

**Minutes of the Dudley Carers Forum Meeting held on Wednesday**

**6th of November 2019, 11.00 – 12.45 at**

**The Queens Cross Network Centre**

**Wellington Rd Dudley.**

**Website:** [**www.thecarersforum.co.uk**](http://www.thecarersforum.co.uk)

**Chairman’s Welcome**

Chair for meeting Mr L Murray welcomed those present and the meeting was brought to order. Once again we are reminded to keep to the subject being discussed and allow the speaker to be heard. F Waldron had purchased a small bell for the officers to bring a meeting to order where necessary.

**Members Present:**

P Acutt, M Pardoe, J Grainger, Lee Murray, F Waldron, V & K Drew, P Bartley, W Harbach, M & B Anderson, J Greenaway, S Ridgeway, T Wilkes, B Walker & G Busby. Speaker J Smart.

**Apologies:**

D & P Robinson, A Woodall & E Pearson, J & W Cartwright, V Murray and J Mundon.

**Minutes from last Meeting:**

Minutes from the previous meeting were proposed to be a true record by Paul Bartley and seconded by Frances Waldron. With the typing errors on the minutes of Members Present – M Pardoe recorded twice and J Ricard was not present. Apologies should read P & D Robinson.

**Matters Arising:**

No matter’s arising this Month.

**Treasury Report:Jane Grainger**

Tesco Bags of Help £2136.25

Bank £ 593.89

Helpline £820.91

Cash £180.51

The Tesco money is reduced by printing costs for flyers and tickets. The Helpline reduced by printing business cards.

**Monthly Report:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Number attending** | **Duration hours** | **Total hours respite** | **costs** | **Cost per hour respite** |
| Day trip to National Arboretum | 21 | 10 | 210 | Coach £403.75 less grant and ticket sales £554.54 total cost - £150.79 | -£0.72 |
| Quiz Night | 20 | 4 | 80 | £121.50-100.00+21.50 | £0.27 |

Income October Raffle £22.03

Admin Expenses October

Bursaries (3x£60/12months) £15.00

Printing £17.99

Meeting Refreshments £10.93

**Total £43.92**

* AGM no speaker
* Day trip to National Arboretum
* Quiz Night at Forge
* Discovered Disabled Access Card- campaign abandoned
* Printed Business cards
* Presentation at Older Persons Day, at Halesowen
* Printing ordered for Gala Night – flyers and tickets
* Raffle tickets ordered
* Several unsuccessful grant applications
* Jane has signed up for courses in safeguarding and bereavement

**Campaign:**

At the beginning of this month Jane solicited the opinions of local venues. Dudley Zoo pointed out that they had recently joined a scheme for an Access Card and kindly provided a link.

Run by The Disability Syndicate, Derby. The card costs £15 for 3 years. It claims to be ‘The nations first universal card evidencing and communicating disabled peoples needs, and much more.’ Designed to discreetly let businesses know what they need to do to earn your custom and make the reasonable adjustments you need. You can apply online at [www.accesscard.org.uk](http://www.accesscard.org.uk) or telephone for a paper application form on 0330 808 5108. There is also a facebook page for the card and it posts new venues signing up almost daily including some in Europe and Ireland. The forum will keep information and application forms in its information folders. Many members present showed interest and took details to apply for their loved ones. It was decided by those present to abandon the campaign.

**Social Activities:**

**The following events are planned for your pleasure**

Date event cost closing date

for bookings

Sat 16th Nov Day trip to Worcester £5 members £10 others 11/11/19

Sat 21st Dec Christmas Party\* £7 members £10 others 14/12/19

Sat 22nd Feb Gala Night# free 31/01/2020

\*The Christmas Party will begin quietly with carols and easy listening. Following a buffet served at 8.30pm we will turn to disco. A special raffle prize has been allocated for the night of 4 tickets to see Cirque Berserk at Birmingham Rep.

#The Gala Night is arranged with Tesco Bags of Help and will be a free event. Admittance will be ticket only and you should order yours asap. There is a small fund to help get folks there if they have no other means. *Sorry we do not offer this so you can have a pint.*

Numbers attending social events have steadily increased over the year. Prices were kept low by the large grant received late 2018. So far all applications for help have been unsuccessful so next years trips will inevitably see price rises and a risk of making financial losses. The search for funding will continue but results are not guaranteed.

A general discussion followed on how we could plan. The idea of car sharing is to be investigated. Saturday appeared the most popular day to hold a trip.

Had a good year so far, but may have to raise prices in the new year due to still being unable to fill Coaches. Also that Saturday’s are looking best for trips as more people apply. It was decided that after advertising to carers support and disabled groups events should be advertised to the wider community at a slightly higher cost (we can’t subsidise everyone) to fill places and avoid running at financial loss.

**Any Other Business:**

Special over 50’s Forum at Bank St Methodist Church, Brierley Hill DY5 3DB 1.30 – 3.30pm on the 18th of November, get involved in spending budgets to make Dudley Borough a better place to grow older. Tea and cake available. Booking essential call Healthy Ageing 01384 816052

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-48355111](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-48355111) reports the failings in learning disability services in six charts. It’s a disturbing report with youngsters under 18 locked in rooms most/all of the day.

From West Midlands Police – Darker nights provide cover for burglers who can easily spot an open window in an unoccupied room. See your valuables through open curtains or try their luck on an unlocked door whilst you are distracted. They advise

* Don’t leave house or vehicle keys in the lock or on view.
* Lock your front door from the inside.
* Use snap resistant locks.
* Cancel regular deliveries like milk or papers if you are to be away from home. Ask a trusted friend to keep an eye on things, push post right through the letterbox etc.

West Midlands Police are working with Selecta DNA to offer local residents a 50% discount on property marking kits. To get this sign up to WMNow alert service here [www.wmnow.co.uk/](http://www.wmnow.co.uk/) the discount code will be found on your welcome email.

Flu Jabs are now available at your GP. The following are eligible to receive it free

* 2 and 3 year olds
* All primary school aged children
* Those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
* Pregnant women
* Those aged 65 years and over
* Those in long stay residential care homes
* **Carers**
* Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
* Frontline health and social care workers

West Midlands Police continue to warn over bogus callers. Always ask for ID if you don’t know the caller. Lock the door and check if you are unsure. If you need work carried out on your home refer to ‘Fix a Home’ Booklet. We still have some of these contact Jane 01384 52404.

Become a Snow Buster! Help your community by clearing pathways and pavements for those less able. Volunteers receive the following :- Snow pack with shovel, spreader and salt, volunteer briefing sheet, snow clearing guidance and manual handing guidance. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information contact Dudley Concil’s Winter Warmth Service on 01384 817086.

Thursday 21st November Regenerating Dudley Accessibility Conference 11am until 3pm at Queens Cross Network, Wellington Road, Dudley DY1 1RB. FREE lunch provided. For more information or reserve your place call 01384 813476

Finally a FREE calendar is available at the following link

https:www.open.edu/openlearn/autumnwatch-2019/?xtor=ES-211-(26604\_PANUK\_SOT\_44\_WIL\_NaturalWorldBears\_mopup)-20191104-(external\_openuniversityautumncalender\_wildlife)#order-your-calendar

**Speaker:**

The Speaker this Month was Jackie Smart representing Dementia Research Initiative. Jackie spoke about volunteering to help research into dementia. You can sign up to the National Institute for Health Research into this and other conditions. You do not need to have dementia or a family history of developing it. The information you give will help match you to suitable surveys which you then have a choice to become involved. Several present registered their interest. You can also join by visiting [www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk)

**Time and Date of next Meeting:**

The next Meeting will be held on the 4th December 2019 at 11am at Queens Cross Network Centre, Wellington Road, Dudley DY1 1RB. The shorter meeting will be followed by our traditional bring and share lunch, please bring a small plate of food along.

**Close:**

Meeting closed 12.45.