

Date: Tuesday 23rd
July 2019 2pm – 4pm

Venue: Cwmbran Library

Present:	Chair : Patricia Parsons Vice Chair: Toni Hayes Secretary: Walter Harris Treasurer : Roslyn Chamberlain Bridget Barnes Pam Brookes Rosemary Butler Verlie Crandon Sheila Gummery Irene Gunningham	Maureen Guppy Richard Guppy Roger Hayes Toni Hayes Sylvia Hood Jean Jones Ann Parish Barbara Parry Dorothy Phillips Doreen Smith	Margaret Stubbington Evelyn Trumper Laura Turner Pat Walkley Avril Weaver Kit Welbirg Maureen Williams Isobel Thomas
In attendance:	Age Connects Torfaen - TCBC Friends of the Earth, Torfaen Public Services Board Senior Engagement Officer Representative Cwmbran Youth Forum	Melanie Faulkner Steve Honeywill Carol Jacobs Elizabeth Kath Kieran Saunders	
Apologies:	Margaret Oleman Carol Briffett Brian Day Angela Day Mary Davey	Paul Davey Brian McDowell Shirley McDowell Delene Leek Jane Dorsett	Dawn Bevan Olive Jenkins Muriel Price

Agenda item	Minutes	Action
1.	Welcome and apologies for absence Chair called the meeting to commence at 2.10pm. The Chair welcomed all, confirmed that subscriptions had been paid and that raffle tickets had been given to participating members.	
2.	Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting The Minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed and seconded as correct by Margaret Stubbington and Pam Brookes.	
3.	Guest Speakers: Elizabeth, Public Services Board, Kath, Senior Engagement Officer, Kieran Saunders, Representative Cwmbran Youth Forum Chair welcomed Kieran as the first speaker to the Cwmbran Forum explaining that both age groups could find common ground on issues such as the environment and could combine both groups experience and enthusiasm. Kieran began his talk by explaining that the Youth Forum are working on a litter pick project to remove litter from river and roadsides. The Youth Forum are inviting the 50+ Forum to join them in the project and also any future projects they may be involved with. The Youth Forum have been in contact with Rosie Seabourne from Keep Wales Tidy and the object of the project is to remove waste from the rivers so that it does not get washed into the sea. It was agreed that a date would be set for the litter pick and those available would join in. Chair thanked Kieran for attending the meeting and hoped he would return to future Forums. Chair then introduced the next speaker, Carol Jacobs from Friends of the Earth, Torfaen. Carol thanked the Forum for their invitation. She also expressed her pleasure at meeting Kieran and hearing about the project being undertaken by the	

Youth Forum. Carol commenced her talk by referring back to the first moon landing 50 years ago and to Buz Aldrin's statement "Earth you are beautiful" and how this epitomises the environment we live in. Carol further explained that Friends of the Earth was formed in 1969 by three ecologists, David Bower, Donald Aitken and Gary Soucie. It became an international network of organisations in 1971 and is now the largest environmental group internationally with 5,000 local activist groups. The organisation was founded in Wales in 1984 and in Torfaen in 1991 to campaign for the fight to keep Sebastopol from development.

The fields alongside the canal are important not just from a social stance as they are often used for "courting" but as a means of recuperation, relaxation and healing. A Community Interest Company has been formed to look after the environment; wet woodlands, ancient woodlands, wildflowers. Vigilance along the canal is required by all users and residents with a willingness to report any concerns.

So, what can we do?

- Campaign for the protection of bees and other pollinators.
- Encourage sustainable development which includes green spaces. Loss of fields and green spaces does have a detrimental effect on people.
- Renewable energy that causes no damage or pollution.
- Waste management. Carol passed out some cups being made by a local company, The Pure Option, from plant waste products. These cups look like plastic but are compostable and whilst it may take time for them to break down there is no toxic content which would be found in plastic and polystyrene.

Carol then went on to explain the benefits of Integrated Transport Systems to encourage people to use public transport. These benefits include:-

- Continuous, safe, pleasant walkways.
- Safe and clean pavements

CALM is promoting sustainable transport and assisted in the campaign against the M4 relief road.

Carol further advised that she had taken part in a Citizens Science project to monitor nitrous dioxide emissions from vehicles. This involved placing ½ dozen diffusion tubes in different places to gauge the level of pollution. Carol placed one in her garden and others in more public places such as the Roundabout at Sainsburys in Cwmbran and a lamp post outside the Paper Shop in Pontnewynydd. The roundabout came back with a reading of 39.52 and the lamppost 36.8. As the European Union sets a limit of below 40 as safe these are getting very close.

Carol then went on to say that everyone can gain knowledge by attending events when free and meeting people to make a difference.

A renewal of Torfaen's local development plan is expected as the current one is due to expire. FoE Torfaen request that the 50+ Forums are involved with this. Whilst houses and work are required there is also a need for clean air and water. Trees absorb pollution and by planting hedges along the roadside's pollution can also be decreased. Reduce grass cutting in public areas to encourage wildlife and the growth of wildflowers. Think globally, act locally. Plant more trees. Take unwanted seedlings from your gardens and pot up to be planted elsewhere, plan, plant and replace.

Carol then moved on to the subject of Fracking whereby water and chemicals are fired into the ground to release gas. This process releases methane into the atmosphere and has resulted in earth tremors.

Carol then opened the discussions for any questions.

Question: What about asbestos in Cwmbran. Are people working and living with it?

Response: A lot of homes built after the War used asbestos in the build and this has caused lung damage to some.

Comment: Regarding transport, the Grassroots bus is being stopped in November and lots of older people use this and are petitioning to keep it.

Response: The advantage of travelling by bus is that it carries more than one person. Wales is committed to being environmentally friendly.

Chair then suggested that the topic of transport could be discussed in more depth at

	<p>future meetings.</p> <p>Question: Do you have a website?</p> <p>Response: Yes, I will leave some leaflets and Membership forms for anyone who would like to take them. These have the website and contact details on them.</p> <p>Comment: The Earth is a big place and I have read that Japan are starting whaling again and that Brazil are increasing logging. There is even a gun shop in Pontnewynydd.</p> <p>Response: Friends of the Earth is an international organisation and it is correct that Japan plan to start up whaling again. There is a lot of work on this subject being done online and campaigns for more trees have been in place for years. Unfortunately, gunmen are forcing out the forest people in order to clear trees.</p> <p>Comment: Over the last Century farmers have been a major force in destroying the countryside.</p> <p>Response: People have become greedy with fast food and are not prepared to put in the effort to cook fresh food anymore. In the past people did not eat so much. Machinery has taken over from the old methods when horses were used to plough and could not go right to the edges of the field and these edges remained as areas for wildlife.</p> <p>Question Why are people buying bottled water?</p> <p>Response: If you do buy bottled water in order to reduce plastic waste you can take the bottle to be refilled wherever you see the refill sign.</p> <p>Carol then advised that FoE Torfaen had recently shown a film about the subject of fracking to which she had invited a number of Councillors. Only one turned up but after the film had been shown the room was silent having seen the consequences of this practice; poisoned water, hair falling out, cancer, cracks in houses.</p> <p>Chair then showed the group a bag made by a member of FoE Torfaen for use when shopping for loose produce. These can be purchased for £1.00 or alternatively you could make your own from some old net curtains or similar. Reduce, Re-use and Recycle.</p> <p>Chair then thanked Carol for attending and for her interesting talk and suggested she could return at another time to talk about bee protection.</p> <p>The raffle was then drawn by Carol. The winning ticket was 254 and was not claimed, Chair then drew ticket 256 which was also not claimed. Chair drew a third ticket, 260 and the prize of £5.00 was won by Toni Hayes.</p> <p>The meeting was then moved on and Chair introduced Kathy, TCBC. Kathy explained that the Council are looking for feedback on residents' services, good or bad. She advised that comments can be left online or alternatively she would leave some hard copies for anyone wishing to complete and return.</p> <p>Kathy also encouraged people to join the Youth Forum in the litter pick and she will liaise with Steve Honeywill regarding numbers of attendees from the Youth Forum and possible dates in August.</p>	
4.	<p>Chairs Report: Patricia Parsons</p> <p>Chair advised that a grant of money to fund coach trips had been granted by the Community Council. She and Ros Chamberlain will collect this on 31st July.</p> <p>Chair confirmed that she, Ros Chamberlain and Melanie Faulkner had now met up and updated members contact details and preferences for receipt of future Minutes. She also confirmed that bus passes will be renewed automatically if they have been used recently.</p> <p>Chair then encouraged as many members as possible to attend the August meeting and this would be the AGM. She confirmed that all parties were happy to stand again for re-election. Anyone wishing to stand please contact Melanie Faulkner, Age Connects Torfaen. MF will also produce some voting slips to bring to the next meeting.</p> <p>Chair confirmed that Kathy Lye, Age Cymru will be attending as Guest Speaker at the next meeting.</p> <p>Treasurers monthly report – June Subs - £39.00. Rent - £20.00.</p>	MF

	<p>Raffle Prize - £5.00. Refreshments - £1.69. Got council grant of £500 which can be used for officer's expenses. Bus deposit for Dyffryn, 27 @ £5 and 11 @ £10 includes new members and guests came to £245. Gave driver a tip of £20. Bought microphone for £27. The trip came to £639.30. Bank Business - £1006.20 (includes 17p interest). Bank Current - £2074.53. Total in Bank - £3080.73. Cash in Hand - £39.80.</p> <p>Secretary's Report: Walter Harris Walter has asked that his apologies are given and that the comments regarding Independent Age be eliminated from the Minutes. The Red Cross Community Connector Services will be holding the following activities in Pontypool and Cwmbran Library; Wednesday 1-2.30 singing – Pontypool. Thursday 1-2.30 board and card games – Cwmbran Library. Correspondence – none.</p>	
5.	<p>Age Connects Torfaen - information: As the meeting was over running there was no opportunity to discuss any topics. MF will include copies of these when the Minutes are distributed.</p>	
6.	<p>Draw Raffle, Have your say</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Hayes addressed the subject of the BBC imposing a licence fee on over 75's as of June 2020. He asked for 50+ groups to protect the rights of the older generation by putting in a protest to the Government and the BBC. Chair advised that this action is supported by Helena Herklots as well as a protest against celebrity salaries • Steve Honeywill advised that Tracey Jones from Age Connects Torfaen had requested show of hands on the subject and all confirmed that they were not happy with the BBC's decision. . 	
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Honeywill advised the Forum that Helena Herklots, the Older Peoples Commissioner is conducting a survey regarding difficulties with transport to health services. This can be completed and sent free post back to her office. • The Welsh Government are asking for views on draft guidance to support good quality food and drink provision in care home settings for older people. Steve Honeywill asked for any feedback to be passed to PP (Chair). • Steve Honeywill also made the group aware that the Library Service are providing a new collection of books covering the subject of Reading Well for Mental Health. • Bridget Barnes thanked the chair for a well organised trip to Dyffren House and Gardens. • Laura Turner thanked Chair for the purchase of the microphone. • There will be a public engagement with Julia Osmond for Older People on 7th August at the Congress Theatre. • Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She also thanked Pat and Rosemary for taking care of the refreshments. • After the meeting had closed chair requested Melanie Faulkner to add that Bridget Barnes had been advised by Muriel Tanner that Joyce Petrovic's funeral went well. 	
9.	<p>Meeting closed at 4pm Next meeting: 27th August 2019, 2-4pm. Meetings are always the 4th Tuesday of the month, 2pm-4pm.</p>	ALL