



Older People's Working Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 6th April 2018 (DRAFT)

Present:	
Name	Organisation
Cllr Gul Khan (Chair)	RBC
Cllr Rachel Eden	RBC
Sandra Vickers	RBC
Nina Crispin	RBC
Sarah Hunneman	RBC
Tony Hall	Civil Service Pensioners Alliance, Reading Group
John Walford	Whitley Community Development Association
Douglas Dean	Thames Valley Pensioners Convention
Laurence Napier-Peele	South Reading Patient Voice
Elaine Jalland	
Patience Odunsi	
Marrion Huggins	CSRF
David Wicken	
Joan Walker	NHSRF
Yvonne Antrobus	
Fiona Price	Age UK Berkshire
James Penn	South Reading Patient Voice
Brian Morley	
Miriam Sparkes	
Katie Flint	Creative Support
Diane Hiles	Oddfellows
Diane Seydoux	
Juanita Blackett	
Lilian Clifford	U3A
Caroline Langdon	
Joy Adams	
Jean Hutton	
Sue Winyard	Engage Befriending
Neil Scott	Reading Buses
Shaheen Kausar	Reading Community Learning Centre
Steve Smith	Thames Valley Police

Michelle Noone	Thames Valley Police
Brian Oatway	
Sybil Proctor	
Lorna Walker	
Roy Allum	
Pati Llewellyn	
Beryl Court	Fir Tree
Brenda Jenkins	MacMillan/ Pegasus Court
Michael Heath	
Jessie Durrano	
Tomiko Morley	
Gina Harris	
Thelma Kerr	
Graham England	
Barbara Hobbs	
Mr Millgate	
Mrs Millgate	
Judith El-Wagier	

Apologies	
Name	Organisation
Alan Edgar	Thames Valley Pensions Convention
Gina Harris	
Tony Hall	
Barbara Hobbs	(ReadiBus)
Liz Johnson	(ReadiBus)
Aisha Malik	(Reading Community Learning Centre)
Shabana Mahmood	(DWP)
Heather Cresswell	(Reading & Wokingham MS Society)
Melvyn Brant	(John Lewis Partnership)

Agenda item 1/2: Welcome and minutes of last meeting on 8th September 2017
Cllr Gul Khan

The minutes of the meeting on 2nd February were approved.

The approved minutes from the OPWG meetings are available from the Older People's Working Group page on the RBC website at:

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/opwg>

Agenda item 3: Matters arising from last meeting on 2nd February 2018

Parking charges proposals at Palmer Park Bowling Club

We won't survive with the parking charges. Palmer Park has Bowling Club, Reading Athletics - concerns that the activities will disband due to those charges. This proposal will be consulted on during the course of this year.

RESPONSE FROM PARKING SECTION:

There is expected to be a meeting with the two groups mentioned in your email mid-April. This is a councillor led meeting and the invite will be sent directly to the organisations involved. Following this meeting there is likely to be a period of informal consultation before any further steps are taken to introduce any charges.

READING BUSES

Route 22 - New timetable - is there age discrimination for those using this bus route? No information from Reading Buses

Reading buses will not release info about number or % of passengers using Reading buses

RESPONSE FROM READING BUSES (26/02/2018):

- Timetable booklets were available prior to the change and full information was posted on our website on 19 January 2018
- Reading Buses do not release information about customer numbers or percentages of passengers as this is commercially sensitive information which could be used by a competitor
- We are unable to comment about another bus operator

Additional queries Reading Buses:

- Height of timetables at the bus stops - can't be seen.

Raised at the last meeting - has been passed on. Timetables placed on lamp columns are not able to be changed. On certain bus shelters, frames are higher and Reading Buses will be looking at these.

- Screens need to be cleaned
- Bus route number 9 - only one bus an hour and no service on Sundays - no publicity to let people know what is going on.
- When buses have to change their routes, no information where the route would take them and people left not knowing where they need to go.
- Bus route number 11 - stop changed and need clarifications.

Reading Buses has taken note of this and will respond accordingly.

Healthwatch consultation - result to be shared at the next meeting

Agenda item 4: Powers of Attorney

Karen Grimm, Rowberry Morris Solicitors

Member of Solicitors for the elderly, specialist group of lawyers.

Power of Attorney (POA) - authority to enable someone of your choice to step in and help you make particular decisions at any given time.

In October 2007 there was a change in the way in the way a POA is created, when the Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) was replaced by the Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). EPAs are no longer available, although existing EPAs remain effective.

Lasting POA - must be registered with the office of public guardians, before it can be used. Ready for use when needed and as and when required, not before.

Can be used for buying and selling property and managing bank accounts and can be applied when a person still has capacity or if they become incapable of managing affairs.

Lasting POA can be used to make decisions about where you live, how you are cared for and end of life treatment - must be registered with the office of public guardian - but can only be used if you are incapable of taking these decisions.

Who will be taking those decisions for you?

If your POA cannot take those decisions - do you have a plan B? Thinking of appointing other attorneys?

POA can be set up at any time and age in life. It can give peace of mind to know that someone of your choice is able to make decisions on your behalf.

POA are way of planning for the future and enabling someone to step in.

Questions & Answers / Comments:

Q1: Lasting POA - if you have siblings, displaced in other parts of the country, and one of the siblings gets parents to sign a POA without informing the other siblings- can you apply to become joint POA? What if the parent doesn't agree to appoint a joint POA?

A1: Solicitor would question why not more than one attorney appointed. If concerned, this can be raised by anyone with the officer of public guardian, with the Adult Safeguarding team or the Police, to be investigated. Bank or building society should also look at irregular spending patterns.

Q2: Who decides if someone has no family at all?

A2: You have a choice; the POA doesn't necessarily need to be a family relation. Sometimes clients use their solicitor.

Q3: Age UK Berkshire has useful factsheets on POA.

Q4: Shouldn't there be a standard charge with all solicitors?

A4: You can download from the internet the Office of Public Guardian's toolkit - every solicitor charges differently - but some give a fixed fee and some an hourly rate. Core fee is £82.

Q5: If have concerns and get a negative response from the person concerned, what can you do about it? If the response is that it's being looked into i.e. by Council Chief Executive.

A5: Keep on raising concerns. We do have a Safeguarding Team in the Council for financial abuse. Environmental team can also be contacted if concerns relate to the living conditions of the person.

Agenda item 5: BAME Community Project

Cecily Mwaniki, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Reaching out to our communities with these principles:

Collaboration

Partnership

Learning from people

Asking people to contribute so that we can improve

Connecting with our communities through our community champions- the fact that you are here means you care for your community and can be a champion for health and wellbeing for everyone in the community.

BHFT want to engage with champions to empower them and to connect with people where they can be found.

What has happened so far?

Let's talk about wellbeing @ RISC 11am-1pm, 1st Friday of the month

Woman2Womantalk @ every 2nd Sunday of the month- men can also come along

Dying Matters - Let's talk - successful session last year, quite sensitive topic for people from BAME background

'End of FGM' (Female Genital Mutilation) in a generation - conversation started 5 years ago. Quite a number of women came out as survivors and have moved on. Every year, zero tolerance conference on FGM, talk and address issues and health impact of FGM (physical and mental health)

Dementia - difficult topic among BAME

Sickle Cell - more education needed on disease and information on how people can get support. Health issue is prevalent in black community

Epilepsy - a group meets once a month

Cancer - talks from preventative perspective. July 2018, cancer awareness month for BAME communities

Financial Health - financial issues affect mental and physical aspects of life

BHFT support BAME groups to tackle those issues and many others.

Mental Health First Aid Training - BHFT is running free training at the Reading Community Learning Centre on London Street. Places are full but RCLC is planning future training sessions, free too. Usual price is around £300.

This year marks 70 years of NHS - want to bring everyone together to celebrate.

Questions & Answers / Comments:

Q1: Celiac disease - Daily Mail campaign to stop sufferers to get gluten free products on prescription. Mix for one loaf costs £10 a box!!

Do celiac people get an allowance to pay for products?

A1: No allowance

Aldi sell a good range of products at every day prices- gluten free

Agenda item 6: Council Tax Consultation

Kirsty Anderson, RBC

Council tax support

Rules cannot be changed for people of pensionable age. Scheme in Reading is the same. Still means tested. Capital in excess of £16,000 or income above a certain amount will need to contribute.

Pensioners - 3,500 households receive council tax support (CTS)

Table current situation

Doesn't protect people from council's increase of Council tax bill - include people of pensionable age.

Working age customers

Minimum contribution increased to %35

Capital limit reduced to £3000

Households with adults over 18 with their own income, are expected to contribute towards rent and council tax

Changes brought about this year due to Council's financial position and budget situation.

Consultation how and who?

111 VSO also contacted.

985 responses

Want to get communities digitally active - also saves money

We are looking at best ways of communicating with residents at cheapest way

Mitigating / Monitoring

Takes longer to get payment patterns for CTS customers - 84%

98% for those not on CTS

Discretionary Council Tax Support - to help people who really can't pay

People have not said that they couldn't cover the increase in their April 2018 bill.

Conclusion

Some people in higher paying bands were willing to pay more, but higher rate needs to be applied broadly

Questions & Answers / Comments:

Q1: Many people cannot communicate in English. People come for advice and do not understand what is happening.

A2: DWP has withdrawn support from different languages. But RBC will support people when a translator is needed. It seems people are not asking for that help but it is available. An appointment needs to be made.

Q2: Postage. Lots of different letters from different Council departments. Why not put everything together in one envelope? Housing newspaper could be put in Libraries.

A2: Council tax bills can now be put on portal. If we don't have an email address, we can't send information by email. All customers registered online will not get paper copies.

Above consultation mandated when things needed to happen - unable to put together for April mailout.

Housing also looking at sending information in digital form.

People need to register for online account and help reduce postal bills.

Agenda item 7: Cultural Commissioning Programme

Lara Stavrinou, RBC

Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, Historic England

3-year programme

Aim of project is better quality of life - and improved health and wellbeing outcomes

More accessible and meaningful to people- appealing and inclusive, no judgement

For example: Weight loss programme - vs Dance programme

Social outcomes- helps to make communities more accessible and resilient

Context- although overall, deprivation is decreasing, some people are being left behind. Reading is now the 4th most unequal UK town.

There are lots of examples of the arts supporting health and wellbeing throughout the UK:

Music programmes for stroke recovery

Dance-physio classes for amputees

Singing for chronic lung disease

Mental health drumming workshops

Performing arts in healthcare environments to reduce anxiety

Museum object handling (heritage and reminiscence) for people with dementia

What we do? Demonstrate the value of arts and culture for everyone

What is important to you? Want to know what people in Reading think, ideas needed to start and develop a programme.

- What do the words arts, culture and heritage mean to you?
- Why do /don't you or people you know participate?

Questions & Answers / Comments:
Q1: A lot of events happen at RISC. Ok during the day, but tricky at night. Coming from Caversham is not an easy journey. More cultural events need to be organised in the town centre.
Art gallery / museum - a lot of pictures are locked away in store rooms.
A1: A huge amount of items are stored in museums And archives. We are interested in reminiscence and heritage programmes that will make use of them. Reading on Thames festival is in September.
Q2: What about embracing different languages to get people who are not participating in events due to language barriers?
A2: Language diversity and culture play a part in social cohesion. This is something we are looking to support.
Q3: Rental costs of places can be inhibitive. Groups can't afford to run events at various locations in town centre. Could the Council subsidise? Reduce renting price from schools? RISC is a cheap venue. Accessible for a number of people.
Picture lending service that could be rented and displayed at people's homes
A3: We will be subsidising costs so that participants can attend free. We will be looking at rental costs too. Working with Libraries to maximise on the use of their spaces for community and cultural purposes.

Agenda item 8: Current issues and suggestions for future meetings <i>Cllr Gul Khan</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested items for future meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recovery College - would like to present at the next OPWG in on 22nd June ○ Result of Healthwatch consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Older People's Day 2018
<p>First planning meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monday 4th June, in Council Chamber, from 1.30 pm - 3 pm <p>Other planning meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wednesday 4th July, in Council Chamber, from 1.30 pm - 3 pm - Wednesday 29th August, in Council Chamber, from 2 pm, - 3.30 pm

<p>- Wednesday 12th September, in Council Chamber, from 2 pm - 3.30 pm</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cycling in town centre: PCSO Smith - due to workload requirements, cycling is not a priority for Police to deal with and Police have no authority to stop them. Signage is not correct and does not allow the police to enforce- RBC remit not TVP remit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation on Street Begging / Busking, run by TVP and RBC:• Not enforceable by the Council to have people buy a license• TVP acting on street begging; red or amber letters being issued. Community Behaviour Notice issued / Community Behaviour order to arrest people if they keep repeating behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could signage for DO NOT CYCLE - be larger - especially at under path to the station
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliveroo service - TVP are aware of them and have been monitoring them. We monitor them in unmarked cars but cannot chase them. Hazardous.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Brock Gardens - private car park but caravans parked - Officers are aware of it. Cllrs will follow this query up.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Reading: Student Film Project -• Students are making a short film on dementia and are looking for someone to take part. No experience is needed and there will only be one day of filming, between 7th-11th May, at the volunteer's convenience. There is no payment but transport and food will be provided.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dying Matters week - mid May from 10th May. A number of events planned and printed flyers will be circulated:
<p>Radio discussion programmes: Blast Radio- 1386 AM 15th May 11am 18th May 11am</p>
<p>Tour at Reading Crematorium: 16th May 9:30am - 12:30pm</p>
<p>Talk about it over tea and cake with Cllr Rachel Eden 16th May 12:30pm - 1:30pm Whitley Community Café, 252-260 Northumberland Avenue</p>
<p>Dying Matters: It's healthy to talk about it 18th May 11am-1:00pm RISC, Global Café, 35-39 London Street</p>

Reading Film Theatre 'the Good Night' (film about a once famous screen-writer who is now terminally ill)

7th June 8pm-10pm

Palmer Building Reading University

£9 admission

http://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=RJ_S0Zxm2ol

- Mental Health Awareness Week 14th- 20th May

The focus this year is stress. There will be local events looking at how we can manage stress and improve our mental health. Printed flyers will be circulated but save the date:

Tuesday 15th May 11am, Dog Friendly Walk, Rivermead to Caversham Court, finishes with free tea and cake.

Come along to meet new people and enjoy some fresh air, dogs are also welcome.

<http://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=szXwSR4qANo>

- Readifolk Song and Music Club
- Meet on Sunday evenings 8pm-10:30pm. Mix of Guest Nights with professional performers (£6) and Singers/Theme Nights (£2) where everyone can take part if they wish.
- Club is open to all and newcomers are made very welcome.

Next Meeting:

- Friday 22nd June 2018
2 - 4 pm, Council Chamber, Civic Centre