

Report on the New Facilities Working Group Older Parishioners Open Session Tuesday 14 February 2017 in the Community Centre

Present: Robin Brook – who led the session, David Bennett, Alison Sutton and 7 parishioners

Topics / Issues / Questions / Ideas

The older parishioners attending the session highlighted particular issues that need to be considered when arranging sessions for older parishioners as follows:

- Using a Village Hall / Community Centre and bring people together in community activities does not necessarily have to mean an event in the facility that people come to (indoors). It could just as well be that the facility forms a meeting place, a base, from which an activity commences and then a finishing point, perhaps with refreshment that a group returns to at the end of its activity, eg. a Walking Group or a Bird Watching Group etc
- Activities for older parishioners need to be in the afternoons as older people will not come out in the evening particularly in the winter.
- The Community Centre / Village Trust needs to think about how non-mobile people can get to these events – consider hiring a mini bus
- Parking can be a problem here in the afternoons and concern was expressed about what seemed to be even less parking at the planned new centre
- A (better) kitchen is a must
- Don't give groups names that are age sensitive. Groups should be open to and cater for all
- Internet access a must now and for the new facility
- Hearing loop
- Heating system that works and is simple to use.

Ideas about groups / activities

There was a wide ranging discussion about what activities and interests the attenders thought might be worth considering as follows:

- Walking group
- Music appreciation
- Knit and natter
- Bird watching
- General interest talks on all sorts of topics
- Talks by people from the parish (there is a wealth of interests and knowledge 'out there' that should be harnessed)
- Concerts / drama
- Gentle exercise (ie sitting exercise for those not able to lie on the floor or rather get up afterwards)
- Outreach clinics
- IT lessons
- Photocopying facilities
- Coffee morning
- Luncheon clubs with speakers
- Pub crawls
- News and Current affairs discussion groups
- Book club
- Library (permanent book storage) / outreach library
- Outreach learning from Hereford College
- Technology lessons (ie how to use Smart phones and tablets and digital cameras etc)
- Valuation sessions by auctioneers
- Fund raising events: murder mysteries, hog roasts, BBQs, dances, Beetle drives, quizzes, Parish club with worth while prizes, Dinners, Themed evenings, ie Mexican, Fish and chips, Steak nights, Italian, Thai and why not make use of the Eastern European workers to do Romanian / Polish etc nights?
- Flicks in the sticks

- Arts and crafts for beginners
- Sporting activities for the active elderly
- How to shop and cook for one
- Coach trips
- Hobby talks
- Each existing group to run a themed fundraising event and donate profit to new facility
- Beginners art and craft
- Jigsaw club
- Scrabble club
- CD / DVD exchange
- Bring back Young Farmers
- Need to get Scouts running or something for the lads to do

This was a worthwhile session and a good start to engaging with this group of parishioners. Further events might provide more feedback to strengthen the evidence of need for this group.