

## LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

### OLDER PERSONS SUB-COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 1000 HOURS

Present: Councillors      G Perham  
   J M Freeman (Vice Chair)  
   S Owen

Also in attendance:

V Cannon, Head of Cultural and Economic Services (remotely)  
S Jewell, C&E Support Officer (remotely)  
Kate Ellis and Karen Hall, BRCC (remotely)  
Sarah Collyer, Citizens Online (remotely)  
M Jahn, Committee Officer  
Cllr Goodchild (remotely)

Members of the Public:    0

#### **35/OP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received by Councillor Morris.

#### **36/OP DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Goodchild declared an interest as a member of Salisbury House PPG and Councillor Owen as a member of Bassett Road PPG.

#### **37/OP QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from members of the public.

#### **38/OP MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

(a) The sub-committee received the draft minutes of the Old Persons Sub Committee held on 18 November 2021.

**RESOLVED that that minutes of the meeting of the Older Persons Sub Committee held on 18 November 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

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

#### **39/OP BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY CHARITIES (BRCC) PROJECTS**

Kate Ellis and Karen Hall from Bedfordshire Rural Community Charities (BRCC) were welcomed to the meeting and gave a presentation on the work their charity undertakes (please see Glossary table at end of this section) which included having staff who undertake social prescribing and others acting as community agents. BRCC currently have two Community Wellbeing Champions (who carry out social prescribing) working in Leighton-Linslade with one in post and one

post currently vacant.

BRCC's social prescribing involves offering person centred advice and agreeing achievable goals for their clients in response to the reason for a social prescribing referral. They provide non-medical referrals to organisations and groups after identifying what type of service would be needed. These services could include coffee mornings, knitting groups, digital support, active lifestyles, food banks, MIND, debt services or over 50's clubs.

Face to face, on-line or telephone appointments could be offered to provide advice, increase independence and help with mental and physical wellbeing.

Concerns were raised that some older people would not have access to on-line devices and how would BRCC identify them and help them to access services. It was confirmed BRCC advertise in magazines and newsletters and could provide a device for an older person if they required one and wanted to learn how to use them. It was suggested that leaflets could be held at the Town Council or any other public building which would give a telephone number for older people to be able to make the initial contact.

A question was raised asking whether this Committee would be able to sponsor a Community Agent in some capacity for the Leighton-Linslade area. BRCC would recruit and carry out the appropriate checks and training. Members agreed to explore the idea and hoped more discussions would take place on this matter.

Kate Ellis and Karen Hall were thanked for attending the meeting and providing an informative presentation on the work carried out by BRCC. It was hoped they would return to a future meeting with a further update on their work.

<b>Glossary</b>		
<b>Title/Role</b>	<b>Specifics</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Community &amp; Wellbeing Team</b>	The BRCC team Kate Ellis heads up	All these roles come under this team.
<b>Community Wellbeing Champion</b>	Carry out social prescribing from doctors surgeries. <a href="#">weblink</a>	2 roles exist in Leighton-Linslade. Karen Hall is one of the Champions.
<b>Village/Community Agent</b>	Offer support to people (face-to-face or phone) about anything from benefits and blue badge forms to support groups and health advice. <a href="#">weblink</a>	Community agents exist in Biggleswade, Pottton, Bedford Borough & Ivan, but Leighton-Linslade do not currently have one.
<b>Good Neighbour Scheme</b>	The scheme (group) in our town is called Leighton-Linslade Helping Hands <a href="#">weblink</a> – LLHH <a href="#">weblink</a> – BRCC GNS	Not all schemes go by the name of 'Good Neighbour' but they all carry out the same befriending/support.

<b>Wellbeing Directory</b>	Directory of activities and events people can search for covering Bedfordshire <a href="#">weblink</a>	LLTC currently promote this directory on the 55up webpage.
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**40/OP 55UP TECHNOLOGY HELPLINE UPDATE**

Sarah Collyer, Citizens Online was welcomed to the meeting and gave an update on the project Technology Helpline Scheme. She confirmed there were plans to promote the Helpline further in BeeLocal, Age UK Bedfordshire, the Yellow Booklet and Bassett Road Surgery Newsletter. One Digital Champion was ready to go and a further two were being trained at Greenfields and a potential Champion at the Chatty Café at TACTIC. Sessions were being held at Greenfields, Chatty Café, Friday Club, Singing Café and Bassett Road Surgery. It was hoped to have 8 trained and live by the end of May.

Take up had been limited at present by older people via the Helpline but it was hoped this would increase now that the COVID pandemic had eased. A suggestion was made that a short video could be made to show what was on offer and publicised on social media and hopefully friends, neighbours and family members would see what was available and help their older friends or relatives access the service. It was agreed that community associations, the post office, dental surgeries and help from Central Bedfordshire Council could be utilised to publicise the Helpline. Using applications for Bus Passes to include information about the Helpline could be a way to achieve this.

Sarah Collyer was thanked for attending the meeting and giving the Committee an update on the Technology Helpline.

**41/OP PROJECT BUDGET**

The sub-committee received an update on the allocated budget spend and that some money was still available for allocation. After discussion members agreed this money might be used to sponsor a Community Agent for Leighton Buzzard. More detailed information and scrutiny would be needed on what this entailed. As the budget year would end before the next meeting in May it was suggested the remaining budget could be ringfenced to enable options to be explored.

**RESOLVED to research project ideas for discussion at the next meeting and the remaining budget ringfenced for next year.**

**42/OP PROJECT UPDATES**

The Sub-Committee received updates on the progress of the Older Persons Project and how organisations/groups were moving forward.

In round 2 three grant applications had been received all being eligible under the criteria. The total requests exceeded the remaining grant funds and options were discussed on how this could be addressed. After discussions members agreed to utilise unallocated project funds to cover the requests

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

**RECOMMEND to Cultural & Economic Services Committee to meet the 55UP grant applications 'Round 2' with funds left in the budget and ringfence the remaining amount.**

**43/OP 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.**

**44/OP DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date would be 26 May 2022 at 10.00 am.

The meeting closed at 1148 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2022.

Chair

26 MAY 2022