

Bracknell Forest Voluntary Sector Forum Meeting

held at Easthampstead Baptist Church, South Hill Road, Bracknell
on Friday 9 May at 2 pm

Minutes

Barbara Briggs (Carers UK)	BB	+	Graham McMoneagle (Building Bridges)	GM	-
Ed Glasson (Federation of Community Groups)	EG	+	Martin Gilman (BFVA)	MG	+
Judy English (BFVA)	JE	+	Joyce Ward (BFVA)	JW	-
Chris Cowap (BFVA)	CC	+	Catriona Mitchell (Konnections)	CM	-
Madeline Diver (Churches Together)	MD	+	Frances Moody (Tea House)	FM	-

Present (+) Absent (-)

			Action
1	Welcome and apologies	BB opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Apologies were received from FM, JW and GM.	BB
2	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	<p>The minutes were accepted. Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC has spoken to Bob Rockell re Transport PB and will contact Gill Cheetham regarding Cultural and Environment PB. • MG reported that Volunteering and Carers are on the agenda for the 35 targets. The Thriving Third Sector is not yet included, awaiting the place survey results which will not be available until October or April. • MG attended NAVCA training on Commissioning and feels that this will be very difficult for small groups. Together with BFBC, BFVA will provide some training, but the VCS needs to be aware of this change. • Conference – there will be a DVD on BFVA and one on the Voluntary sector, plus some presenters will use DVDs. 	
3	Focus Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability – a short questionnaire has been sent to those who expressed an interest at the open meeting. CC/BB will analyse the results and set up a steering group. • The CAB will report to the VSF from the Strategic Housing partnership. • MG commented that there is a need to move towards elected representatives on Focus Groups to give them more weight. It is important to encourage people to attend the AGM and be elected at that time. The reps handbook is now in draft form. • There is a need for reports to go in the newsletter on a regular basis. • The next H&SC meeting is on 2 June. • LINKs – report on the health space is to go to the PCT board on 23 May. Papers should be on the web before then. The LINKs meeting will be on 25 June. • MG reported that the intention is to have space in the new health space for support groups on 	CC/BB

		<p>health issues eg diabetes, alzheimers, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith Forum – there is some interest in starting this. MG reported that the Improving Reach bid is in, jointly with Wokingham but result is unlikely to be known until July. 	
4	Leaflets	CC reported that these are at various stages with the 3 groups. Logos have been considered and BFVA now has a software package called Coral Draw for designing our own. Copies of the VSF leaflet were distributed and CC requested comments by the end of May.	CC
5	Consortium/ASP/Federation updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consortium – MG reported that we will not be receiving any project money from Capacity Builders but the reasons for the refusal will not be sent out for another 2/3 weeks. He has spoken to Kat Pearce and said that we may well return the Consortium money as with no projects, there is nothing to manage. He has spoken to JW and asked the Trustees for more money from reserves to replace Capacity Builders money. He is trying to speak to Capacity Builders to find out when the letter is likely to be received as there is little point in the Consortium meeting being held next week without that information. Fed – EG reported that the general meeting focussed on the health situation. Another matter which arose from BFBC was the need for a responsible person where a building was concerned for which a 1½ day training would be provided. He commented that it is felt that this is an unreasonable request of volunteers and safety should be the responsibility of the Council. BFMA – CC reported that only one meeting has been held since the AGM and she is trying to arrange another meeting in June. 	<p>MG</p> <p>CC</p>
6	AGM	This will take place on 24 July starting at 5 pm for 5.30 pm. Suggestions are needed for a theme and CC asked the committee to email possible topics to JE by 20 May. An AGM planning meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 4 June at 2 pm – open to all.	All
6	Any Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MG reported that the Compact has been cleared by the Council executive and may be able to be signed at the Conference. Bob Edger, the new Major, has been closely involved with the Compact from the beginning. Bob Wade is the new deputy Mayor. 	
7	Date of next meeting	<p>AGM planning meeting – 4 June at 2 pm</p> <p>AGM – Thursday 24 July at 5 pm at Easthampstead Baptist Church</p>	