

Brampton and District 50+ Forum

Report of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 17 May 2016 in Brampton Community Centre. 19 members and 4 guests from West Cumbria took lunch, prepared by Ann Oswin, in the community café; 29 people attended the meeting which followed.

The Chair, Carol Saunders, welcomed members, including some new members, visitors and the guest speaker. The business of the AGM was then conducted. Carol gave a [report of the year's activities](#) and a [summary of the accounts](#), explaining that the Forum was dependent on grants it received. These have all been from Laurel House and have covered the general running costs, mainly room hire, postage and affiliation to the community centre, and have enabled the Forum to hold a tea party for 50 of Brampton's older residents. The Forum has just received another grant, for £300, from Laurel House to fund a summer tea-party. Carol reported that members of the committee were all willing to continue. Members present at the meeting informally accepted these arrangements. An invitation to join the committee was made to members. Carol then informed members that there is a proposal to close beds at the Brampton Community Hospital and that there were fears, expressed in a League of Friends meeting last week, that if beds were to go then the hospital would soon follow. This was despite the fact that there is serious bed-blocking in Carlisle Infirmary. The model of returning patients directly to home often depends on family support. If this is not present or if there is a need for greater interim care, what happens? There is role which could be fulfilled by the community hospital. There will be a public meeting at 7pm in William Howard School on 9th June; members were encouraged to attend and express their views.

The Chair then introduced, Nina Brunton, of Impact Housing, to give us information and answer any questions relating to Bramble Court, the extra-care housing developing nearing completion adjacent to the community centre. Extra-care housing consists of self-contained accommodation with community facilities such as a laundry, lounge with wi-fi, guest room, car-parking and a mobility scooter store. It is often for older people offering 24 hour care and support on-site and with day-to-day management during normal working hours. In Bramble Court there are mainly 2-bedroom apartments and a smaller number of 1-bedroom apartments, all with fully fitted kitchens, carpeted living area with hard, non-slip floors in kitchen and shower-room. The estimated charges will be £175 / 185 per week, depending on the number of bedrooms, plus council tax. The service charge includes all utility costs, servicing and maintenance. Not included are a fridge-freezer and telephone charges. About £20-30 per week of the charges is not eligible for housing benefit.

For more information, including details of eligibility, call Impact Housing 03448 736 290, or email enquiry@impacthousing.org.uk. A brochure is available on our website:

http://50plusforum.bramptoncumbria.uk/docs/2016May_BrambleCourt.pdf

After further questions the Chair thanked Ms Brunton for her talk and members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

Music Therapy sessions (12) begin at 11:30am on Friday 3 June 2016 in Brampton Community Centre, cost £8.50 per session including lunch. Some of the fee will be used to ensure that the sessions can continue next year.

The meeting ended with tea and biscuits.

The next Forum meeting, probably a tea-party, will be on a date to be decided at the next committee meeting.