

Notes of a Meeting of Wem Care Network held on 5.9.19 at 14.00 in The Roden Suite Edinburgh House, Wem

Present:-

R Dodd, P O'Hagan - Wem Town Council

Viv Edgar – Wem Carers Group and involved with Dementia Friendly Wem project

Ted Davies - Wem Macular Society, Blind Veterans, Wem Probus, Community Car Scheme, Wem Rotary.

Jean Cooley - The Macular Society

Val Grocott - Wem Good Neighbours

Sue Perry - Wishing Well Home Care

Lynne Towers - Wem Baptist Church

Sarah Zacharek Wem Town Hall

Phil Moyse - GOAL, Wem Food Hub, Welcome to Wem Project

Carys Woodley - Wem Methodist Church

1. Apologies for absence.

Paul Cronin – Compassionate Communities

Edward Towers – Wem Baptist Church

2. To consider notes from previous meeting held 5.3.19

RESOLVED:- to approve the notes from the meeting held 5.3.19

3. Updates from Local Groups.

Wem Town Hall - Sarah reported that the Town Hall would soon be submitting a grant application to build on the success of the dementia friendly screenings that the Town Hall had held.

Wem Methodist - Carys was welcomed to the group as the new Methodist Deacon covering the Wem area. She explained that she was very keen to become involved with community projects

Wem Baptist Church – Lynne explained that the church is always interested in hearing about new projects and were very keen to identify opportunities where the church can help support projects.

Wishing Well Home Care – Sue reported that recent trips have been very successful and that the links made through this committee with the Macular Society had helped increase numbers attending the trips. A number of trips were planned for the coming months and these would be opened to local groups as usual. The office was also moving to the High Street so it would be better placed to advertise the services it can offer local people.

Wem Good Neighbours Scheme – The Good Neighbours Project is working well with a small group of volunteers but as ever they were always looking for more volunteers. The group is also linking up with Compassionate Communities project that is being established with Wem Surgery and Clive Surgery. Volunteers have all attended training provided by Severn Hospice and they are now waiting for the DBS checks to be processed before referrals can start in earnest. Several people attended the volunteers training and a discussion took place on how to keep the volunteers interested in the project whilst the very necessary but sometimes lengthy DBS checks were processed.

Wem Cares Network and Dementia Friends Initiative – The dementia project is going from strength to strength with over 600 dementia friends trained locally and 70 supporters. It was reported that the group is now looking at the next stage which is to link into the Dementia Empowerment and Engagement Project which aims to engage and empower people living with dementia to influence attitudes, services and policies that affect their lives.

GOAL – The GOAL computer project is going well and is now looking to expand its services to develop a service aimed at people without access to a computer to help them access services that are only available online e.g. bill paying etc.

Wem Food hub – This group already links with other groups within the town but is looking at working with more local food producers and would like to discuss with allotment holders whether they could make use of any surpluses grown on the allotments or in back gardens.

Welcome to Wem Project - It was reported that the booklet has been updated and proving very popular.

Wem Macular Society - The society currently has 20 members and the group has been running over a year. They would like to increase members as there are a significant number of people living with Macular Degeneration in the area. The group has organised on 24.10.19 for the Low Vision Group to come to Wem Town Hall and to give support on computing projects.

Community cars – It was explained that the group offer a vital service as it was difficult to get to hospitals via public transport however the group is becoming short of volunteers. Currently there are only 3 drivers left. It was agreed that Phil would share a copy of a poster asking for volunteers.

4. Any other matters for discussion.

Royal British Legion – It was reported that the legion wish to organize a trip to the Memorial Arboretum in October but are struggling for a minibus. It was suggested that they could approach Wem Town FC to see whether they would be willing to hire out their minibus this may be subject to the group providing the appropriate insurance etc. Penny agreed to approach Wem Town FC whether this was possible.

Mobility aids for trips – It was reported that an issue had come up recently about the need to borrow wheelchairs for the trips that are being run by local group as several of the people who attend are virtually housebound and unsteady on their feet. However, they would love to take part in excursions if a wheelchair was available to borrow. A discussion took place concerning whether it would be a good idea to apply for a grant to Connexus Housing to pay for 3 lightweight wheelchairs to be used for trips either locally or to enable people to attend more activities locally. It was suggested that the chairs could be stored locally and lent to groups when the need arose. Sue reported if she could find the space she would be willing to co-ordinate the borrowing of the chairs.

RESOVLED to RECOMMEND:-

- **That a joint grant would be submitted by Wem Town Council on behalf of the Network to Connexus Housing**

- **That Wem Town Council agrees to place the order for the chairs and undertake ownership of the wheelchairs should a grant application be successful.**
- **If successful the wheelchairs could be stored in Wishing Well Home Care's office on Wem High Street who would undertake responsibility for the loaning out of the chairs.**

Patient Liaison Group – Ted Davies reported on the work of this group.

Next meeting to be arranged for March 2020

Meeting ended 15.00