

Board Meeting

Monday 12th November 2012 from 2pm to 4pm

Weston Favell Parish Hall

Present: John Roberts (Chair); Tony Allen (Vice Chair); Brian Cully (Treasurer); Martyn White, Susan Hills; John Wevill; Sandra Frampton; Ray Hutchens; Judy Sullivan; Eileen Higgins; Gillian Powell

		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and apologies -</p> <p>JR welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies: Pam Tomalin and Stephen Legg</p>	
2.	<p>Membership -</p> <p>JR announced that TA had received Mahmoud Jebli's resignation from the board, due to ill health, JR to write to MJ to thank him and wish him well.</p> <p>Judy Sullivan and Gillian Powell were both unanimously voted on to the mainstream board. They previously attended the meeting representing other organisations.</p>	JR
3.	<p>Minutes of meeting 08.10.2012 were accepted by all present as true and accurate.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal adoption of the 'Business plan 2012-2013' and the 'Roles of the Board Members' were carried forward from last meeting will be discussed at the next meeting. 	JR
4.	<p>Chair's report -</p> <p>JR had not attended any events this month on behalf of the Network but, with the Vice-Chairman, had been seeking professional help with fund-raising and planning for the transfer of the membership database.</p> <p>The rest of the report relates to item (7) '<i>Should we apply to be a charity</i>' see below</p>	
5.	<p>Vice Chair's Report – TA reported to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>General</i> <p>9th Oct - TA joined Denise Knowles (Relate) and Bernie Keith on his BBC Northampton Radio morning show. Discussed what was available for the over 50's who find themselves on their own and become depressed. TA explained benefits of Northants 50+. A few new members joined up after the show.</p> <p>12th Oct – TA met with Valerie Meade, Marion Dixon and Viv Crouch from South Northants 50+. Discussed Greens Norton Road Show and plan to hold another Roadshow in Towcester Leisure Centre in Spring 2013, to be sponsored by Richmond Homes.</p> <p>25th Oct – TA, SF and RH attended 'Stepping Forward' event at Guild Hall. Promoted 50+ and rec'd a lot of interest. SF in contact with 3 possible volunteers.</p> <p>2nd Nov – TA met with Nick King, (SNVB Village Networks Project). They have lottery funded vehicles, a minibus, which could be used to ferry 50+ members</p> 	

Vice Chair's Report – Continued

to/from various events. In the New Year they will also have another vehicle, which will go out to the villages with information opportunities to discuss/advise people in their mobile meeting room/office. A representative from Northampton's Community Law Service will go out with the driver to help people with social and welfare problems, i.e. debt, jobs, housing etc.

They are offering us the opportunity to go out with them to the villages to promote Northants 50+ Network, recruit new members and set up local activities.

- *Website*

Statistical analysis shows that the number of visitors to the 50+ website has **increased for the fifth consecutive month.**

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits
May 2012	282	432	1,717	7,265
Jun 2012	295	455	2,243	8,520
Jul 2012	362	552	2,337	9,422
Aug 2012	366	589	2,708	11,645
Sep 2012	395	609	2,857	11,743

TA asked everyone to continue to encourage members and non-members to use the website.

ALL

6. Treasurer's Report

BC presented his detailed report. As we have received £5,000 from NCC re SLA and £250 reimbursement of printing costs, the HSBC 'Board' bank account balance as at 31st October is now £8,288.40. The 'Events' account' balance is £2,160.

SN added that the 2nd instalment of £5,000 (NCC SLA) should be paid in Dec '12.

JR added that SL still has funds from his Empowerment Grant for our 'Newsletter'. It was questioned whether this could be carried over till next year, JR to discuss with SL

JR

7. Should we apply to be a charity?

JR had spent some time researching the process we would need to follow if we decided to register as a charity. This started after an approach to CVS Northamptonshire to ask if they would help us make bids for funding. The answer was that they would not accept a contract to write bids for us because the chances of success were very slim unless we were registered with the Charity Commission (CC). JR read out his findings after reading up on the requirements for charity status. He believes we are already a charity but due to our funding level this year (>£10,000), we are obliged to register.

The overriding concern is to use the NCC grant effectively and maximise chances of securing future grant income. Time is a critical factor. JR put forward the following 5 recommendations and all were accepted unanimously by the board:

1. that the Board aims to operate the Network with an income exceeding £5000 a year;
2. that the Board authorises the officers to obtain expert advice and proceed as quickly as possible to register as a charity by submitting an application using our existing constitution;
3. that any feedback from the CC will be reported to the Board so that further action can be agreed;
4. that the question of whether to apply to HMRC to be registered for tax purposes be decided at a later date;
5. that the possibility of forming a limited company be kept in view.

JR

8.	<p>Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p> <p>SN discussed the Health and Wellbeing Draft Strategy that has been developed jointly by the following organisations - Northamptonshire County Council, NHS, NHS Nene Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Corby Commissioning Group, District and Borough Councils, Link, University of Northampton and the voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>SN then showed a DVD, shot locally, showing various examples of health and wellbeing and asked the board members to complete the questionnaire, if they haven't already done so by 14th November 2012.</p> <p>Discussion ensued during which SN noted a wide range of suggestions relating to the strategy.</p>	
9.	<p>NCC Prevention Strategy</p> <p>SN confirmed that the tendering process that was a key part of implementing the prevention strategy had been halted as a result of an expected reduction in Council income in 2013. Some existing contracts were being extended. Members expressed concern that further reductions in the prevention budget were likely to have a negative impact on vulnerable adults and would lead to increased state expenditure in the medium term.</p> <p>SN also drew attention to a current consultation on "personalisation" and encouraged members to attend one of the events being arranged throughout Northamptonshire. It was agreed to include this item on the agenda for January.</p>	JR
10..	<p>Procurement of external paid support</p> <p>TA referred to item 7 above; external paid support will follow once Charity Status has been confirmed.</p>	
11.	<p>Membership Database</p> <p>A Microsoft xl database containing all Northants 50+ members is currently held by NCC. They will continue to maintain this until we are ready to take it over. JR and TA met with Stuart Whitely and Ben King (NCC) on 6th November to discuss the data transfer and view the current system.</p> <p>On 22 October TA met with Jonathan Bentley (IHM), where their Mail Manager System was demonstrated. This could hold the 50+ database, send direct emailing to members and be linked to the 50+Website allowing on-line membership forms to automatically update the database fields.</p> <p>RH and TA are looked at other alternatives are also being and a decision will be made shortly. RH has kindly agreed to take on the maintenance of the database and work with TA to achieve a smooth transfer of the database.</p>	RH/TA
12	<p>Dates and Venues for Next Meetings</p> <p>TA informed the board of the ASDA Foundation Community Life Project. ASDA Distribution Centres are opening up their meeting rooms to 'not-for-profit organisations' to hire out free of charge. Therefore it was agreed that future meetings will be held at ASDA Distribution Centre in Brackmills. This venue has been booked for the next 6 months.as follows</p> <p>10th December 2012, 14th January 2013, 11th February 2013, 11th March 2013, 8th April 2013 and 13th May 2013</p>	

	TA will send out a map for the new location prior to the next meeting.	TA
16.	<p>AOB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SN reported on a meeting of the East Midlands Later Life Forum at which the hope had been expressed that Northants 50+ Network would re-engage with regional meetings. 2. JS reported that NCVA were organising a roadshow at the Pemberton Centre, Rushden, on Thursday 29th November. 3. JS commended the localgiving.com website as a possible vehicle for fundraising. It was agreed that officers would investigate. 	JR
17.	Meeting closed at 4.15pm	
	Date of Next Meeting Monday 10th December - ASDA, Brackmills.	