

**Minutes of CDF Meeting
Tuesday 17th July 2012
United Reformed Church, Whitehaven**



Registered Charity No: 504535

Present: Anne Bradshaw (Chairman), Bryan Wilson, Linda Wilson (Deputy Chair), Rocky Moore, Eric Urquhart (Treasurer), Phillip Pattinson, Ian McConnell, Ossie Coyles, Heather Morrison, Cam Ross Janice Carroll, CBC and Joanne Fisher, CBC.

Apologies: Cllr John Bowman, Cllr E Woodburn, Alan Gillon, Alison Walton.

1 Minutes of the Last Meeting: Agreed with a minor change in point 4 changing the date from 2014 to 2016

2 Presentation form Joanne and Janice re consultation of proposed changes to Waste Management Collection

The proposed changes to the collection service were explained to members, after a long discussion and a question and answer session it was agreed the following response would be sent

a Assisted Collections Service

We would include within the criteria an additional sentence i.e. “where someone receives Carer’s Allowance for looking after the disabled person, then they would not fall into the criteria for an assisted collection” – The thinking behind this suggestion is that: - a carer who gets care allowance has to help and support the disabled person for at least 35 hours a week. We felt it only takes a few minutes for the carer to take the bin to the required place and bring it in again, and would, in our view be part of their role as carer.

Also there is a sentence that does allow for exceptional circumstances: where proof of need is required. We feel this would cover anyone, even though someone receives carers allowance for them, who may still require an assisted collection.

We understand that an individual assessment will be carried out and that the level of service offered will be agreed between Waste Management and the disabled customer. As you are proposing 4 levels of assisted service instead of “a one size fits all” we are happy that this will **AGREED** and therefore the customer will be happy with whichever level they get.

We believe the criteria for being in receipt of the benefits will fit the vast majority of people requiring assisted collection, and we are pleased to see you have linked it with the new proposed PIP payment which will replace DLA as from April 2013.

You have also included the exceptional circumstances which would include people with short term disability due to e.g. a hip or knee operation or broken limbs – We are pleased to see this has been included and are happy that it will cover people with short term disability needs.

b Large Wheeled Bins

Under the proposed criteria CDF are pleased to see you are continuing to support people in this category who have “A medical condition which produces non-infectious waste”. We feel this covers people with a disability that would produce this type of waste.

c Off Route Collections

During the discussion and question session CDF members were assured that disabled people living in “off route” areas will still be offered the assisted collection service. We welcome this and feel this will be vital for disabled people in rural areas.

d Garden Waste Collections [Brown Wheeled Bins]

We understand the proposal and that historically there may be some households that have been given two brown bins, CDF had no comments either for or against this proposal except to say we feel it is a ludicrous situation that household vegetable matter cannot be put into the brown bin, especially where it is not practicable for people to home compost. We do understand this is not a Copeland Council rule, but H&S legislation however, we felt we needed to make our point of view known’

Members were urged to send their own personal consultation response in as well.

3 Chairman’s Report

a Anne said the CDF lunch held at Howgate was not attended by many members, but those who went enjoyed the chat and lunch

b Anne and Linda had given a disability awareness talk to the PCSO’s at Lakes college which had been really well and from that they had been invited to talk to school children at Mirehouse Community Centre in early August.

c Anne and Linda had attended the Copeland Partnership Conference at Egremont – and despite there being two fire alarms – which they dealt with very well it was a good conference. The Youth Council gave a presentation and CAB gave a presentation on their Energy Saving project and there was an update from the Crime and disorder partnership. Some good contacts

d Anne and Eric had attended a CILF meeting and it was apparent from all groups there are a lot of problems for the disabled people applying for ESA.

e Anne and Linda had attended a Coastal Partnership meeting at Westlakes which was extremely interesting and made a lot more contacts. There was a video link with the Council in Cyprus who have a similar situation to Copeland.

f Linda, Bryan, Anne and Cath had done a walkabout round the town centre of Whitehaven with the town centre PCSOs Rebecca Dunlop and colleague – to highlight the problems with thoughtless parking, A boards and obstacles. The two PCSOs were astonished at the problems we face on a daily basis and promised to do what they could to help alleviate matters.

g Anne gave an update on her personal complaint with Evans [Arcadia Group] about the lack of access to the first floor for people with disabilities. She will keep members informed of progress. Phillip said he had had a similar problem with EWM in Workington and said he would personally write and complain to them, and keep members updated.

h Anne proposed that CDF meeting in September was cancelled. Linda and Anne had been extremely busy and needed to take a break and both would be away during September – members agreed .

4 Access Update

Heather gave an update on access issues, highlighting the problem with a planning application for new housing at Mill Hill, Cleator Moor. CDF had sent a response to the consultation and were extremely concerned that some disabled residents were not going to be able to park outside their homes, in future, something they had been able to do for many years.

The AWG would be meeting to look at the whole borough design document presented by Chris Bamber

There was a suggestion that the whole of planning and development control would benefit from disability awareness training.

5 Treasurers Report

Eric had attended a funding fair organised by the CVS and took part in a workshop the discussed the most effective way to apply for funding.

6 AOB

a Linda and Bryan reported they had tried to visit the advertised Northumbria Partnership Trust road shows. She found they weren't on the day advertised nor in the place they said they were. She would up date us with any further developments.

b Rocky reported someone had had a problem with access to a National Trust property in Yorkshire and he had written on behalf on CILF to complain and was awaiting a reply.

The meeting closed at 9pm