

Papers for the

Redbridge Voluntary Sector Network

This month: Universal Credit

1 to 2.30pm, Wednesday 13 June 2018

Sandwiches from 12.30pm

York Room, Redbridge Central Library, Clements Rd, Ilford IG1 1EA

Agenda

1. Introduction and apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting, matters arising
3. Reports from voluntary sector representatives
4. **Universal Credit: Rehana Akram and Linda Devereux, DWP**
Universal Credit is being rolled out this month in Redbridge. Universal Credit replaces several other benefits, and will mean major changes for many local people who rely on those payments. Many aspects of Universal Credit have been controversial. Colleagues from the DWP will be attending to explain how the new system will work and to answer questions.
5. Any other business
6. Next meeting: Wednesday 11 July, York Room, Redbridge Central Library, Clements Rd, Ilford IG1 1EA

More information

If you have any questions, contact Colin Wilson on 020 3874 4135 or at colin@redbridgecvs.net

Anyone involved with a voluntary or community sector group which is based in Redbridge or works with Redbridge people is welcome to attend Network meetings – just come along!

Minutes of the Redbridge Voluntary Sector Network

9 May 2018

1. Present

- Angela Banner, Redbridge Pensioners Forum
- Alan Banner, Redbridge Pensioners Forum
- Corrine Barrett, Redbridge Council
- Stuart Bellwood, Seven Kings Ward
- Arron Bernard, Redbridge Council
- Alison Caldwell, One North East London
- Sally Dick, prospective volunteer
- Jasmine Evans, Redbridge Council
- Fadumo Farah, Somali Welfare Trust
- Kim Galpin, British Heart Foundation volunteer
- Abby Gilbert, Redbridge Council
- Kate Harrison, Run-up
- Cherry Hooker, Friends of Valentine Mansion
- Vera Hunt, Redbridge Voluntary Care
- Sarah Jarvis, Barnardo's volunteer
- Rose Merridith, Redbridge Libraries
- Peter Musgrave, Vine Church
- Harriet Owusu, Redbridge Carers Support Service
- David Pomfret, Redbridge Voluntary Care
- Lesley Powles, Community Gardening Group
- Mareba Scantlery, PDSA volunteer
- Harvey Sharpe, Friends of Newbridge School
- Diana Smith, Ilford Operatic & Dramatic Society
- Sarah Tranter, Redbridge Council
- A.B. Tobias, Redbridge Pensioners Forum
- Ross Diamond, RedbridgeCVS
- Colin Wilson, RedbridgeCVS
- Lynette Jackman, RedbridgeCVS

2. Introductions and apologies

Colin welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence were received.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising

Colin reiterated that GDPR was coming into force on 25 May and that organisations need to be preparing for this.

It is understood that Street Watch Project is being set up in the borough and increased funding has been approved for police officers.

5. Reports from voluntary sector representatives

Ross stated that no local meetings are being held in the period before the local elections, so he had nothing to report.

However, he had attended a meeting of a number of London CVSs to talk to the Office of Civil Society, a central government body who are doing a review of the voluntary sector. They are running a consultation about the support overnment might give to civil society, which s open until 22 May. The consultation is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/civil-society-strategy-have-your-say>

6. Community Connections Workshop

Thinking Digital – workshop introduced by Abby Gilbert from the Policy, Equalities and Communities Team at Redbridge Council.

Researchers from [Rocket Science](#) are currently working with Redbridge Council on a review of the needs and support of the voluntary and community sector in Redbridge. This consultation is an opportunity for community organisations to contribute your thoughts towards what could be done to encourage and support a strong voluntary sector in Redbridge. Your input to this survey would be greatly appreciated. [Note: since the meeting, the survey has closed]

During the Innovating Redbridge discussions which the Council organised several months ago, community networks were a repeated theme. The general issue was that such networks were important for people to find out what was going on, to contact groups and to explore and develop ideas.

The meeting then broke up into discussion groups: notes follow.

Why should communities connect?

- So people can find information
- So people are aware of services
- To tie different services together

- To ensure people can mix and meet (people are missing out because they don't know what's going on)
- Combatting loneliness

How can communities connect?

- Redbridge Life (the Council quarterly free paper) and Redbridge News (the Council's monthly email)
- Redbridge MyLife (Council website information about advice and support services)
- FIND (Council website with information for families and people who work with families)
- Do More (quarterly leisure, sports and arts guide by the
- RedbridgeCVS
- Wanstead Village Directory, South Woodford Village Gazette (websites with local news and features)

Most events attract the usual suspects, how can we get new blood?

- Need more door-to-door knocking, neighbourliness, and
- A chronological calendar of events, which bring together content from RedbridgeCVS's events calendar, Vision and the Council, and allows for upload from individuals more easily
- Example given of Di's Diamonds in Havering
- Need clarity/transparency about Ilford Recorder communities page and whether/how it is priced
- Need to better support groups to get an online presence
- Possibility for businesses to promote better, clearer collaboration between businesses would help here
- Need to develop CSR (corporate social responsibility) within the borough
- Share skills between groups and geographical areas

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be about Universal Credit and will take place on Wednesday 13 June.

7. Any other business

A question was raised regarding the local emergency dentist service. Stuart Bellwood said that ringing 111 should help with this issue. It seems that an emergency service is available, but it is not located within the borough.

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