forum

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday 17 September 2013 in Brampton Community Centre.

6 members were present for lunch and 10 members attended the meeting. This was a disappointingly low turnout though several members absent because of holidays, illness or other commitments had sent apologies.

The Chair, Jean Taylor, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the first speaker, a Brampton resident, Darryl Francis.

Mr Francis lives on the Sands, Brampton. He has several concerns about traffic passing through Brampton, particularly the number and speed of heavy goods vehicles. Where roads and footpaths are narrow and outside William Howard School the danger to pedestrians and cyclists is increased. He has addressed his concerns to Brampton Parish Council both as an individual and in a letter on behalf of Brampton Travel Action Group (part of Sustainable Brampton), a copy of which has also been sent to Rory Stewart MP. He questioned whether all lorry traffic passing through the town was necessary and suggested several possible solutions including a weight restriction on the Irthing Bridge and renegotiation of timber routes.

Ann Oswin then gave some information about local events and updates:

- The Carlisle Plan. The Brampton and Beyond Community Trust had responded saying that the consultation period was too short and also that some of the locations allocated for housing ought to be subject to public discussion.
- The appeal by the BBCT against the planning application decision regarding the extra-care housing adjacent to the community centre site has been made and the site is due to be inspected by some council members.
- Saturday 21st September: Macmillan Coffee morning in the Moot Hall.
Friday 11th October, 7pm: Quiz and supper, Brampton Community Centre, £5.
Thursday 17th October, 7pm: BBCT AGM. Members are encouraged to join the Trust.
Monday 28th October, 6:30-9:00pm: Evening of holistic health hosted by Half Moon Wholefoods; includes light refreshments, £3.
Saturday 9th November, 7:30pm: Highlights production - *Albert Einstein - Relatively speaking* by Tangram Theatre.
Friday 15th November 7:30pm: *Salt* - an evening of song, story and salt art performance, by the group which brought us *Doon the Waggonway*.

Jean Taylor then introduced Marie Blackburn, Engagement Officer for Healthwatch.

Mrs Blackburn told us something about herself and the jobs she had had which were related to her current position and then explained the purpose of Healthwatch – to gather information on the quality of services in Cumbria, highlighting local issues that are raised by the public and forwarding those that require a national response to Healthwatch England. Healthwatch took over this role from Link in April. By talking to members of the public, including visitors, in-patients and out-patients, local voluntary organisations and members of hospital staff and by making hospital visits - Healthwatch has entry and observe rights - the Healthwatch members are able to produce a report on the places they visit. Healthwatch has a seat on the boards of the hospital trusts as well as the local commissioning groups and can insist that faults can be rectified. Healthwatch can also provide advice about accessing services and also help people to find ways to improve their personal health and wellbeing. Carlisle will be our local hub; members of the public are encouraged to raise any issue they have over local health and social care.

Website: www.healthwatch.cumbria.co.uk

Telephone: 03003 038 567

Jean thanked our speakers and the members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

The meeting ended with tea and biscuits.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 29 October 2013.