



Mark Saccoccio

Town Clerk

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8 October 2020

To: Members of the Older Persons Task & Finish Group (Councillors K Cursons, M Freeman, R Goodchild, T Morris, S Owen - Chair and G Perham)
(Copies to all Town Councillors for information)

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **Older Persons Task & Finish Group** to be held on **Thursday, 15 October 2020** commencing at **10.00 am** in the This will be a remote meeting held via Microsoft Teams in accordance with The Local Authorities and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020. The meeting link is below:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTE5ODFhN2ltZDRhZS00MDdmLTkxYmltMDRkNWY0ZDFhYTgy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2243be2b38-f73a-4576-be88-53d30b9697ef%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%225c24f997-2ebc-40a3-9343-b16681c77adf%22%7d

**THIS MEETING MAY
BE RECORDED ***

M Saccoccio
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record be kept of the Members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Town Clerk.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(i) Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the Member's Register of Interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.

(ii) Should any Member have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in an item on the agenda, the Member may not participate in consideration of that item unless a Dispensation has first been requested (in writing) and granted by the Council (see Dispensation Procedure).

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To receive questions and statements from members of the public in respect of any item of business included in the agenda, as provided for in Standing Order No.s 3(f) and 3(g).

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 4)

(a) To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the Older Persons Task and Finish Group meeting held on 1 October 2020 (attached) in accordance with Standing Order 12.

(b) To receive information updates on matters arising from the previous meeting (if appropriate).

5. OLDER PEOPLE (Pages 5 - 6)

(a) To receive guest attendees:

- Community Action Bedfordshire - confirmed
- Community Wellbeing Champion (Social Prescriber) – tbc
- Carers in Bedfordshire - tbc

(b) To receive and consider an update on:

(i) Helping organisations connect with older people.

(ii) Digital inclusion and how equipment would be funded or provided for beneficiaries.

(iii) Possible provision of webpage on the Town Council Website and how this would be funded and maintained.

(iv) What other options came out of the research – e.g. lack of activities for men

(v) Keep 'grant' option as a consideration

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future Task and Finish Group meeting dates:

- 29 October 10am-11am

Cultural & Economic Committee Meeting – 7 December 2020.

* Phones and other equipment may be used to film, audio record, tweet or blog from this meeting by an individual Council member, officer or member of the public. No part of the meeting room is exempt from public filming unless the meeting resolves to go into exempt session. The use of images or recordings arising from this is not within the Council's control.

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

OLDER PERSONS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2020 AT 1000 HOURS

Present: Councillors S Owen (Chair)
R Goodchild
M Freeman
G Perham (substituting for K Cursons) joined meeting at 10.30 am
T Morris
D Bowater (left meeting early)

Also in attendance: V Cannon, Head of Cultural & Economic Services
S Jewell, Older Persons Project Co-ordinator
M Jahn, Committee Officer

01/OP APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor S Owen be appointed Chair of the Older Persons Task and Finish Group. One further nomination was received for Councillor T Morris but Councillor Morris declined. On being put to the vote, Councillor Owen was appointed.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor S Owen Chair of the Older Persons Task and Finish Group. Councillor Owen took the Chair.

02/OP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor K Cursons substituted by Councillor G Perham.

03/OP OLDER PEOPLE

The Task and Finish Group received and considered an update report on scoping activity including time scales and next steps. After distributing hard copies of the survey via various community groups supporting the elderly, online, by telephone and discussions with Central Bedfordshire Council the main points highlighted were –

- (a) The lack of digital inclusion for older people
- (b) A gap in groups being accessed by men
- (c) The need of a 'central hub' be it a physical location older people can go to and/or a online location that lists all activities/groups/services available to older people.
- (d) The influence of COVID-19 on what we plan to do – the current Covid-19 landscape for older people looking quite different from what it will look like/what activities can be done post-Covid 19. what organisations are currently able to do and what timescales how resources could be used.
- (e) All with an underlying theme of 'Connectivity' – the importance of

connections in reducing loneliness, but that a wider variety of options need to be available in the community to meet different needs.

The members agreed there was a lack of a central hub/information point for people to research what groups were available and how to access them. It was suggested that the Town Council could help co-ordinate this by adding a page to their present website giving this information and links. This option would have to be researched in terms of capacity within the town council and how it would operate. Also noted was the inclusion of the Town Council as a trusted organisation would give older people confidence in whatever scheme was introduced.

After discussion it was agreed that the greatest need should not be decided by age group (i.e. 55+/60+/80+) but by what 'circumstances' that older person has, this could be their mobility, their specific 'illness' or the mental health needs they have. Alongside this is the older persons need for multi-generational contact. The members agreed to invite other organisations to the next Task and Finish Group meeting and provide them with a list of questions to discuss at that meeting. It was also supported that the Parishes outside Leighton Buzzard could be included in this scheme when finalised and the same opportunities could be offered to older people within the outlying Parishes, specifically those featured within the Central Bedfordshire Public Realm proposal.

Next Steps

At the next meeting on 15th October 2020, it was agreed to include the following

- (a) Helping organisations connect.
- (b) Digital inclusion and how equipment would be funded or provided for beneficiaries.
- (c) To invite other organisations to the next meeting
- (d) Questions to be agreed and provided for these organisations prior to the meeting based on the themes of digital inclusion and connecting.
- (e) Possible provision of webpage on the Town Council Website and how this would be funded and maintained.

04/OP APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor M Freeman be appointed Vice Chair of the Older Persons Task and Finish Group. There were no further nominations. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor M Freeman Vice Chair of the Older Persons Task and Finish Group.

The meeting closed at 1126 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2020.

Chair

15 October 2020

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Older People Task and Finish Group

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Date: | 15 October 2020 |
| Purpose of the Report: | Information paper – update on Older Peoples Project |
| Contact Officer: | Sarah Jewell, C&E Services Support Officer |

1. Information paper setting out what the next steps are for progressing this project.

2. External organisations invited to share thoughts

2.2 Community Action Bedfordshire.
Community Wellbeing Champion (Social Prescribing)
Carers in Bedfordshire

Questions posed to our guests:

- What gaps in provision to older beneficiaries do you see in Leighton Buzzard?
- Do you feel there are issues among older beneficiaries with 'connecting' (be it to friends, family, service providers etc.)
- Do you think digital inclusion (access to digital devices) could help with this?
- Do you feel community members can easily find out information about services and activities for older people? Do you have suggestions for a better way of doing this?
- Is there anything preventing your organisation/group expanding what is on offer to older people? (e.g. money for groups, human capacity to run groups)

3. Key areas highlighted at last meeting

- a) Lack of digital inclusion for older people.
- b) Gap in groups being accessed by men causing loneliness and isolation.
- c) Need of a 'central hub' be it physical or online for older people to access information about activities and services available to them.
- d) Influence of Covid-19 on any delivery options and plans (short, medium and long term).
- e) Connectivity – the importance of creating opportunity/ability for connections among older people and the community to reduce loneliness.

4. Update on next steps from last meeting

- a) Digital inclusion and how equipment would be funded or provided for

- beneficiaries.
- b) Organisations attend this meeting.
 - c) Questions agreed prior to meeting.
 - d) Possible provision of webpage on Town Council Website for a directory. of activities and services for older people.

| Project Activation (time frame) | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------|
| Area of focus | Short term | Medium term | Long term |
| Digital Inclusion | Run technology workshops, via telephone | Run technology workshops face to face – in community centres, the library and with befrienders in people’s homes. | |
| | | Tablet loan scheme in partnership with libraries and other local companies and community organisations. | |
| Directory/Hub of activities & services for older people | Town Council webpage listing known activities & services | An interactive ‘searchable’ online directory that organisations and individuals can have password access to for updating their activities/services directly. | |

5. Update on areas of focus and suggested time frame

6. Other issues and points of interest

- 6.1 Relevant groups for **older men** - There is still a needs gap for groups tailored to older men to help reduce loneliness.
- 6.2 **Personnel capacity** issues in organisations - None of the groups spoken to were in a position to be able to run more activities/groups (even with funding) yet identified a need for more ‘groups/activities’.
- 6.3 **Grant funding** - This is still an option. Councillors to bear in mind that feedback from many groups has been the funding access is not the main issue, it is the personnel capacity to run anything new, often this refers to funding a co-ordinator/support role.

7. Next steps

- 7.1 What elements of the above table do Councillors wish to pursue for presentation to the Cultural & Economic Committee Meeting?
- 7.2 What elements of ‘other issues’ do Councillors wish to pursue/consider?