



Notes from the meeting of The Combined Steering Group & Trustees of The Debenham Project held at Dove Cottage on Thursday 29th January at 7.30pm.

Present: Paddy Fielder (chairperson), Richard Blackwell, Roger Cockerton, Lynden Jackson, Sue Jackson, Alison Gravatt, Peter Holme, Mary Morley, Gillian Shacklock and Joy Walton.

Apologies: received from Mike Rouse.

Paddy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Matters Arising.

- a) Access to Dove Cottage – This had been discussed by the Trustees at their meeting in November 2013 and action was being taken.
- b) The football and Ipswich Town initiative had been a success but the football club has now divested its charitable status and so there is currently no ongoing project there.
- c) The Rowntree Foundation has published the findings of its research project with which The Debenham Project was involved.
- d) It was noted from the Trustees meeting that the trustees are legally responsible for the project.

Consideration of general progress on current and near-term objectives.

- a) It was felt that it was necessary to recruit new people to host **lunches**. It was suggested that Joy approach Jodie Burrows at the leisure centre to see if there was the possibility of hosting one there.
- b) There had been further referrals to the project straight after Christmas. These were approx. half via professionals and half from the community or self-referrals.
- c) Sam Cage is still keeping tabs on the **Carers Co-Op** and Lynden contacts her if a carer is required. Paddy asked whether there is a training, standard-checking and support programme for the carers. There is currently nothing of that nature in place. The **on-call service** has a group of 4 or 5 volunteers and this seems to be also becoming a bit of a befriending service. The main report of **The Research Project** has been completed. This covers the responses from questionnaires and interviews with

forty-two respondents. This is believed to be the largest in the UK. Lynden ran over some of the key points of the report. Some interest has been shown by professional organisations and there is the possibility of it being published in a suitable journal. It was felt to be important that the report is pushed to relevant quarters and not shelved and forgotten. Dr. Dan Poulter MP. has had a copy and his partner, Hilary Evans of Dementia Research, is supportive.

- d) Debenham is now registered as a ***Dementia Friendly Community*** within the scheme initiated by “The Prime Minister’s Challenge on Dementia” Paddy asked what area is covered by the term “community”. In the context of this initiative it was understood to be any identifiable group; such as a workplace, sports centre, shopping centre or village. It is planned to hold another awareness event during the coming year for groups/shops in the village.
- e) The Parish Council are willing to support and provide funding for a ***volunteer transport scheme*** but didn’t have any volunteers from the council come forward to run a scheme. Suggestions put forward were that perhaps it could tie in with hospital transport or perhaps the local Rotary Club be able to help with such a scheme. Richard Blackwell will approach Alan Cutting and Eddie Alcock regarding this project.

Public Relations, publicity, presentations and discussions.

- a) It was suggested that The Project could have a presence at The Suffolk Show. It was felt that if this were to happen the purpose would be to show communities how a Dementia Friendly Community works here, but it should not be paid for by the Project.
- b) Various conferences, forums etc. have been attended by Lynden. These serve the purpose of developing and maintaining our reputation as well as being necessary for future funding. However, Lynden has to had turn down some requests as there are too many to personally attend and sometimes the distances are considerable. Lynden does offer e-mail support to groups.
- c) It was noted that Healthwatch is the body which replaced Community Healthcare. They identify trends and problems and call various authorities to account. Lynden is a member of the mental health group.

Consideration of the financial position and funding prospects.

There is currently funding for two and a half to three years in reserves. Any future projects would need to get extra funding.

Consideration of progress towards long term and (Vision of Caring)

This was discussed at The Trustees meeting in November and details are in the minutes of that meeting.

Policy Matters.

There are now more elderly-frail people coming under the umbrella of The Project and looking to the long term it is apparent that care will be more community led and require input from The Parish Council and youth of the area. Bearing this in mind, the chair of the Parish Council, Richard Blackwell, and the head of Debenham High School, Julia Upton, have been considered as potential trustees. Richard Blackwell has already agreed and Lynden has a meeting arranged with Julia Upton on 30th January. Chris Bishop has been asked to join the Steering Group.

Any Other Business.

- a) 28th June is the date chosen for the garden party.
- b) Paddy mentioned that the current issue of "The Week", which is a national magazine which collates various news items, has a two page specific article following the journey of a person through dementia with their step-father.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.