

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

OLDER PERSONS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2020 AT 1000 HOURS

Present: Councillors S Owen (Chair)
R Goodchild
M Freeman
G Perham (jointed at 10.23)
T Morris
K Cursons

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

11/OP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

12/OP DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

13/OP PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

14/OP MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) The Committee received the minutes of the Older Persons Task and Finish Group meeting held on 15 October 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Older Persons Task and Finish Group meeting held on 15 October 2020 be approved as a correct record and would be signed at a later date, when safe to do so.

(b) Further updates would be covered by the agenda items to follow.

15/OP OLDER PEOPLE

A report was given to the group to update the group on progress since the last meeting.

(a) **Befriending services** – several options for befriending services exist within Leighton-Linlslade and include different forms of telephone befriending/telephone welfare chats. Leighton Linlslade Helping Hands and Leighton Linlslade Helpers both have capacity to assist with this service.

- (b) **Older Persons Booklet** – the last booklet was published in 2018 and much of the information included would not be relevant at the present time as it covers joining groups/attending meetings and should be included as a medium term project rather than a short term one.
- (c) **Leighton Linslade Helping Hands Webpage** – no web presence at the moment and a simple website would be low cost and achievable target in the short term with LLTC help.
- (d) **Digital Inclusion** – discussions have taken place about adding a temporary webpage to LLTC's website listing activities/services as a stop-gap directory whilst further research takes place on set up and costs for a full on-line interactive directory of services where each organisation has their own password to enable updates to information.
- (e) **Technology Helpline/Workshops** – discussions have taken place with CAB and BRCC regarding a helpline. They currently do not have capacity so need to look at cost implications for a p/t coordinator and what would be involved in running a helpline. The workshops would be a longer-term aim when technology support could be offered to those housebound or the possibility of workshops linked to the library or community groups.
- (f) **Tablet Loan scheme** – this would be a longer-term project and information would continue to be gathered on how this would function.
- (g) **On-Line Music Initiative** - this was an area of interest regards activities for older people but it does not currently fit with our immediate, short term identified priorities and it was agreed this should be passed back to the general grant scheme to cover this type of project funding.
- (h) **Draft Report for C & E Committee** – a draft report had been created for Cultural and Economic Services Committee meeting on 7 December. The recommendations included what project activities need funding and could be started in the short term.

Members of the group agreed that in the short term the Older Persons Booklet should be circulated as an amended version taking out the irrelevant information which would give people without on-line access some physical information to refer to. Vivien Cannon advised this would be a time-consuming task and suggested a volunteer could be asked to assist with this task and then it could be included with the Bee Local delivery and/or the About Town in Jan/February.

A suggestion was made to look into making an Older Persons Sub Committee with 6 members which could continue the work started by the Task and Finish Group until the Annual Meeting in 2022. This sub-committee could oversee the progress of the work and bring further recommendations forward to Cultural and Economic Services for approval.

A question was also raised regarding what funding was available and what the different projects would cost to initiate and their on-going costs. Initially

projects would be set up locally within Leighton Linlade boundaries with the possibility of expanding to the surrounding villages with additional funding perhaps from the Parish Councils and/or CBC.

Members agreed that the officers should add the figures they anticipate would be needed to the recommendation for Cultural and Economic Committee and what projects would be included. It was suggested approximately £30,000 should be ring fenced for this year with a growth budget of £50,000 for next year.

16/OP DATE OF FUTURE MEETING

Cultural & Economic Services Meeting – 7 December 2020 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 1115 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2020.

Chair