

## Leeswood & Pontblyddyn Age-Friendly Community Steering Group Meeting

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 6:30pm, Leeswood Community Centre

### Present

Shereen Devine (SD)	Volunteering Matters
Helen Jones (HJ)	FCC Older People's Strategy Co-ordinator
Graham Sherwood (GS)	Community Council, Leeswood Community Centre, Resident
Cllr Ray Hughes (RH)	County Council, Leeswood Community Council, Resident
Ceris Ferrer	Bethania Chapel
Joyce McCall (JMC)	Bethania Chapel

### Apologies

Kath O'Hara, Mike O'Hara, Ella Jackson, Anne & Rob Jackson.

#### 1. Review of Age-Friendly Community/Rural Wisdom project (2018 actions)

Copies of the action plan were circulated and progress on the initial actions discussed:

- To increase the use of the community centre, making best use of the available space and facilities including the 'old clinic'.
- To create a regular 'What's On' for Leeswood & Pontblyddyn and consider ways the community can keep it up to date.

### The 'Old Clinic'

Development of the 'Old Clinic' was agreed to have been very successful. The space is now available for community use. The community café is open in the 'Old Clinic' every Thursday morning from 9:00am - 12:00pm. It is well supported each week, weekly revenue is between £30 and £40, and by the time, costs for supplies and the rent have been taken out, the café is just about breaking even. Any surplus will be needed to replace equipment (general wear and tear) when necessary.

Feedback from the community is the café is a lovely social meeting place. Some views have been shared around prices being too low. Prices could be increased by a small percentage to reflect this and to enable any future surplus to be reinvested into the café or to fund other community activities, but the priority is to ensure the prices are affordable for everyone. HJ queried whether the Community Centre may be flexible on rental prices during the winter months if inclement weather impacts turnover – it is important that the café can be relied upon to be open every week except in extreme weather conditions as the aim is to reduce isolation.

During the busy period (between 10:30am and 11:30am) the number of customers is limited by capacity. During the summer months, this has been resolved by setting up a few tables outside in the good weather. However this could be an issue during the colder months and the Caretaker of the Community Centre has agreed that the main hall can be used to accommodate additional tables if it isn't booked for another event/activity (Thursday mornings are generally free), rather than customers be turned away.

The book swap is a feature of Community Café mornings with regular customers exchanging/sharing books. Some interest has been shown in a book club which will be considered as a future development opportunity.

A digital tablet training course is scheduled to start on Wed 12<sup>th</sup> and will run for 10 weeks in the 'Old Clinic'. The course is delivered for free by Coleg Cambria to increase digital inclusion in rural communities. There are around 12 people registered for the course and a small charge will be made for refreshments to help cover the cost of the room (£15 for 2 hours).

Access to the 'Old Clinic' was raised as a concern – currently the 'Old Clinic' has to be opened and closed via the door from the main hall with the front door being opened/locked from the inside at the start/end of each session/activity. This is an inconvenience but is more of an issue when the main hall is in use and occupants are disturbed to gain access. HJ suggested since the Community Council had agreed that SD would be able to use the 'Old Clinic' space as a base during the AFC/ Rural Development, that she could be provided with a key to overcome this issue.

**Actions:**

**GS to raise opportunity for reduced rental rates under special circumstances with Community Centre Committee and discuss provision of a separate key for the 'Old Clinic' for SD.**

**Community Café volunteers to review café prices.**

**"What's On"**

A "What's On" has been introduced as a means for keeping the community informed of what's happening in the community. This is now a regular feature in the Leeswood & Pontblyddyn News. SD has created a pro-forma spreadsheet which she populates each month with the regular activities and any additional bookings in the community centre in the month ahead. Local groups are also encouraged to provide a list of forthcoming activities/events to SD for inclusion in the "What's On" but this does not always happen. It was agreed that communication about activities and events is much improved but there is still room for improvement. Sustainability needs to be considered, with ownership for pulling the information together being taken on by someone in the community.

**Actions:**

**Group to continue to look at how the "What's On" can be improved/shared/managed.**

**2. Priorities for 2019**

The Action Plan and priorities gathered from community engagement activity were reviewed. Much of the priorities raised at engagement events had been around social activities, information and communication. RH reported that a previous attempt to get a Scouts/Boys Brigade group in the community had been unsuccessful because of difficulties trying to get a leader for the group.

Development opportunities for the next 9 months discussed included Book club, community events (e.g. community meal, pumpkin soup event), lunch club, intergenerational bowling, becoming a Dementia Friendly community.

**Community events**

The Community Meal and Pumpkin soup activities could be short-term actions – the Allotment group has surplus veg that they wish to donate for a community meal. SD has approached a Chef in the village who would be willing to prepare a community meal in the Community Centre. A small charge should be made to cover venue costs and any additional ingredients. SD has supported pupils at Ysgol Derwenfa to grow pumpkins in readiness for Halloween. Plans includes making pumpkin soup with the Over 60's and Guides, JM also suggested the 'Laser' group at Bethania Chapel on Wed evenings.

Other ideas for community activities include baby clothes/equipment swap – an opportunity for young mums to get together and exchange clothing/equipment outgrown/no longer needed; weekly/monthly board games – an intergenerational social activity providing opportunities to play traditional games have a drink and chat.

**Lunch club**

An opportunity for developing a regular lunch club for Older People in the Community could be progressed working in partnership with Newydd Catering – the Community Interest Company that provide the school meal service. Newydd Catering prepare meals for lunch clubs in two areas of Flintshire and is keen to

expand this into other communities. Initial discussions have been had with Newydd around setting up a lunch club in Halkyn in partnership with Halkyn over 50's group, a two course meal costing around £3.75, but an additional charge would have to be made to cover venue costs (e.g. £5 for a two course meal and drink). Depending on the partnership arrangement with the school, the meals could be provided in school or at the community centre. This is an alternative approach to the 'Can Cook' Social Enterprise lunch club opportunity where some members of the L&P AFC group had attended 'taster' sessions.

### **Dementia Friendly Community**

Café volunteers have attended Dementia Friends Awareness sessions and there has been some initial interest in extending the understanding to the wider community (Family Liaison Officer at Ysgol Derwenfa is interested in raising awareness of Dementia in school, Bethania Chapel is looking to organise a Dementia Awareness session for the New Year. The community could work towards being Dementia Friendly which involves raising awareness amongst the wider community and developing local actions. Luke Pickering-Jones, Dementia lead for Flintshire could be invited to a future meeting to talk about what is involved.

The group agreed the actions for the next 9 months should include looking at the opportunities for developing a regular lunch club, and working towards being a Dementia Friendly community. Depending on interest and capacity, additional community activities will be tried to include the community meal, pumpkin soup activity and book club in line with the L&P AFC priorities 'to increase the use of the community centre', 'more involvement of people of all ages to "lighten" the load.'

### **3. Sustainability**

#### **Group constitution**

SD proposed that the AFC group should become a constituted group in order to provide opportunities to raise funds, apply for grants. Rob Jackson had agreed to be treasurer of the Community Café, but constituting the group in the Café name would limit the grants the group could apply for. The café has been developed as part of the Age-Friendly Community development work and a broader range of activities may be eligible for grant funding particularly since Age-Friendly Communities is a recognised national programme and Leeswood & Pontblyddyn's progress has been endorsed by the Older People's Commissioner for Wales and accredited through the national Ageing Well in Wales's programme. HJ shared a copy of a draft constitution that the group could amend and adapt to meet their needs. SD has applied for a grant for digital tablets enabling the community café to become internet friendly in particular supporting those people who do not have digital access at home and introducing opportunities for them to become more digitally aware. The application has reached the second round, but the group will need to be fully constituted to reach the next stage, which has to be submitted by 19<sup>th</sup> September. HJ agreed to act as interim secretary and SD as Interim Chair until the AGM. SD would approach Rob Jackson to confirm he would be prepared to stand as Treasurer for the broader AFC group enabling the constitution to be adopted before 19<sup>th</sup> September. An AGM will be organised for March 2019 where the constitution can be reviewed and roles can be re-elected. The group agreed that individuals in the community need to be approached directly to join the AFC group, but evidence of progress made may help encourage wider interest.

**Action: SD to contact RJ to confirm role as Treasurer. HJ to make minor amendments to the constitution and forward to SD to circulate to email group. If no comments are received by 17<sup>th</sup> September, the constitution will be adopted but can be reviewed at the AGM to be held in March 2019.**

#### **Grant opportunities**

Postcode Community Trust – SD applied for £2k funding to purchase Digital tablets.

Other grants the group could apply for include: Community Grant Scheme (up to £500) & Tesco Bags of Help (awards of £5k, £2k, £1k dependent on votes)