

BRACKNELL FOREST FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

Minutes of General Meeting, 25th March, 2008, Bullbrook Community Centre

Present: Ed Glasson (Chairman), Pat Kennewell (BirchHill CLG), Jason Moor (Berks.Ass'n.of Clubs for Young People,

Margaret Camp & Isabel Mattick (Easthampstead&Wildridings CA), Rob Gristwood (New Priestwood CA), Terry Pearce (University of the Third Age) & Lesley Doyle (BFBC)

Guest speakers: Mary Purnell, (Ass't.Dir'r.,Berks.E.PCT), Kevin Lewis, (HCT Dir'r.of Strategic Planning for Berks.) &

Phil West, (Safety Advisor, BFBC)

Apologies: Clare Klesel (BHCA), Chris Cowap (BFVA), Cllr.Adrienne Jones (BCT Mayor), Ivy Riggs & Allan Scorer

(Bullbrook CA), Lynn Jenkins (FPCA), Carol Brooker (Health Advisory Group) & Madeline Diver (PPIF)

Welcome E.G.welcomed members and guests and apologised to the guest speakers who had kindly agreed to come along for the poor attendance which was disappointing in view of the interest expressed by members in the topics for discussion.

Minutes of the last normal General Meeting on 14th.August, 2007, were approved. There were no matters arising.

Correspondence (See adjacent sheets)

Summaries of correspondence received between 4.12.'07., (the AGM), & 25.3.'08, were circulated and noted.

The Chairman reported that urgent items had been dealt with, where possible, by EC members

Re Correspondence for 25.3.'08. General Meeting, item:

35) T.P. drew members' attention to the Senior Citizens' Forum AGM at 2 pm. on 8.4.'08., at Coopers Hill

38) E.G. said that both the Fed. Pack & Promo Leaflet were now in final draft versions, & L.D. reported that an invoice for £1000 had been posted to L.J. (Fed. Treasurer), in respect of printing costs: also that BFBC were providing £250 to cover layout costs from funds available to Colin Griffin. Fed. Members placed on record their thanks for this.

39) Agreed to renew the Fed's affiliation to Community Matters for the year beginning 1.4.'08.

Executive Committee Report, (See Minutes of 19.2.'08. EC Meeting & Action Plan)

Minutes of the EC Meeting of 19.2.'08. were circulated & EC proposals endorsed. EG reported that final revisions of the Fed.'Info' Pack and of a promotional leaflet funded by BFVA were now expected to be completed in a few days' time.

Right Care, Right Place, (Summary of talk and discussion)

Mary Purnell said that the current consultation was about the kind of health care people want. For example, for heart disease stroke etc., moving patients from major into more community based hospitals, extending GPs' hours to provide cover evenings and Saturday mornings, Urgent Care Centres to deal with unexpected non life threatening emergencies.

On maternity provision, which is the subject of much concern, the RCN guidance suggests that we should have a "bells & whistles" facility whereas ours is a more basic midwife led unit. Much diagnosis and physiotherapy could in future be done locally rather than, for example, at Mt.Vernon or Royal Berks. Skimped Hill might be replaced by a new building to serve the Bracknell community. In recognition of the travel problems many patients have to cope with, the aim would be, if possible, to provide frequently needed services locally but less frequently needed services at greater distance.

However, this Centre would not cater for life threatening emergencies. In response to serious concerns expressed by members about the future of Heatherwood Hospital, based on the closure of the maternity unit and the withdrawal of mental health beds.

MP felt that the local Trust had been motivated by an urgent need to improve accommodation there but was seriously remiss in not notifying BFBC and had been taken to task over this lapse. In response to questions, MP said she thought we might see a specialist cancer centre with outreach units. Members stressed that any such units would need to be led by specialists rather than nurses; also that fully qualified local "crash teams" were essential.

Kevin Lewis said that local mental health provision was poor with patients placed in unsuitable '70's accommodation in which many female patients feel, understandably, unsafe with suicidal patients close by and problems of theft etc. Ideally, we should have a purpose built hospital with individual rooms. But, in practice, because of financial constraints and the difficulty of getting planning approval for such a facility, space will have to be found at existing sites some of which are incapable of adaptation. KL's staff favour having one big unit because it will enable better support for staff and it will accommodate a wider age range which will be better for patients' morale. There are some 9000 mental health patients in E.Berks. but >80% do not require hospital treatment and, in many cases, treatment at home is preferable given adequate support, which might mean up to 5 visits per day, if needed. JM commented that he saw many young people with severe problems who frequently moved between care & custody and that the former was obviously preferable. TP put in a plea, in light of the growing population and especially of the elderly population in Bracknell & the state of transport services, for the development of Heatherwood for the neediest patients. IM said she was pleased that MP & KL had referred to many points raised by residents; she asked also for dementia sufferers to be offered temporary refuge somewhere other than in a police station and for better provision for early onset dementia sufferers. Members thanked both MP and KL.

Are We Being Put Upon? (See adjacent paper)

Phil West explained the meaning of the term "Responsible Person" in regard to Fire, Asbestos & Legionella legislation. He was warmly thanked for his explanation and it was agreed to circulate his advice to all CA's.as a matter of urgency.

In view of the hour, (9.50 pm.), it was agreed to defer other business to the EC and to close the meeting