

Northants 50+ Network Minutes of Board Meeting

**Held on Monday 10th January 2011
At the Weston Favell Parish Hall**

Present:

Roger Rumsey, John Wevill, Sandra Frampton, Cllr. Eileen Higgins, Tony Allen, Susan Hills, Richard Lukehurst (CAN) and Jenny Cotton-Howells, Maggie Christofi (for notes)

Officers:

Pam Wilton (NCC) Rachel Evans (NCC)

Apologies:

David Hinde, John Roberts, Judy Sullivan, Pam Tomalin, Sonja Noon, Maggie Lonergan, Liz Percival

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Roger Rumsey welcomed everyone.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>The Apologies were read out.</p>	
3.	<p>Presentation by Rachel Evans on 'You Choose Budgets'</p> <p>Rachel handed round the proposals for the Draft Council Plan and Budget Consultation. The purpose of this session was to inform us about the council's financial position and the proposals published for consultation and to find what the group thought of the proposals and if they had any alternative suggestions for savings.</p> <p>The proposals are available on the You Choose website and available at libraries.</p> <p>NCC needs to save £136million over 4 years, of which £68million needs to be saved this year.</p> <p>The consultation closes 8th February on the website and will also be available at libraries.</p> <p>There will be two question time events with the members of the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet, e-petitions and email and feedback cards for customers. There will also be an intergenerational debate on the 3rd February between 4.30 to 7.30 at Russell House.</p> <p>The final decision will be made by Full Council on 24th February 2011.</p> <p>The proposals at the moment include the closure of 8 libraries : Finedon, St James, Irchester, Danesholme, Woodford Halse, Roade, Moulton and Wollaston.</p> <p>The mobile libraries are proposed to be cut from 4 to 2.</p>	

Examples of other proposals include:

- No longer having school crossing patrols
- Street lighting reduced in places where the speed limits are over 40 mph (ie not in villages)
- Reviewing subsidised bus routes
- Responsibility for the Concessionary Travel Scheme will be moved from the Borough Council to the County Council
- Country Park parking charges will be raised from £2 to £3
- NCC will not be increasing the Expected to Pay Rates in Residential Homes as the charges are in line with other counties.

The group felt that the library closures would especially impact on older people in rural areas and they wanted to know how the Council measures people who visit libraries. It was stated that most of the data is measured by people returning and borrowing books although some libraries may have footfall measures.

The cost of taxis was also brought up, where it is not always done in the most efficient manner. Sometimes there may be three separate taxis going from one destination to different centres. More volunteer drivers could be used and trips could be more organised.

It was suggested that Councillors should lead the way in budget cuts by cutting their expenses or at the least by freezing them as most employee's wages have been frozen.

It was felt that some of the services were not monitored, for example roadworks. JW stated that there were roadworks for months in an area with nothing visibly changing at the end of the period.

It was also stated that the Council should work more closely with OT (Occupational Therapist) training colleges using 2nd and 3rd year students instead of paid OTs.

It was suggested that more volunteering opportunities could be offered for old and young, with schoolchildren gaining work experience. There could be more volunteers in vital services. Hundreds of administrators posts could go through natural wastage and these posts could be offered to volunteers. There could be a time limit on volunteering so that a maximum of six months could be served, giving more people a chance to volunteer.

NCC could develop Volunteering Opportunities within themselves. Set up a 'Volunteers Bank'. There could be a voluntary bank of staff who would need to be CRB checked – this would provide hundreds of volunteers countywide for a small setup fee. There could be a presentation to Youth Services to promote this.

There could also be a timebank set up, swapping skills for skills.

4.

Presentation by Richard Lukehurst on 'Up2U' changes to sheltered housing

Richard Lukehurst works with CAN, who support people with drug, alcohol and homelessness problems. He also works with the Supporting People Team within the County Council. He wants to set up a customer forum and also a bi-monthly meeting with the Probation Service, the County Council, Borough Council, DAT, Commissioners and the PCT. The group will support people that come from socially excluded backgrounds.

Richard is working with Mental Health and Learning Disability groups carrying the voice of the customer to Commissioning Services.

Peopletree Training will be running 10-12 workshops on Effective Communication, Improving Confidence, Meeting Skills.

Service Directors and Managers from different organisations will meet with David Mackintosh (Conservative Councillor) and discuss what the 'Big Society' means.

Richard handed out copies of a magazine called Umbrella.

There will be a Conference on 25 January at the Saints Rugby Club with the Supporting People team (the funding for Supporting People of £14.9M was ring-fenced, but the ring-fencing has now been removed).

There will be a core group on 21 January in East Northants & Irthlingborough where they would like some representation

The current funding finishes in March. There are plans to find out what differences the services can make to individuals and how to improve services. CAN will try and secure funding to keep functioning.

Customer feedback is crucial to Supporting People. They will be going to the House of Commons to see 31 conservative MPs, there will be an open invite to come along.

JCH informed the group that there is a service called Lowdown which is a youth counselling service for people aged up to 24 years.

CAN to work with The Lowdown near Gold Street in Northampton

It was mentioned that some people from Day Centres who have drug or alcohol problems do not want to visit CAN because they do not want to associate with other people who have drug and alcohol problems. There needs to be a risk assessment done on older people with this issue. Richard Lukehurst to contact Jenny Cotton-Howells

Roger Rumsey said he was interested but was snowed under at the

RL/JCH

	<p>moment.</p> <p>It was suggested that something could be printed in the next Northants 50+ Newsletter about CAN's services. Richard and Athena produce their magazine as a pdf financed by CAN.</p> <p>CAN is hoping that they can get Barclaycard to finance the printing of their magazine, and that they can join forces with DAT and Central Government.</p> <p>There is to be a peer review – putting together a training package for the customer and better information for customers.</p> <p>Up 2 You has Strategic Meetings to help shape the future of services. They will be looking at the views of six core groups and are planning a one year commitment to the County Council, the Borough Council, the Probation Service, the Drug and Alcohol Team and Commissioners of Services.</p> <p>Users can go straight to commissioners but these are not always available. Richard can be contacted at Richard.lukehurst.can.org. He will write ¾ column for the Northants 50+ Newsletter.</p>	<p>RL</p> <p>RL</p>
5.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting, Matters Arising</p> <p>Roger Rumsey stated that there was no Treasurers Report this month as David Hinde was unwell, but both accounts were solvent. Regarding Carmen's expenses claim, she had written to Roger and the Board stating that she was grateful for the payment and will not leave it so long to put in her next one. She has great plans for Corby 50+ and hopes that some Northampton people will attend.</p> <p>It was noted that the costs for Assisted Transport have risen dramatically.</p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting were signed as a true record.</p>	
6.	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>Roger had already circulated a copy of his report.</p> <p>Accurate figures from the government was ongoing</p> <p>Panel Evaluation & Scoring – Roger Rumsey was told that the ICES & Wheelchair Services contract had been awarded to Millbrook, who will be taking over the service from 1st April 2011. Their service will include a washing and decontaminating service, a shop for buying equipment. The contract will be for 3 years plus one.</p> <p>On the issue of funding Roger fears the worst and is going looking for small amounts for the 50+ Network although they have not been told officially.</p> <p>He has met with University of Northampton who will produce the</p>	<p>RR</p>

	<p>newsletter and get advertisers that the Board will approve with a student coming to Board meetings (without voting rights). There are two meetings set up at the University with 1st and 2nd year students. The University have a specialist that they may be able to put in touch with us for obtaining funding.</p> <p>Roger stated that he wants funding to retain Pam to carry on with her work as a facilitator.</p> <p>For the newsletters – advertisers don't like them being sent by email as they feel that their adverts are not then read by customers. Tony Allen to try and get specific funding.</p> <p>An A5 newsletter would cost less to post, advertisers may also want to enclose a flyer with the leaflet.</p> <p>Roger Rumsey to present firm proposals at the next Board Meeting for a quarterly magazine. If students were going to produce this it may have an impact in the summer holidays as their holidays are longer than schools.</p>	<p>TA</p> <p>RR</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>In the absence of David, Pam Wilton advised the Board that there was a £451.45 profit on events for 2010.</p> <p>Some people don't put in mileage claims for attending meetings.</p> <p>She advised the Board that as from January the Activity Coordinators need to buy their own raffle prizes, so they will need their own float.</p>	<p>DH/PW</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Facilitator's Report</p> <p>Board members had already received a copy of PW's report. RB Travel has been booked to go to the National Herb Centre. A £10 deposit was initially asked for the coach, but as it wasn't clear whether a 30 or 50 seater was needed, they decided they would not need the deposit.</p> <p>Corby has already pre-paid £75 to book 3 venues, but another £100 was asked for by them for the November Dinner/Dance deposit.</p> <p>Carmen thought that she could sell 30 tickets for their dinner dance event at the Best Western and asked other people to also sell tickets as the event needed minimum 100 people at £17.50 per head for the meal, without DJ and extras. It was thought that Corby activity coordinators need to sell the tickets for their own events as it unlikely that many people from Northampton would travel all the way to Corby.</p> <p>It was thought that it was too big a risk to the Board for minimum 100 people for this event and Pam to speak to Best Western to see whether it was possible to book a smaller room or have a "join the party" setup where extra tables could be added as required, to minimize the risk to the Network.</p>	<p>PW</p>

	<p>Age Concern has a contract with NCC for Day Care covering Northampton, South Northants and Daventry to see what lunch clubs are out there and set up new ones and work with existing clubs to keep people mobile and active, making them self-sufficient with educational classes and Tai-chi. They have now taken on 3 members of staff to work on the Prevention contract.</p> <p>Age Concern to work with the Board. Older people are being offered activities. They will have three staff and a manager in early February. The staff would be confirmed but they are already known by the organisation. Ken Nokes (SN) Liesl Finlay-Clifford (Daventry) Jason Williams (Northampton). Can JCH share the NCC Report information on what activities the over 50s want to be put on for them.</p> <p>The Northants 50+ AWG half yearly meeting of Activity Coordinators will be 2-5pm February (14th) at the Velux Building, Kettering and this will include inviting Age Concern's three new Countywide Prevention Officers.</p> <p>JCH will approach Country Lion – if regular trips were run to the theatre and the countryside it may be possible to have a discount on the pricing. These trips could be fed into the website.</p> <p>Ken has sent email addresses to Tony Allen, but a demographic is needed of the Districts/Boroughs.</p> <p>Pam will be attending a Wellbeing Meeting with a stand from 12:00 till 3:00pm at Kettering Library and is on the look out for Activity coordinators and Board members in Kettering which we sadly lack.</p>	<p>PW/SN</p> <p>PW</p> <p>JCH</p> <p>PW/KR</p> <p>PW</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Website Report</p> <p>Website went live today - well done Tony!</p> <p>Booking Form Tests to go to PW via website. Sponsors have not been invoiced yet. PW to raise invoices with information from TA. The website providers have agreed to cover so much advertising. There can be another 6 advertisers this year but after that the costs would increase.</p> <p>Activity Coordinators to note that Paypal costs extra when they calculate and cost out their events.</p> <p>We need to email members on how to log in on first occasion. PW to tell them in newsletter how to do it and it will have a facility to change their password</p> <p>Roger Rumsey suggested contacting Radio Northamptonshire to advertise the website.</p> <p>It needs to be clear who looks after which areas of the website. The provider will do Board Member photos and names free of charge.</p>	<p>PW/TA</p> <p>PW/AWG</p> <p>PW/TA</p>

	<p>The computer suite at Age Concern could be used for training on updating the website it has 10 computers – TA to contact Kate Kingston at Billing Road.</p> <p>Sandra and Tony to liaise for a date, Pam Wilton, Pam Tomalin, Sandra and Roger will have the ability to edit the website, each will have their own password.</p> <p>Tony handed round a copy of the new letterhead and it was felt that the Northamptonshire County Council should be removed and someone would try to send something by post to Pam Wilton, Northants 50+ Network, Room 205, PO Box 177, NN1 1AY.</p> <p>The Official launch date tba after checking with Sonja. Date to be decided – hopefully February.</p> <p>Ideas on who should be invited to PW and TA. Michael Ellis MP; Robin Brown & Judy Shepherd (County Councillors), Anne Lovely and Gilly Tompkins (School of Life) to be included. Everyone to be emailed once date agreed with RR.</p>	<p>JCH/TA</p> <p>SF/TA</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>PW</p>
10.	<p>Regional Round-Up (Member's Reports)</p> <p>JW - Wellingborough Older People's Forum 18th January Fairer Charges for Assisted Transport February - Irthlingborough Hospital Digital Switchover – All Saints Church Hall, Midland Road, Wellingborough</p> <p>Email Tony Allen with OP forum dates, in Word document format.</p> <p>25th January 10:00-12:00 at the Doddridge Centre, Northampton – Nene Valley Community Centre forum Commissioning for Health Service – aimed at the Voluntary Sector rather than member of the public.</p>	<p>PW</p>
11.	<p>AOB</p> <p>21st February - Presentation from Stephen Lucas (Lucas Land and Planning and representative of Hanover Housing for older people</p>	
12	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>21st February 2011 (2-4pm) at Parish Hall, Weston Favell</p>	