

Older Persons' Forum (West Cumbria)

STEERING GROUP MEETING

Held on Friday 22nd May 2009 at 2pm to 4pm

At Age Concern, Old Customs House, Whitehaven.

- 1. WELCOME:** The Chair Ken Taylor welcomed all to meeting especially Caroline Watson and Katie Wood from Cumbria County Council (Transport and Spatial Planning)
- 2. PRESENT :** Ken Taylor (Chair), Peter Johnstone (Secretary), Margot Fox (Membership), Muriel Dinning, Gwen Ellwood, Clarice Nichol (West Cumbria Carers). Lyn English (Fire Service) Claire Dobson (Age Concern), Albert & Flo Studholme, Caroline Watson & Katie Wood (CCC)
- 3. APOLOGIES:** , Pauline Atree, Helen Spencer, D. Thompson (Police), Dorothy Warbrick, Margaret Crabtree (ADA), Jean Jones, Isobel Long, Clive & Barbara Monaghan, Christine Johnstone (Treasurer), Eva Elliott, Dot Barwise. Betty Robinson. Julie McGaughey (Help the Aged)

The meetings business was dealt with before the presentation re Rural Wheels.

Caroline Watson outlined the aims and objectives of Rural Wheels. It is in place to provide an alternative to the Bus Service, which is sparse, in Rural Areas and is a demand responsive service. Fully funded by CCC and rolled out around the County and to Allerdale and Copeland in August 2008. Eligibility criteria area covered outside urban areas of Maryport, Workington, and Whitehaven; there are some areas close to towns which are problematical. Membership by application and payment of £5.00 for issue of SMART Card which contains £5.00 of travel costs. Cost is 30p per mile direct from home to destination and return, must be booked 2 days in advance, all operators are CRB checked and carry machines to top up card when required. Number of users growing, and is now approximately 1000. Other schemes in operation are the Voluntary Car Scheme run on a local basis by coordinators. A list of coordinators and areas of operation is available. Group Mini-bus Hire, is useful to small community group at a cost of 80p per mile. The Chairman thanked Caroline and Katie for their information.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 24th April 2009:

The minutes were agreed as a true and correct record and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

6. CHAIRS' REPORT: Reported on his and Margot attendance at the Have Your Say Conference in Preston on May 12th about the amalgamation of and the new name of Age Concern/Help the Aged. There appears to be a considerable amount of concern about this.

7. SECRETARYS' REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- Letter from Dorothy Warbrick thanking us for our cards and condolences following John's death. The secretary had written to her enclosing the minutes and hoping she would continue to attend. She had phoned tanking us for our concern and said she was going away but would contact us on return.
- Letter from Paul Latimer in response to our letter expressing concerns about the present criteria for Supporting People and agreeing that there were improvements which can be made. He hoped to meet us possibly in September to take this agenda forward.
- Letter from Jamie Reed MP thanking us for our support against the closure of Briarwood Nursing Home and stating that due to the concerns expressed, the home had been saved and sold to a local operator of Care Homes.
- Follow up letters to the Acute Trust and the Mental Health Trust (Cumbria Partnership) and reply from Cumbria Partnership apologizing for the lack of acknowledgment of our original letter and giving the information requested which shows a budget cost of £10.05 per patient per day. Still no formal response from the Acute Trust other than an email stating no knowledge of

first letter and asking for a copy. It was agreed that this was not good enough and was just a delaying tactic. It was felt that this matter should be taken further. **Secretary to write again and if no response write to Strategic Health Authority.**

- E Mail for information about the use of telehealth technologies in caring for people with illness at home. This was discussed and it was felt that this can be beneficial but some concerns about isolation were expressed.
- E Mail from Copeland BC about a Peer review of health in Copeland to take place between 16-18 June. A focus group to be held on the 17th June and Copeland Offices. Ken, Margot, Peter, Christine, Muriel and Eva willing to attend. **Secretary to confirm.**
- Various emails re mass lobby of Parliament on the 10th June. As there was no arrangement for an overnight stay in London, there was no way that traveling from Whitehaven could be made.
- For information: - "Activate" the new joint update from Age Concern and Help the Aged campaigning together form positive change.
- Information re Funding Fair 11th June at Sellafield Visitors Centre.
- Information about Independent Living in Cumbria 3rd June at Workington.
- Information re West Cumberland Rebuild, Have your say 4th June 4pm at Egremont this is part of a series of events on the same day. Ken and Margot to attend at Whitehaven.
- Information :CVS Your news May/ June 2009

8. **TREASURER' REPORT:** No report,

9. **MEMBERS REPORTS:**

MEMBERSHIP: Now 17 memberships paid.

STROKE LINK: Nothing to report.

AGE CONCERN: Claire reported that the furniture shop in Roper had closed and was now a joint venture with the Howgill Centre. There was now a Home Improvement Agency Unit in Allerdale dealing with property maintenance heating etc. Jill was the contact at Workington AC. The Open Day planned for our June meeting on the 19th is to go ahead. This will be from 10am to 2pm at the St. Michaels Centre Workington and will have representatives from Digital Switchover, Rural Wheels, West Cumbria Carers, Supporting People, Crime Prevention, Fire and Rescue, Age Concern, Stroke Link, and others. We will host the event. Publicity was to be prepared and sent out via local newspapers.

HELP THE AGED: No report.

FIRE AND RESCUE: Nothing to report

WEST CUMBRIA CARERS: Clarice advised about Carers Week from 8th June. There was to be a Tea Party at Hundith Hill to which the press had been invited. GP practices to be targeted to raise awareness of carers.

Congratulations were expressed to Albert and Flo for their 67th Wedding Anniversary. It was felt that in this day and age it was somewhat of a record.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

19th June 2009
An Open Day 10am to 2pm
At St Michaels Centre Workington.

The Chair then closed the meeting.

Please come along during the event and help to make it a success