



Bucks Older Peoples Action Group Meeting 2022 AGM

**20th July 2022 at Christ the Servant King,
Sycamore Road, High Wycombe**

Attendees:

Alan Barnard – BOPAG Chairman Marlow bottom Valley Plus
Paula Watts – BOPAG Administrator
Stuart Smith (CSPA) BOPAG Treasurer
David Whittaker – BOPAG Vice Chairman
Jane Osborn - (Lane End)
S. Srishanmuganathan – Local resident
Bernie Hunter – Dementia Action Marlow (DAM)
Linda Richards – BEFAB Burnham/Marlow Groups
Karoline Lamb – 60 Plus Fitness & Social Group, Chalfont St Giles
Maureen Cook – as above & U3A
Mike McDonald – Audley Retirement
Janet Kenny – OASIS
Sue Stuart – Memory Partners
Ros Shorrocks – Age UK Bucks
Stephanie Moffat – Bucks Council Public Health
Michelle Bewley – Arc Bucks PCN
Phil Folly – COPAG Chesham Over 50's Positive Action Group
Barbara Richardson – COPAG
Paul Isaac – Age Concern

Apologies:

Marian Mulady- Local resident
Chris Stanners- (Dignity Champion)
Beverly Pershke- Local resident
Pie Ling Harper – Trading Standards
Emma Richardson – Hughenden Village
Simon Meredith – Buckingham Lodge Aylesbury
Hannah Munn – The 50+ Group

1. Alan Barnard welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the group of a change to the agenda that the AGM be held at the end of today's meeting. Alan then introduced our main Speaker.

2. Speaker – Stephanie Moffat from Bucks Council Public Health Team. Stephanie informed the group of the new collaborative Healthy Ageing project which has been formed on the back of the pandemic to combat social isolation within the vulnerable sectors of our communities. They are looking for partners to collaborate with them and it will be a test and learn small scale project across the County. They want to focus on emotional mental and cognitive well-being of older people through physical fitness and wellbeing will also be included. They will not duplicate what is already available. The Collaborative will be overseen by a small group but will aim for flexibility within as wide a network as possible. Some funding has been acquired from several sources including the Local Authority.

3. Questions and Answers followed on topics regarding Admiral nurses, digital exclusion, transportation, and finances.

4. Notices – Michelle Bewley ARC PCN Social Prescriber. Michelle explained the role of a Social Prescriber and how to contact them either via GPS or directly via phone. They have a network of 85,000 patients to support. They offer talking Cafes, and they have a newsletter that people can sign up to. Questions and Answers followed.

Ros Shorrocks – AGE UK Bucks. Ros talked about the AGE UK befriending Scheme, matching volunteers to individuals in their own homes and discussed the current shortage of volunteers available. She asked for help and for people to pass on her details to anyone who could be interested and suitable. They have now recruited a Full time Chief Executive Mark Russell who lives in the area and will be looking to raise the profile of Age UK Bucks. New projects include RNID Sensory support assessing sensory problems holistically and giving short term interventions and a role in the Hospital discharge service. BOOST is a new short-term project supplementing the Befriending Scheme by offering companionship and support to encourage and enable isolated people to get out and about. She also mentioned her community desks on every 1st Tuesday of the month in Wycombe and every 3rd Thursday at Princes Risborough Library. Questions and answers followed.

5. Matters arising from last meeting – no discussion required

6. AGM – Alan introduced the AGM and explained it had been delayed due to pandemic. Minutes of the AGM meeting 17th September 2021 were sent to all members prior to meeting via email. All agreed. He introduced Stuart Smith Treasurer to explain further proposed changes to the Constitution which were set out in the paper distributed for the meeting. Most of the amendments were minor clarifications of existing wording and updating to reflect changes in external bodies referred to. A small but important alteration had been made to Article 3 to avoid the implication that BOPAG had a legal personality separate to from its constituent members in particular the local OPAGs. Provision had been made for members of the SG other than the officers to be elected by the members after what was arguably a democratic shortfall in this regard had been pointed at the 2021 AGM. A substantial change to the procedure for constitutional amendment (Articles 5 &8) had been made to escape the impasse created by the existing constitution under which the quorum rules for amendment were unlikely ever to be met. All in agreement.

Election of Officers – The incumbent officers were unanimously re-elected as follows

Alan Barnard – Chairman
David Whittaker – Vice Chairman
Stuart Smith – Treasurer

Treasurers Report – SS presented the financial report for 2021-22. The pattern of overspend observed in recent years had continued this year under the magazine and GYFID heads especially and notwithstanding a healthy balance in the sale of magazine advertising and despite GYFID costs having been mainly met by Bucks council and Clare Foundation grants. Meeting expenditure had jumped as Covid restrictions were relaxed. The resulting trend of declining reserves outlined in previous reports had therefore also continued. The gradient was becoming steeper. As had been noted in earlier BOPAG meetings the reduction was not altogether undesirable; a higher level of reserves prompts the question whether BOPAG is using its funds properly in fulfilment of its purposes and discourages potential donors. Nevertheless, the trend was clearly not sustainable in the longer term. The balance at the end of the year was a little over £11K. The reserves policy had not changed.

Alan then asked everyone present to introduce themselves to the group and to give any relevant updates.

7. Any Other Business – BOPAG website issues discussed, Andy Trueman is trying to resolve current issues we are experiencing.

PW mentioned that BOPAG needs more advertisers to book space within the Hoot to cover our printing costs of the magazine production and is also looking for funding to help. Currently we have enough in our reserves to continue to offer this service for one more year. Discussion followed regarding whether it was feasible to offer online only, but this was dismissed due to the amount of people relying on the postal format. Currently posting out 400 per month and this rises the more we reach out to communities. Overall reach of Hoot around 6-10,000 per month. Goes to Libraries, GPs, various groups, and organisations as well as individuals. Printing costs last year were £4.5K (without postage costs).

8. 2022 Meeting dates - face to face meeting Wednesday 21st September 10am

The meeting closed at 12.15hrs