



Board Meeting

Monday 8th October 2012 from 2pm to 4pm
Weston Favell Parish Hall, Weston Favell, NN3 3EP

Present: Tony Allen (Vice Chair), Brian Cully (Treasurer), Pam Tomalin (Secretary)
Eileen Higgins, Sandra Frampton, Susan Hills and John Wevill.

		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>Apologies: John Roberts, Judy Sullivan, and Gillian Powell, Stephen Legg, Ray Hutchens, and Martyn White.</p> <p>TA offered apologies for a shorter meeting (to end at 15.45). He also apologised for sending out the incorrect version of the action plan to everyone, so item 8 was agreed to be carried over to the next meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of meeting 10.09.12 and Matters arising</p> <p>Item 3. TA confirmed that he had checked with NCC and as far as they were concerned the Evaluation form had gone out to all known members</p> <p>Item 16. AOB The formal acceptance of Jillian Powell and Judy Sullivan to the Board to be carried forward due to their absence at this meeting</p> <p>Item 7. PT mentioned that her name had been left off attending the Brigstock roadshow</p>	
3.	<p>Chair's Report - This was read out by PT. The following is an abridged version</p> <p>NCC Support</p> <p>The Service Level Agreement is now fully signed and the first payment of £5,000 is expected shortly, and it was confirmed NCC would continue helping with delivery of the Newsletter until March 2013. It was also confirmed that there would be no further support after March 2013, unless we are again successful in obtaining grants from the Councilors' Empowerment Fund.</p> <p>Survey of members</p> <p>The results of the 'survey of members', will be reported to the Board in November or December, depending on competing work priorities within NCC.</p> <p>Richmond Villages</p> <p>The third and final road show of the series sponsored by Richmond Villages took place at Brigstock on 27th September. Five Board members and Mike and Margaret Garlick attended</p>	

and there was a good range of informative stands and two entertainers. Unfortunately only six visitors attended, none of whom had planned to come.

Safeguarding

In September JR attended another meeting of the Users and Carers Sub-Group of the

Northamptonshire Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults Board (SOVA Board) and is now a member of this group. At his suggestion, the group has recommended to the SOVA Board that there should be a dedicated phone line for people wanting to report on specific safeguarding issues affecting individuals. NCC policy is for all calls to go to a single number, which is answered initially by a computer (saying "please choose from the following options") and then by a "customer adviser" in a call centre.

Kettering Crematorium Visits (verbatim)

In the September Newsletter we advertised two visits to Kettering Crematorium. Six or seven members have registered an interest. Unfortunately, the Northants Telegraph published a story (on their website but not in print) which led to three written complaints and a Facebook campaign to stop the visits. At one stage some forty people were planning to protest at the Brigstock road show. Over a period of several days I monitored Facebook, published responses on behalf of the 50+ Network on both the Telegraph website and Facebook and responded to individual complaints by email. The opposition was based on the rumour that we were planning to arrive at the crematorium in coach loads. Most of the objectors were mothers and grandmothers of babies who had died and are remembered in the "babies' garden" at the crematorium. I promised one mother that our visit would not include the gardens, which are open to the public every day.

I made the following statement on Facebook: "I am writing on behalf of the Northants 50+ Network. The report in the ET says nothing about how many people will make the visit. In fact, numbers are limited to six and the visit, organised by the crematorium staff, will last just 90 minutes. Some people don't want to think about their own death at all, while others, for the sake of their loved ones, may wish to make plans for their own funerals. Part of this planning may involve finding out about the choices available. If our visit helps people to do this then we cannot see anything wrong with it. We are sure that the visit will be conducted with proper dignity and respect.

The crematorium has been organising small group visits for years without upsetting anyone. Can everyone please be assured that as an organisation run by volunteers to help the over 50s we have absolutely no wish to offend anyone whose relatives have been cremated. I am truly sorry for causing so much anxiety. Unfortunately we have no control over how the newspaper reported what we said to them, but it would have been better not to talk at all about the crematorium visit."

There have been no further complaints or comments on Facebook. I spoke to the reporter who wrote the story and she was aware of the distress it had caused, wished she had not written it, and was very apologetic.

Mike Garlick had consulted me before offering these visits and I agreed to include them in the Newsletter. They are due to take place in November, so it would be possible for the Board to cancel them.

BC asked if the above had been sent to the paper, but JR had decided against this as he felt it would add to the issue and create more of a problem. BC added that the newspaper should themselves have made the apology as their article was the root cause.

NHS Annual Meeting

JR reported he had attended the Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust meeting on 27th

September. There were presentations from the Chairman, Director of Finance and Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust, the Director of Public Health and the Chairman of Nene Clinical Commissioning Group, who take over from the PCT in April 2013. The NHS is now facing its biggest reorganisation at the same time as a public financial crisis and increasing demand from a population that seems to be careless about its health and yet living longer. Big changes are needed; these will include reviewing what services are to be provided by the five hospital trusts serving Northampton, Kettering, Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes.

NCC Prevention Strategy: bad news

On 25th September, NCC wrote to “stakeholders” to inform them that, because of the worsening public finances, implementation of a key part of the prevention strategy is to be halted. This implies that spending on prevention services is to be reduced even more severely than planned.

4. Vice Chair’s Report

New Postal Address

As part of our migration away from NCC, St Giles Church has kindly agreed to allow us to use their parish office as our new postal address.

Northants 50+ Network
c/o St Giles Parish Office
St Giles Terrace
Northampton NN1 2BN

With immediate effect, please ensure that all Northants 50+ literature bearing the NCC, County Hall address is destroyed.

It was confirmed that this would not affect the mail to the treasurer from the bank which would continue to be sent to him directly.

Application Forms

New ‘Application Forms’ have been produced and will be available at the meeting to take a few away with you. Again, please destroy any old copies.

TA handed out the new forms to all and added that any news letters that are distributed to public places should have one of the new forms with the new address inserted.

Newsletter

Caroline Brennecke, the part time administrator at NCC, finishes her contract at the end of November 2012, however NCC will continue to mail out the next 2 quarterly newsletters, Winter 2012 and spring 2013. No further support will be available after March 2013. Some very positive feedback has been received about the Autumn Newsletter and TA agreed to edit and produce the next edition as well.

TA added that the printers he had approached had stated that one print run of the news letter would cost the Network 0.19p for the printing costs. Current arrangements are that NCC covers the cost of postage, envelopes, labels and staff time, and 50+ pay for the printing costs.

TA added that 240 members had asked to be removed following the announcement of changes to the database from NCC.

Website

The following statistical analysis shows that the number of visitors to the 50+ website has increased for the fourth 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

Please continue to encourage members and non-members to use the website.

5. Treasurer's Report - The accounts were presented to the Board

BC presented his detailed report. Still very little activity on the accounts. The Board Balance is £3815.68 and the Events Account Balance £2224.93 but including Petty Cash held by SF the actual balance £2,299.93.

He confirmed he had raised 2 invoices to NCC - £5,000 for the first payment under the terms of the new SLA and for the printing of the questionnaire.

TA thanked BC for his work looking after the finances of the 50+ Network

6. Brigstock Roadshow

PT stated that there was no apparent reason why the attendance was a record low number. She added that a vast amount of marketing had taken place, putting up flyers, contacting groups and all known networks and Mike Garlick cover Kettering also putting up flyers.

It was suggested it could have been the choice of venue, but this had been chosen by Richmond Village themselves, despite reservations from PT.

Fortunately the entertainment with the Owls was well received by the exhibitors and the few visitors who were there.

7. Health and Wellbeing strategy consultation

TA reported that NCC have produced a draft report and can be viewed on the NCC Website. He read out a portion of the report:

"The Health and Social Care Bill 2010-2012 proposed setting up a statutory health and wellbeing Board. The HWB will encourage working together across the fields of health and social care providing the focal point for decision making about local health and wellbeing matters, and bring together the work of the clinical commissioning groups, local authorities and the community stakeholders. We have already consulted you about our priorities around health, community safety and mental health. Our HWB takes into account your views about these."

The report went on to mention who is involved – NCC, NHS, NHS Nene Clinical Commissioning group, NHS Corby Clinical Commissioning group, District and Borough Councils, Link, The University of Northampton, Voluntary and Community Sector.

The report continued with the mission statement, how the aims and objectives would be achieved covering 8 outcomes, and challenges they are faced with.

Forums would be held around the County, the first to be in Wellingborough, in the Council chambers. Anyone with an interest in H & W could attend, but places need to be booked.

8.	<p>Business Plan</p> <p>To be discussed at next meeting</p>	
9.	<p>Roles of Board Members</p> <p>TA suggested as so few attendees at the meeting, this item should be left until the next meeting. He drew attention to the revised list of Pam Wilton's tasks, over a period of time, some of which had been adopted by board members. However this still left the roles currently covered by Caroline at NCC to be considered and he asked for those present to consider volunteering to cover some or any of these.</p>	
10.	<p>Procurement of external paid support</p> <p>TA stated that the Board were expected to use the money to pay someone to (A) help recruit and train more volunteers and to develop more activities and perhaps do some of the support work that Pam Wilton provided (B) to get expert help in bidding for funds with the emphasis on the latter.</p> <p>TA suggested that perhaps the Northampton Volunteer Centre could provide someone to cover both, including the work currently covered by CB, but job descriptions would be required.</p> <p>PT suggested the possibility of a grant application to the Community Foundation if a specific project could be found to match the required criteria.</p> <p>Various suggestions were voiced by all but no conclusions reached. TA mentioned that CB had offered to carry on working on a part time basis for the Network and he would look into the matter.</p>	
11.	<p>Membership database</p> <p>TA reported that all 50 + members had been contacted and informed that the custody of the membership database will be transferred to the Network from the County Council which resulted in 240 members withdrawing their membership. He suggested two alternative ways forward:</p> <p>Option 1: To use a system called 'Drop Box' which is Free and files are held off site in a secure environment but accessible via passwords to more than one authorised administrator. It is similar to an Excel file but saved externally. The downside was that if two people work on it at the same time, one would over write the other.</p> <p>TA suggested that a maximum of 3 administrators would be involved, and he would like to see more email contact with the members in particular for events. There were approximately 25% of members with the facility to send and receive emails, but it was hoped this would increase in time. He suggested if anyone was interested, to look at it on their web site: www.dropbox.com He added that he was not convinced that it would meet the requirements of the Network.</p> <p>Option 2: A mailing manager service which is mainly used for email advertising. In House Media, who currently look after the website run this service. They state it is a bulk email service that can also be used as a customer relations management system. Instead of updating an Excel file, the details would be updated on an email manager. There are added benefits – it is very secure and multiple people could work on it at the same time. It could also be used to email all members with news and events. The cost would be £100 set up</p>	

	<p>fee plus £18 per month service charge.</p> <p>TA to investigate further with both of the above and NCC to examine the current structure of the database and report back to the next meeting.</p>	TA
12.	<p>Regional Round up</p> <p>EW reported that there will be a Wellingborough Older person's forum on November 27th at All Saints Church hall, Midland Road. SF said she would be available to attend on behalf of the Network. A flyer will be sent to TA to go on the website and she will bring some to the coffee morning arranged by SF in Wellingborough.</p> <p>EW added that over 200 visitors came to the event at the Castle. There had been some confusion between the initial event being cancelled and no arrangements made for the 50+ Network to have a stand at the replacement event. It was agreed this was a missed opportunity.</p> <p>PT mentioned that Nene Valley Community Action are either shortening the length of their roadshows, or cancelling them due to expected poor attendance. PT confirmed she will be attending their event in Oundle on 17th October. There were two further events next year 4th February and 7th March. PT advised the March event had been cancelled. TA added that MW had expressed interest in attending the February event.</p>	SF EW
13.	<p>AOB</p> <p>PT mentioned that the Norton Anti Virus had expired on the Network laptop and needed renewing. It was agreed that an upgrade was the cheapest option, and PT would organise this a.s.a.p. with an agreed maximum of £40.</p>	PT
14.	Close	
	Date of Next Meeting Monday 12th November 2012 - Weston Favell Parish Hall	