

Papers for the

Redbridge Voluntary Sector Network

This month: Community Resilience Project

1 to 2.30pm, Wednesday 10 October 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. Community Resilience**
The Red Cross is working on a project to make sure that the voluntary sector and local councils can work effectively together if a disaster happens locally. Sarah Henderson from the Red Cross will lead a workshop explaining the project, giving participants an opportunity to identify local risks and issues.
5. Any other business
6. Next meeting: 5.30pm, Wednesday 14 November, York Room, Redbridge Central Library, Clements Rd, Ilford IG1 1EA – followed by the RedbridgeCVS AGM
Note that this is a different time from the usual one

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

12 September 2018

1. Present

- Jon Abrams, One Place East
- Ferzanah Ahmed, Redbridge Council
- Angela Banner, Redbridge Pensioners Forum
- Corrine Barrett, Redbridge Council
- Stuart Bellwood, Seven Kings Ward
- Arron Bernard, Redbridge Council
- Fadumo Farah, Somali Welfare Trust
- Olive Hamilton-Andrews, Redbridge Health & Wellbeing Board
- Kate Harrison, Run-up
- Vera Hunt, Redbridge Voluntary Care
- Nicholas Hurst, Frenford Clubs
- Karen Kent, Redbridge Faith Forum
- Shamsun Messa, Redbridge Council
- JoAnne McConnell, WOI
- Peter Musgrave, Vine Church
- Cathy O’Keeffe, Redbridge Carers Support Services
- Banu Ramachanda
- Deborah Sampson
- Randal Smith, Redbridge Council
- Nathan Sperry, RAMFEL
- Naina Thaker, Healthwatch Redbridge
- A.B. Tobias, RPF
- Sarah Tranter, Redbridge Council
- Gill Wendelken, Saint Francis Hospice
- Caroline, Rocket Science
- Ross Diamond, RedbridgeCVS
- Shaweb Ahmed, RedbridgeCVS
- Colin Wilson, RedbridgeCVS
- Lynette Jackman, RedbridgeCVS

2. Introductions and apologies

Colin welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies for absence received from:

- Alan Banner, Redbridge Pensioners Forum
- Rose Merridith, Redbridge Libraries

3. Minutes

Minutes of last meeting were approved.

4. Matters arising

PaVSP

Colin explained the voting procedure for electing voluntary sector candidates to this body and explained that people could vote whilst attending the meeting. Ballot papers and a ballot box were provided. Organisations can also vote online using the link provided on the minutes handout.

5. Report from voluntary sector representatives

Ross Diamond updated the meeting on meetings he has attended to represent the voluntary sector.

Redbridge Partnership

The council’s Redbridge Partnership Plan is now finalised.

It includes five key priorities:

- Regenerate the borough to benefit our residents and integrate new communities
- Keep the borough clean and safe
- Be a great place to live as a family, including the council’s commitment to achieving formal accreditation by UNICEF as a “child-friendly borough”
- Tackle the root causes of social challenges
- Build a brilliant council

Ross highlighted several items from the plan:

- 1 year aim: “Develop better ways for communities to access CIL”
- 4 year aim: “Support communities to take ownership of their neighbourhoods”
- 4 year aim: “secure cost effective new accommodation for the Community and Voluntary Sector

Health & Wellbeing Board

East London Health and Care Partnership (ELHCP) brings together CCGs from eight east London boroughs including Redbridge. Discussions of ELHCP and SEND, a strategy about special educational needs and disability, have been put back to next meeting.

The board discussed:

- Suicide prevention strategy – discussion on importance of CAMHS and children’s mental health.
- Healthwatch Annual Report
- Borough Plan

- Primary Care Transformation update – shortages of GPs.
- Some good public questions – including a case concerning changes to dental services for people with disabilities.

The next meeting is on 5 November and will include an update on CAMHS and outcome of recent SEND inspection.

Ann Garrard has now been invited to be the lay member for Children and Young People on the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Adult Services

Ross met with commissioners from Adult Services to talk about their new commissioning processes. There will be a round of commissioning for early intervention services probably from mid-November. These are likely to be of relevance to many voluntary organisations. The council will inform RedbridgeCVS of the minimum standards they'll expect and any training that they may want us to offer to groups. We'll include information in eNews when we have it.

6. Rocket Science's presentation on the Future for the Redbridge Voluntary Sector – Caroline

Caroline introduced the Rocket Science organisation to the meeting. Rocket Science works in many London boroughs, and has been working with the Mayor of London's office on donation/volunteering of time, money and resources across London. Rocket Science recommended that the Mayor focus on inequality of giving in the capital.

Rocket Science has recently completed a report on the voluntary sector in Redbridge. They spoke to 74 people from various organisations which are part of the local voluntary sector. They identified positives, challenges and areas for development.

Rocket Science looked at the needs of the borough, organisational support needs, how relationships with the Council were valued, how organisations felt about the availability of office space/buildings, and how they felt about working with each other. They found that organisations were offering a very diverse range of services, working with a range of groups needs across the borough.

Context

Organisations are just about managing to respond to increasing levels of demand, firefighting, doing the day job with no planning for the future.

People nowadays do not have much time on their hands to volunteer. Many local volunteers are retired people, while in the past a more diverse range of people volunteered.

Funding/resources

Redbridge has a high level of personal donations coming into organisations with less grant dependency.

Rented and/or hired space in the borough is of poor quality and expensive.

Support

Some organisations aren't getting the support that they need, which affects their ability to deliver projects. Groups need help with developing income streams, volunteers, fundraising for business and marketing information. Groups need support to work with business as part of regeneration projects. One priority is work with trustees and volunteers, supporting social action around the borough.

Relationships between groups and the Council

The Council can help enable the sector through help with fundraising and with accessing funding, with accessing better working spaces and through business rate relief.

Groups should consider a "relationship reboot" – what does your relationship look like, what does it need to be?

When doing business with the sector the Council needs to be clear about what it does and doesn't want, what the principles are!

As regards communication with the sector, it would help to have a single point of contact with accountability to follow up.

Event

Celebrating what's good about Redbridge, an annual event to give the sector recognition to reflect back on the year

Comments

Network members found it very difficult to communicate with the council. Adoption of new technology and recent large-scale staff changes make it very hard to find the right person to speak to and then actually contact them. Rocket Science said that it was a reoccurring comment.

Randal Smith, interim Head of Policies for the Council, is looking to set up a working group with RedbridgeCVS on how the Council develops a relationship going forward with the voluntary sector. He would take back the fact that the sector felt that few good working relationships existed with Council officers due to staff changes.

Different bodies need to work together to develop a shared narrative and a plan of action or efforts will be dispersed.

Ross commented that the Redbridge Compact

provides a structure for relationships between the public and voluntary sectors, and the Compact is going to be refreshed this year. The Public and Voluntary Sectors' Partnership (PaVSP) which does this work includes voluntary sector representatives. These are being elected at the moment, and will attend Network meetings and report back – so there are some mechanisms for collaboration.

Jon Abrams said that the recommendation about codesign was good but were other strategic partners/organisations involved. The Council needs to be inclusive and transparent.

It is important there is a real understanding of the issues and challenges faced by the borough's population so that funders are aware.

On the subject of an annual celebration, the success of the Community Day was mentioned – organisations and volunteers together in one place giving the opportunity to network.

The meeting thanked Caroline for attending.

7. AOB

There is a multi-faith walk of peace through Ilford on 23 September – flyers on the table and all are welcome.

The November Network Meeting will be incorporated into the RedbridgeCVS AGM: Keith White will be making a presentation about community associations.

8. Next meeting

The meeting takes place on Wednesday 10 October 2018.

RedbridgeCVS is funded by:

