



## Bucks Older Peoples Action Group Meeting January 18th, 2023, Minutes

Christ the Servant King, Sycamore Road, High Wycombe

### **Attendees:**

Alan Barnard – BOPAG Chairman Marlow bottom Valley Plus (AB)

Paula Watts – BOPAG Administrator (PW)

David Whittaker – BOPAG Vice Chairman (DW)

Franke Hockham – CIB (FH)

Janet Kenny – OASIS (JK)

Linda Richards – BFAB (LR)

Ros Shorrocks – Age UK Bucks (RS)

Jane Osborn - Lane End OPAG (JO)

Elizabeth Aylward – PROBUS (EA)

Phil Folly – Chesham OPAG (PF)

Barbara Richardson – Chesham OPAG (BR)

John Betts – STOPAG Stokenchurch (JB)

Richard Chalmers – OASIS Bereavement Group (RC)

Simon Meredith – Buckingham Lodge

Bernie Hunter – DAM (BH)

Anne Bower – Parkinson's High Wycombe Branch

Richard Livesey – DAM

Stephanie Moffat – Bucks Council (SM)

Louise Why – Age UK Bucks (LW)

### **Apologies:**

Marian Mulady – Local resident

Hannah Munn – The 50+ Group

Michelle Bewley – ARC Bucks PCN

Joe Boake – Hughenden Gardens Village

Jan Sambrook – DAM

Pie Ling Harper – Trading Standards

Chris Stanners- (Dignity Champion)

Natalie Judson – Bucks Council

Wendy Healy – Signature at Beaconsfield

Lucie Smith – Bucks Council

1. Alan Barnard welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the attendees that we would be recording. He then informed the group of our need to source a Treasurer for the Group due to our current Treasurer falling seriously ill and our concerns that he may not be able to continue in the role.
2. He then went on to introduce our main Speaker Frankie Hockham from Community Impact Bucks and her role in the funding department. Frankie gave us an informed talk about how to apply for funding and what the funders will be looking for on an application. She informed the attendees of Zoom support that is available via their website and face to face training sessions and Meet the funder training sessions. They have a new mentoring service with a lady called Jenny, all information on their training page on the website. <https://communityimpactbucks.org.uk/events/>

3. Q & A's followed; AB asked if it was advantageous to become a charity. FH explained it depends on the income of the group, has to a registered charity be if income is over 5K. Pros and cons with both. CIO is the best option and easy to set up. DW asked Is there a number you have to have in the bank to be considered for funding. FH explained there is no minimum, but they like to see that you can manage money. Other funders talk to other funders, and they share experiences. RC – Relies on donations and as they are in a church they can't find funding, they offer services to the bereaved and they give them meals etc, charity fairs and do it all themselves. FH – Give the funders a call because they do fund if you are open to all, and you have separate finances to the Church. Funders won't fund faith but if open to all, then you can get funding. You need to evidence your operating procedures. AB thanked Frankie and moved the meeting onto the next Speaker Stephanie Moffat. Stephanie handed her presentation around and talked us through the Healthy Ageing Strategy. Stephanie explained that the purpose and scope of the strategy is to create a shared vision for how Bucks can be a better place for older residents, to live healthy and active lives. Q & A's followed; JK mentioned that she felt that older people are invisible to others when walking around streets and need the council to go to schools to explain to younger people about respecting others. DW mentioned transport issues across the county and now there is a jump on bus, but it goes to the same routes as already in place which doesn't help. Big issue. Janet mentioned parking issues too, not enough blue badges. JO mentioned that the Blue badges but have to park further away than mothers and children parking. SM suggested community transportation. EA mentioned the issue with digital communication for elderly people. JO in agreement especially during COVID and if you have no children to help you and you have health issues that could affect you using technology. LR said that it excludes the older generations. SM said the council is aware of these issues and there is support. JO relied on that she can't get to libraries where support is available due to lack of transport. BH gave out a number of a company that can help, Ability Net 0800 269 545, free call out and support. SM said there is a number of organisations available. PW to add to Hoot once checked them out. JB mentioned to help him he would appreciate more age friendly help via the phone as he doesn't have the internet. SM will send PW feedback form online and she mentioned that she would be happy to send to others.
4. **Notices** - Alan then asked everyone present to introduce themselves to the group and to give any relevant updates. Age UK Bucks mentioned their BOOST and Befriending programming. Short of volunteers and trying to scale down timings to see if that works better. New football projects starting, women's group and the other to target ethnic minorities via Wycombe Wanderers. Please offer to volunteer if you can.
5. **Matters arising from last meeting** – PW List of entertainers, PW working on a list and will add to Hoot along with an Internet support list. PW to work with SM on companies offering IT support after researching.
6. **Any Other Business** – PW mentioned the next Free Information Day run by the Princes Centre and BOPAG which will take place in High Wycombe centre during September 2023, and it will be a totally dementia focussed event. In the early planning stages at the moment but will keep everyone updated as it progresses.
7. **2023 Meeting dates** - face to face meeting Friday March 24th, 2023.
8. **Networking followed.**

**The meeting closed at 12.05 hrs.**