

**LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL**

**OLDER PERSONS SUB-COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 1000 HOURS**

Present: Councillors      G Perham  
                                     J M Freeman (Vice Chair)  
                                     S Owen (Chair)  
                                     R Goodchild  
                                     K Cursons

Also in attendance:      M Saccoccio, Town Clerk  
                                     V Cannon, Head of Cultural and Economic  
                                     Services  
                                     S Jewell, C&E Support Officer  
                                     T Stephenson, MANOP (remotely)  
                                     H Dobson, Citizens Online (remotely)  
                                     M Jahn, Committee Officer

Members of the Public:    0

**26/OP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence had been received.

**27/OP DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were asked to declare any interests, including the nature of those interests, which they had in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. No declarations were made.

**28/OP QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**29/OP MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

(a) The sub-committee received the draft minutes of the Old Persons Sub Committee held on 19 August 2021.

**RESOLVED that that minutes of the meeting of the Older Persons Sub Committee held on 19 August 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

(b) Any updates would be covered within the agenda during the meeting.

**30/OP ADULT DAY CARE**

Tobin Stephenson, Head of Services from MANOP, Central Bedfordshire Council spoke to members to share what CBC would be working on in respect of Adult Day Care. Central Bedfordshire Council would be working closely with contractors, relatives and potential residents regarding the building of Marigold

House on Hockliffe Street. This facility would provide residential accommodation with space for day care facilities. A total of 63 bedrooms would be provided including access to outside areas and indoor communal or private areas. Accommodation would be accessible to all depending on their particular needs. The overall priority would be to improve the quality of care provided in the area in a modern building and to be able to use this space for other community use if possible. Tobin Stephenson agreed to share data from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the demand and needs in housing for older people within Leighton-Linslade since the pandemic.

A question was raised regarding what provision had been requested from the developers of the site for digital infrastructure and access to digital skills within the building. It was confirmed that the infrastructure had been put in place with sufficient cabling and Wi-Fi range for all needs.

The Town Clerk raised a question regarding the capacity of the new building and whether this would satisfy the growing elderly population in the longer term. It was confirmed that research had been carried out for demographic needs within the local area and this would be revisited to reassess any changes caused by the pandemic.

Members of the sub-committee thanked Tobin Stephenson for his presentation and looked forward to seeing the progress of the building work.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

### **31/OP TECHNOLOGY HELPLINE**

Helen Robson, Managing Director of Citizens Online, spoke to members to share how the Technology Helpline project would be delivered through their organisation.

Digital skills could be a lifeline to connect older people with friends and family, organise their lives by managing their physical and mental well-being and engage with the community. Citizens Online would recruit and train Digital Champions to enable them to assist older people to gain digital skills. This help would be through a dedicated phone line and also there would be face-to-face opportunities once the Digital Champions had been trained.

Members agreed that evidence should be gathered to measure the number of learners, hours and how many digital champions had been trained and feedback should be gathered once the project was up and running.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

### **32/OP PROJECT UPDATES**

The Sub-Committee received updates on the progress of the Older People Project.

**Terms of Reference:** the Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference were agreed

by Cultural and Economic Services Committee at its meeting on 13.9.21.

**Yellow Booklet:** a meeting was held with Bassett Road Patient Participation Group to discuss funding for production of the booklet. Members agreed to recommend to Cultural and Economic Services to allocate funding for this booklet. Councillor Owen declared an interest as a member of the Bassett Road PPG.

**55up Grant Scheme:** Five applications were received, one was not eligible but the remaining four met the criteria for the grant scheme. The four eligible applications were from The Friday Club, Music 24, Buzzard 50+ Sports & Social Club and Leighton Buzzard Arts Society.

**Tablet Loan Scheme:** research had continued for this scheme and further information would be gathered from the Technology Helpline activity regarding any shortfall in device/tablet access.

**Directory of activities web page and leisure opportunities information:** it was confirmed that time would be invested in directories that already existed. Leighton-Linslade Helping Hands would have capacity to continue their face-to-face and telephone line services.

Members were informed that the Jazz Up Your Life events would continue in the new year. Also officers had attended the Older People's Networking meeting and gained information on what services were available and would look to attend next year.

A question was raised to ask whether the NHS were aware of 55up and what the Town Council were doing for older people. Officers confirmed this would be followed up.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1.1 to recommend to Cultural and Economic Services committee that a total of £3000 of earmarked reserves (970/9028) be allocated to Bassett Road Surgery Patient Participation group in two separate payments of £1,500 (2022 and 2024) to fund the production of two editions of the biennial Yellow Booklet.**
- 1.2 To review 55Up grant applications with a view to make recommendations for funding approval to Cultural and Economic Services Committee at it's meeting on 13 December 2021.**

## **33/OP PROJECT DELIIVERY TIMELINE**

The sub-committee received and considered an updated project delivery timeline and it was confirmed this was on track and moving forward.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

## **34/OP DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on 17 February 2022 (10 am) and a possible meeting scheduled for 26 May 2022 (10am) depending on the extension of the sub-committee beyond March 2022.

The meeting closed at 1152 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2021.

Chair

17 FEBRUARY 2021

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