

# **BRACKNELL FOREST FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY GROUPS**

## ***Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, 7 pm., 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, Bullbrook Community Centre***

**Present:** Ed Glasson (Chairman), Geoff Hallett (Bracknell Area Deaf & Hard of Hearing), Ivy Riggs (BullbrookCA), Margaret Camp & Isabel Mattick (EH&WRCA), Lynn Jenkins (F.P'k..C.A.), Robert Gristwood (NPCA) & Terry Pearce (U3A)  
**Apologies:** Clare Klesel (BHCA), Pat Kennewell (BH&HLG), Allan Scorer(Bullbrook CA) & Pat Nowell & Jean Tidd (OwlsmoorCA)

**Absent:** Amy Doyle & Edgar Pallaso (Berkshire Filipino Group)

**Welcome** EG welcomed EC members, in particular, Geoff Hallett, who was attending his first EC Meeting, and said that he was pleased that all Fed. EC places had been filled at the AGM.

**Minutes of the General Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup>.September** including a report of the EC Meeting held just before it were noted.

### **Safety Responsibilities at Community Centres – BFC Response to concerns raised by the Fed.**

The EC accepted the statement of Vincent Paliczka, BFC's Director for the Environment, Culture & Communities to the Fed. AGM on 9.12.'08., contained in the minutes of the AGM. Though MC reported that her CA had yet to receive any practical help re Legionella water temperature testing.

### **Any Urgent Correspondence** (See adjacent sheets)

A summary of correspondence received since 9.12.'08. was circulated. EG drew attention to items highlighted for action & urged members to let him know if they are able to attend any forthcoming events to which the Fed has been invited.

### **Any Other Urgent Business**

- a) GH reported that following the AGM Mat Taylor of RBFRS had visited his Group & they were supporting MT's work.
- b) IM invited members to attend a meeting on the Older People's Strategy at 10 am. On 14.4.'09. at EH&WRCC.
- c) TP urged members to attend the Senior Citizens' Forum AGM at 2 pm. on 22.4.'09. at Easthampstead Baptist Church.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.19 p.m.

# **BRACKNELL FOREST FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY GROUPS**

## **Minutes of General Meeting, 7.30 pm., 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, Bullbrook Community Centre**

**Present:** Ed Glasson (Chairman), Geoff Hallett (Bracknell D&HoH), Ivy Riggs, Dave Short & Lyn Wilkinson (BullbrookCA), Margaret Camp & Isabel Mattick (EHWRCA), Lynn Jenkins (F.P'k..C.A.), Madeline Diver (Christian Network & LINKs), Teresa Kirk & Robert Gristwood (NPCA) & Terry & Val Pearce (U3A). Also Lesley Doyle (BFC).

**Apologies:** David Putt (Be Heard), Clare Klesel (BHCA), Pat Kennewell (BHCLG), Chris Cowap (BFVA), Janet Murton & Doreen Sinclair (Tea Ho.A.), George Bayle, (TwinningA) Allan Scorer (Bullbrook CA), Eileen Mann, Keith Simons & Albert Tovey (Gt.HTS), Joanne Legg (Hanworth CA), Simon Douthwaite (MH&TWCA), Jenny Costello, Hazel Hawkes, Pat Nowell, Reg Oldfield, Jean Tidd (OwlsmoorCA), Tricia Brown, David Fawcett & Brenda Newbrooks (NPCA)

**Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed all present, in particular, Fiona Heston of BFC and Ros Middleton & Mary Purnell of Berks. East PCT. who had kindly agreed to speak at the meeting.

**Minutes of the General Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup>. September were approved.** There were no **Matters Arising.**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup>. December** were also circulated for information.

**Executive Committee Report** (Chairman) EG reported that EC members, meeting just before the General Meeting, had accepted the statement made by Vincent Paliczka, BFC's Director for the Environment, Culture and Communities to the Fed. AGM on 9.12.'08., contained in the minutes of the AGM. and the meeting endorsed the EC's decision.

### **Our Health Service – What Next? (Mary Purnell)**

MP said that she could understand why many people were concerned about the "Health Space" since a flurry of planning applications had caused some uncertainty. The commissioning of the Health Space was a commercial operation with all that that entailed. However, the PCT had decided on a preferred candidate and it was hoped that the local Board would accept its recommendation at a meeting on the following day. The PCT could then concentrate on exactly what would be provided in the Health Space, - outpatient, diagnostic, primary & emergency care? There would be a consultation on urgent medical services at Heatherwood because doctors' rostering and facilities would make it difficult to meet future service requirements set out in national guidelines. There would need to be more work on service standards. The LAA includes 35 targets for the PCT on things such as childhood obesity, teenage pregnancy & smoking; more analysis of the causes of mortality over the whole age range is planned with a view to general health improvement.

In discussion MP was asked: Where will the Health Space be? How far will people have to travel for urgent health care?

Will the Health Space be privatised? Will the Health Walks which were axed because BFC would not stump up £12k needed to keep them going, be restarted as they are an excellent example of preventative medicine?

MP felt that Health Walks could be restarted, given voluntary support, for public health reasons. It was noted that the PCT would need to take on responsibility for keeping records of participants' medical conditions, that walkers have many ways of walking, (eg. "power walking"), and that several GPs' surgeries are running walks. MP said that the out of hours service is very good in E. Berks. and will definitely continue. It might move into Bracknell. Certainly people won't want to travel further. Hi-tech procedures such as heart catheterisation will, in any event, need to be done at specialist centres, such as RBH hospital. HMG are unwilling to provide the ~£25M to build the Health Space, therefore, it will be a PFI project. Depending upon the inclinations of any private sector participant, the building might include, for example, a pharmacy or a gym. The decision on the Health Space will be communicated via the press, but MP stressed that she was willing to communicate with residents in any way that suited them. MP promised that the Health Space would be within a mile of Skimped Hill, with good parking and public transport links, and would fit mesh with the locations current GP surgeries. MP promised also that if was necessary to move the Emergency Service from Heatherwood, it would only be to move it to Bracknell, so people would definitely not have to travel further afield. The rule will be that all non life-threatening emergencies will be dealt with locally.

### **Community Engagement (Fiona Heston)**

FH said that BFC had launched its first strategy on Community Engagement in 2005, but, in light of recent White & Green papers, it had been decided to launch a refreshed strategy. The CES covers many activities & is aimed at ensuring that local people are involved in shaping local services. Because BFC works, nowadays, with other partners, the PCT, TVP, RBFRS etc., the strategy is a partnership document. For example, Neighbourhood Action Groups, had been established in line with the Council's CES. However, FH felt that BFC was quite good at delivering services; less good at telling residents what it's done. Now LA's are under a duty to ask people what they should do rather than simply tell them what they've done and to undertake "participatory budgeting". Some LA's will find this hard to take. In discussion FH said BFC still have to work out how this will affect funding for local groups; HMG wants funds to be devolved to local communities. TP feared that many needy but perhaps less organised or articulate people could lose out in this situation. RG noted that the CES specified only BFH as a partner and asked if other RSL's are to be involved

On behalf of the meeting EG thanked Fiona Heston & Mary Purnell & Ros Middleton for their participation in the meeting.

### **Information Sharing**

**Easthampstead & Wildridings** IM reported that fly tipping at the CC was less awful than previously due to the erection of a fence and that the CA's AGM would be on 21.5. '09.

**Forest Park.** LJ reported that her CA had secured a £2.6K rolling support grant from BCF.

**New Priestwood** EG reported that his CA had at last sorted out its finances and would be holding its AGM on 24.4. '09.

Following a spate of vandalism at the CC & St.Andrews church, the key topic at the AGM would be anti-social behaviour.

### **Any Other Business**

a) LD reported that the Energy Procurement Consortium proposed by BFC had not worked as expected with small buildings actually proving to be more expensive than before & heated more cheaply via single gas and electricity suppliers. LD will be writing to CA's about the scheme. It was agreed that the matter should be reviewed at the next General Meeting.

b) RM mentioned the Patient Advice & Liaison Service, ("PALS"), and offered members leaflets on the Service.

c) LD has written to all CC's regarding Performance Licence cover, (which excludes alcohol), enclosing guidance notes on child protection, safety and other key issues and offering to organise the requisite public notice.

### **Date/Venue/Topic(s) for next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next General Meeting should be in late June, but not to clash with any of the Bracknell 60<sup>th</sup>.Anniversary events which start on 20.6. '09.

No venue was decided, though members were, as ever, deeply appreciative of the hospitality offered by Bullbrook CA, and Ivy Riggs, on behalf of Bullbrook CA, said that her CA would be happy to host the meeting if required.

RG suggested a Town Centre Update, Parking, Waste Management & Housing as possible topics for discussion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.