



Minutes of a joint meeting of The Steering Group and Trustees of The Debenham Project

A joint meeting was held at 7.30pm in Dove Cottage on Thursday 9th October 2014

1. Present. Alison Gravatt, Gillian Shacklock, Joy Walton, Lynden Jackson, Mary Morley, Mike Rouse, Peter Holme, Roger Cockerton and Sue Jackson.

Apologies. Paddy Fielder and Richard Blackwell.

2. Matters Arising. There was no follow-up on the suggestion of having a presence at The Suffolk Show owing to time pressures and the costs likely to be involved.
3. Consideration of General Progress on Current and Near-term Objectives.
 - a. Lynden reported that we are currently half way through our financial year and had produced a document which shows the running finances.
 - b. Sue reported that the Carers' Club and Info' Café are still growing rapidly with some ex-carers now becoming volunteers. Many new friendships have been made and reunions taken place with old acquaintances. There is now a volunteer of 16yrs of age. The afternoons are getting up to capacity with one afternoon having 37 people in attendance.
 - c. Peter said that CAMEO is running well and, again, there are more friendships being made here. There are 20 people attend which, with carers, is maximum capacity for activities. Outings have included a Christmas pantomime, river trip at Waldringfield, indoor bowls, skittles and quizzes etc. Deafness is frequently a problem and Lynden will see if it is possible to have a visit from the hearing clinic to perform checks. He will enquire at the GP practice. CAMEO is solvent financially but may require some additional funding to enable a trip to the pantomime again this Christmas.
 - d. Joy reported on the lunch clubs. She had contacted Jodie at The Leisure Centre and Jodie would be happy to cater for a club so there is the possibility of another club being held at that venue. The Coopersfield club is running well. There have been some changes at

the Cross Green club but all are manageable. They sometimes meet on a Sunday and have also had outings including to Waldringfield, Southwold Harbour and Newbourne Fox. The question of risk assessments for the clubs had arisen but Age UK does not have risk assessments for lunch clubs. They referred Joy to The Rotary organisation that use one for their Christmas lunch. Joy had placed a piece in the Parish Magazine to recruit new volunteers and will do so again in January. A third lunch club is necessary for both singles and couples who have requested places.

- e. Sue reported that the Fit Club is thriving and constantly maintains a group of 20 with 3 on the waiting list. It is very lively and they are very fortunate to have their instructors. The exercises are proving to be beneficial to the participants' well-being as well as the club being another opportunity for companionship.
- f. Lynden updated us on Debenham-on-Call. Sam is still looking after this project although Lynden is currently dealing with carer liaison etc. at the moment while Sam is busy with other things. More befriending is occurring which is working well. There are 4-5 helpers and it has always been possible to meet needs when requested. This is also the case with the Carers Co-op and a stable number of carers is being maintained. There is an informal network of 7 people for the Volunteer Transport and , whilst there are no guarantees on provision, these informal networks are working at the moment. The Parish Council are to take on this provision in a more formal way and Mary Marshall from the Rotary Club will be responsible for setting this up and co-ordinating it. They will be looking to recruit more drivers as more will be required when the system is also available to those outside the Debenham Project. There is a provisional target of a start date in January 2015 and Joy is meeting with Mary Marshall to liaise on this.
- g. The Awareness Campaign is this year looking towards schools and local businesses.
- h. The Telephone Support Line is now closed because the County are funding a countywide support line, making ours now redundant.
- i. The Research Project has now been disseminated throughout the county and farther afield. Papers from the research have been published in The Journal for Dementia Care and The Gerontology Journal. The findings have also been fully incorporated into the joint dementia needs assessment for Suffolk. There has been a lot of good publicity from the research but no direct impact on The Project. Gordon and Tim were congratulated on their work.
- j. There are currently 97 people on the volunteer list with another 20 informal volunteers. 200 person sessions are being held each month reaching 60% of those estimated to be in The Project area.

4. Public Relations, Publicity, Presentation and Discussions. There is currently quite good involvement with County policy making. Sometimes invitations to become involved with organisations have to be declined owing to time pressures.

New people became involved with The Project following the pop-up shop at the street fair in the summer. Local businesses were very generous with their donations and a profit of over £300 was made, in spite of the rain.

'Dementia Friendly' stickers are to be produced for businesses which will be paid for by the Parish Council.

SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) has included The Project in its online guide to best practice.

A request has recently been made for The Project to be used in a new e-book giving support in communities for dementia sufferers.

Age UK Choices have requested an interview.

There is on-going involvement with Debenham High School. Assemblies have been given to years 10 and 11 and sessions held in Health & Social Care Studies. Diversity Week is in February 2015 when it is hoped there can be further involvement with the school. Peter suggested that perhaps music would be a suitable area to look at. The school's WW1 Commemorative Study has been borrowed by The Project and some of the members had found pictures etc. to contribute.

The Project now has contacts all over the country, the latest being in Manchester and including a university in Wales.

5. Consideration of the Financial Position and Funding Prospects. Roger reported that the accounts are being reviewed by an independent examiner. The balance at 8/10/2014 was £22,298. So far this year income has equalled expenditure resulting in the same balance as at the end of the last financial year. Funeral donations have been very generous this year but The Project needs to be sustainable and, therefore, some fundraising will be necessary. Lynden is still working to get The Authorities to support The Project financially as this will save them expenditure in the long term. Funding needs to be core funding which is unrestricted rather than for specific projects.

6. Consideration of Progress towards Long Term and (Vision of Caring). The Project has gone as far as it can with the long term vision at the moment. The business plan is complete and Lynden has prepared a short document entitled 'The Next Steps'. He has met with Dr. Dan Poulter who is, theoretically, committed to meeting with the NHS regarding this and is supportive of taking proposals further into higher government. Lynden will keep him 'on track'.

7. Policy Matters It is still hoped to widen the base of the Trustees to involve more of the community. The Project is moving to include more general support of elderly frail people so it is desirable that the Trustees widen their base to include members from other areas, such as the GP practice. Julia Upton, head teacher at The High School, has declined an invitation to join the Trustees as she is too busy. Suggestions for new members would be welcomed. Roger suggested approaching The Forge Church.
8. Any Other Business There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.10pm.
9. Date of the next Meeting The next meeting will be held in the new year unless there are any urgent matters arise in the interim.