

Telford and Wrekin C.V.S.,
Meeting Point House,
Southwater Square,
Town Centre,
TELFORD,
Shropshire. TF3 4HS.

Tel: 01952 291350

**Notes of the Voluntary and Community Forum
held on Wednesday 20th May 2009
at Meeting Point House**

PRESENT

Mick Lloyd, Director, Telford & Wrekin CVS
Colleen Wickstead, Telford & Wrekin CVS
Sue Howe, Telford & Wrekin CVS
Bev Harris, Telford & Wrekin CVS
Stephanie Moseley-Chidlow, Gender Matters
Paula Holden, Belmont Community Hall, Wellington
Anne Watkins, Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish Council
and Trench Allotments & Leisure Gardeners Society
Ann Fletcher, British Red Cross
Terry Lawler, Wrekin Special Swimming Club
M. Hine, Oakengates Town Council
Ernie Dabbs, Carer/ St. Georges Parish Council
Julie Lloyd, Woodside Family Groups
K. McCormick, Telford and Wrekin Council
H. Broadbent, Newport Photographic Club

IN ATTENDANCE

Tina Jones, AB Consultancy for Diversity and Equality
Flavia Humphreys, Broadplace Support Officer, Shropshire Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Rose Humphries, Pohwer ICAS; Derek Tremayne, Newport Cottage Care; Craig Wood, Greenwood Centre; John Roberts, Ketley Parish Council; Glenys Evans, Madeley Community Orchard; William Jeffs, Shropshire Male Chorus; Lin Foley, Relate; Denise Randall, Landau.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mick Lloyd welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH JANUARY 2009

These were agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Governance Support Worker – Please return the questionnaires to Beverly Harris or contact her for more information on 01952 291350.

5. Developing a User-led Organisation and Centre of Independent Living in Telford and Wrekin (Tina Jones)

Tina Jones is working with the CVS to set up a user-led organisation for disabled people. Giving the background to the project, Tina explained why the area needed to have a user-led organisation and how it could be implemented in Telford and Wrekin.

- A feasibility study had been completed.
- The outcome was that an event was held in January and it was decided that one group could not represent all people with different disabilities and that a new organisation needed to be formed.
- This new group is still in a very early stage of development.
- Within Telford there are many groups providing services. Tina will be working with groups and the partnerships already in existence to look at how a “Centre for Independent Living” will work in Telford and how to meet unmet needs.

Tina is very willing to come along and speak to groups about the process. Full copies of the information are available from Tina at the CVS or the website: www.tandwcvvs.org.uk.

Mick thanked Tina for her presentation.

6. **How to Save Money on the Internet (Flavia Humphreys, Shropshire Council)**

Flavia introduced her work with Shropshire Council.

- One third of the population does not have access to the internet and is becoming increasingly excluded and unable to save money.
- Flavia has been doing workshops to introduce people to the net.
- On 4th June there will be a 1½ hour session here in Telford from 10.00 a.m. to Midday.
- Other workshops are being held across the County.

Issues Raised

- How to access the information if you are partially sighted? Flavia is to pass on information of the services available to the Wellington Special Swimming Club.
- Are there courses available to help with websites? Flavia again has information which might help and the CVS will be organising some event in the future.
- The BBC has lots of useful information. The BBC website is a very good tool and the new leaflet "Raw Money" is excellent for money saving help and advice.
- Some people do not have access to a computer and have no interest in using them.

Flavia left information and people are welcome to contact her for further help and advice on 01973 210311.

7. **Grassroots Community Chest (Colleen Wickstead)**

Grassroots is now in its second year of grant giving. This year we have £77k to spend, so groups please continue to make applications.

The CVS is also developing an endowment fund. For every pound we raise, the Government will match it up to a maximum of £63k.

Colleen circulated leaflets on how groups and individuals can help to build a community chest after the Grassroots fund ends in March 2011. Further copies and information available from Colleen on 01952 291350.

8. INFORMATION SHARE

8.1 The Secret Millionaire Fund

The Big Lottery and Channel 4 have teamed up to give away £1 million for people to apply for grants of between £300 and £10,000 from the Secret Millionaire Fund. You can nominate or apply to the fund on the website: <http://secretmillionaire.channel4.com>.

8.2 Community Spaces Fund

Do you want to revamp your local park, spruce up your village, create a local reserve or transform a piece of land in your neighbourhood? Community Spaces is a grants programme to help community groups do this. Funding is available in four sizes of grants:

Small - £10,000 to £25,000
 Medium - £25,001 to £49,999
 Large - £50,000 to £100,000
 Flagship - £100,001 to £450,000

To apply, visit the website and read the full criteria: www.community-spaces.org.uk or ring the helpline: **0845 671 671** to request a pack.

8.3 Grab-a-Grant

Due to the high demand, the CVS is offering a further session to help groups find out about local funding pots. The session will be at **9.30 a.m. on Tuesday 9th June at Meeting Point House**. The session will last for about 1½ hours and be very informal. To find out more or to book your place Tel: 01952 291350.

For further information on any of the above, contact Sue Howe on 01952 291350.

8.4 Targeted Support Fund

Part of the Government's Real Deal for Communities action plan, this fund is about helping charities and social enterprises that

provide advice, support and skills development services to respond to increased demand as a result of the current economic turndown.

£197,402 has been allocated for distribution in Telford and Wrekin with grants available between £10,000 and £40,000 to be spent between 1st September 2009 and 31st March 2010.

The deadline for application is: **29th June 2009.**

To ensure that sufficient, appropriate applications are received by the deadline, please inform the CVS if you are intending to apply as soon as possible, so that we can get a picture of the number and range of applications we can expect.

To find out if your organisation is eligible and for guidance with making an application, download the guidance notes and application form from the website: www.tandwcvcs.org.uk or contact Mick on 01952 291350 for more information.

8.5 Newport Photographic Club

The club is always very willing to offer photographic support whenever possible. Visit the website: www.newportpc.co.uk.

8.6 Woodside Families Groups has been successful in gaining a Children in Need grant for three years. Many congratulations to Julie Lloyd and all her groups.

8.7 Gender Matters will be launching their kitemark at the **Civic Centre, Wolverhampton at 10.30 a.m. on 9th June.**

8.8 British Red Cross raised over £1,000 in Telford and Wrekin in their main fundraising week with further collections still to come. Well done to them.

8.9 Mick reported that the CVS is to buy the N.I.F. building at Lightmoor. All the CVS projects will move there when the purchase is complete. All affiliated groups have been made aware of this move and all seem to feel this is positive step.

8.10 Activities for Volunteers Week 1st to 7th June

- **1st to 7th June** - Display on Volunteering in Telford Town Centre Library.

- **Monday 1st June** – Free workshop with lunch on the “Three R’s of Volunteering” at Meeting Point House.
- **Friday 5th June** – Activities in Telford Town Park – games, volunteer walk, Flash Garden in Southwater Square.
- **Certificates for Volunteers** are available to download from:
<http://volunteersweek.org.uk>.

For information on any of the above contact Beverly Harris on 01952 291350.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on at **10.00 a.m. on Thursday 17th September at Meeting Point House**. Please put the date in your diary now.