



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 14th May 2015

1. **Present.** Alison Gravatt, , Joy Walton, Lynden Jackson, Mary Morley, Mike Rouse, Peter Holme, Roger Cockerton Paddy Fielder, Chris Bishop, and Sue Jackson.

Apologies. Richard Blackwell & Gillian Shacklock

The meeting was opened by Paddy Fielder.

2. & 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.**

Item 3c: The question of the possibility of a visit from the hearing clinic will be followed up by Lynden.

Item 3d: A new lunch club has commenced but it is not at The Leisure Centre.

Item 4: Peter will contact the High School with regard to their music department having some involvement with CAMEO

4. **Consideration of General Progress on Current and Near-term Objectives.**

- a) Joy reported that a third lunch club is now in place at 8. Cross Green hosted by Janice Romaniszyn and Kate Robbins. Hilary Green has replaced Gavin Hodge as the Community Liaison Officer. Risk assessments have taken place which were very useful. Hosts will be receiving some informal training on manual handling and food hygiene certificates need renewal. The cost of the latter is approximately £20 each. Another trip to Southwold is planned. There are currently fifteen members of one club and five in the other two.
- b) Sue reported that the Fit Club is currently full and there is a waiting list. Attendance at the Carers Club and Info' Café is between 27 & 44 over the

session periods but not everyone arrives and leaves at the same time. These numbers are still increasing with new referrals being made regularly. Positive comments had been received regarding the Charity Tree in the Church at Christmas.

- c) Peter reported that Cameo has between 15 and 20 regular attendees. Only one person has come once and not returned. It is hoped that an outing will be organised to take place in June or July. Quizzes are a popular activity. Donations given at a funeral had been passed directly to Cameo. The Project pays for Coaches/transport.
- d) The Parish Council now has responsibility for the Community Transport initiative. Mary Marshall is co-ordinating this with Steven Beauchamp. It has been learnt that Avenue East, formerly OPTUA, in Stowmarket should already have been covering this for the Debenham area. David Finn is the contact at Avenue East. It was suggested that it would be a good idea for Debenham to have its own, easily recognised leaflet for The Community Transport Scheme. Eight drivers have now volunteered; six have their paperwork in place and the other two are in the process.
- e) Margaret Samain has just started holding Relaxation/Therapy Sessions twice a month which involve some meditation and mindfulness. There are currently five members who report finding it very valuable. The sessions are almost one-to-one as people arrive at different times.
- f) Debenham-on-Call is "ticking along"
- g) The Carers Co-op has produced a register of local people who will provide domestic and personal support.
- h) New volunteers still regularly come forward some of whom are former informal carers who have lost someone. There are currently 117 on the contact list and between 60 & 70 of those have been actively involved with the Project recently. There are 50 regular volunteers who give half a day per fortnight/month. The Project is delivering approximately 210 person sessions per month.

5. **Consideration of the Financial Position and Funding Prospects.** Roger handed out copies of the most recent balance sheet and financial statement. A minimum of £7,000 per annum is required to run the Project at its current level. £1,000 was received from Comic Relief which means that it hasn't been necessary to draw on deposits at all. A further breakdown of categories may take place with Lynden at a later date. The budget for next year needs to be considered. The two largest expenditure items are the rental of Dove Cottage and Insurance, the latter being essential. Paddy thanked Roger.

6. **Public Relations, Publicity, Presentations and Discussions.**

- a) This is: The Debenham Project booklet: Richard had been tasked with re-vamping and up-dating this. Dan Poulter's status has been amended and the booklet is now ready to go to press.
- b) & c) Political Changes and Health and Wellbeing Board and CCGs.
Various changes regarding Health and Social Care have taken place in recent months. There has been an upsurge in Health and Wellbeing Boards. Every council is now obliged to have one and they are increasingly taking the lead. There is good contact between the Project and the local H&WB Board. Colin Noble is now leader of Suffolk CC and is a supporter of the Project. There have been no changes at district level. Ben Gummer is now the first contact on health matters rather than Dan Poulter. Money is now channelled through Clinical Commissioning Groups who are better at administering funds than PCTs.
- d) NHS England. Lynden has had long conversations with Prof. John Young, National Director for Frail Elderly. One outcome of these is the offer to come to Debenham for a conference/workshop on June 12th. Hopefully there will be the opportunity to present on The Debenham Project to NHS England and discuss its longer term future.
- e) Conference/workshop. Lynden is organising this and it is proving to be very hard work. The invitations are going out now. It is hoped this will be a step towards developing aspirations for frail people and those with dementia in an organised way rather than piecemeal. There will be six main presentations in the morning with a further nine which are not presented. There will be an online digest of all fifteen presentations. The afternoon will be a questions session with professionals on hand to reply. Publicity etc. is being undertaken by CCGs. It is hoped that there will be 150 participants.
- f) Expert Group Involvement.
- I. Other communities need to be encouraged to become involved in the way of projects. One way of doing this is to encourage financial and technical expert advice from the NHS etc. to support projects. Such project initiatives save official bodies money and therefore local projects should be supported by them. Another is the setting up of policies for working with other like groups and organisations such as Age UK, Sue Ryder etc. A proposal is being prepared to get funding into local groups.
 - II. There is a gap in the knowledge of experiences and perceptions of Health and Social Care and dementia support as seen by carers. The extremes of good and bad are known but what happens in the middle ground? It is planned to draw in data to a single source and develop techniques for monitoring what is happening on a county wide basis. It

is hoped that University Campus Suffolk will do the questionnaires and collation.

7. Consideration of Progress Towards Long-term Vision of Caring. One positive is an initiative called the Integrated Neighbourhood Team. This is comprised of police, social services, health services etc. There is currently a trial taking place in Sudbury with two due to start in Ipswich. Initial findings/results seem good.
8. Policy Matters. No changes here.
9. AOB. Invitations have been sent out for the garden party in July and replies are being received. Chris requested that an item should be put on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss the website.
10. Date of the next Meeting Members of the Trustees and Steering Group will be notified of the date for the next meeting.