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Feedback from the 1st Age Friendly Island Public Meeting

Thank you for attending the first public meeting to help direct the Age Friendly Island Project.

It was extremely valuable to have your input. Since the last meeting we have had a chance to work through the amazing amount of feedback you gave and put together the broad themes that emerged. We had a great turn out of 60 people, which although was unexpected, is very encouraging.

The meeting started with an overview of the Age Friendly Island Project. It explained that an 'Age Friendly Island' is a place where young and old embrace the strengths and challenges that come at different times of life and joins together to include older people within the life of the community. An Age Friendly Island should tackle social isolation, whilst empowering older people to have their views and opinions heard.

The project will focus on 8 areas - housing, transport, parks & public spaces, social activities, intergenerational work, employment, accessible information and health & social care.

We hope to ensure that adults over 50 years of age continue to be at the centre of the age friendly project, as they have been from the beginning. The purpose of the first meeting was for older Islanders to design the format of the Age Friendly Island Public Meetings going forward and ensure that they are useful and appropriate. We were very

keen to ask questions in the first meeting on how, where and when meetings should be held, to ensure that as many people can be included as possible. There were 6 questions that were discussed:

1. What is needed to make you, as Islanders, feel encouraged to develop and progress the Age Friendly Island meetings?
2. How should it feel to be a part of the Age Friendly Island meetings?
3. What do you expect to see as a result of investing your time in the Age Friendly Island meetings?
4. Who should attend these Age Friendly Island meetings?
5. Where should future meetings be held, and what time is most appropriate? (What are your access needs?)
6. Why did you come this afternoon?

Feedback from these questions has resulted in the following core themes which we will consider carefully in planning future meetings.

Operations:

- The agenda of future meetings:
 - o Management Group and the Delivery Partners should attend to feedback from projects and to listen to the ideas and opinions of those present at meetings,
 - o The agenda of the meetings should be timely and relevant to what is happening elsewhere in the programme,
 - o Where possible the agenda for the next meeting should be made available so attendees can be prepared,
 - o Meetings should address practical things relevant to the project.

Transport

- o It was mentioned numerous times that offering transport to and from the meetings for those that need it is important.

Facilitation

- Commonly it is felt that being respected, included and equal is important when part of a group being facilitated,
- A facilitator should be friendly and open minded,
- Be able to offer ideas and have them taken seriously,
- Be able to work together to discuss ideas and solutions and to limit conversation to what we have control over.

Location and timing

- While a number of people requested meetings remained central, there were also numerous comments about hosting more local meetings,
- There was a fairly even spread between people preferring evening meetings and day time meetings.

Membership

- A common theme was to invite Delivery Partners to listen and share progress and challenges,
- To invite the Management Group and decision makers to listen first hand,
- To open the meetings to all ages including carers, friends and interested parties.

Information

Feedback

- It was felt that the meaningful feedback on what had happened since the last meeting should be given at the meetings.

Marketing

- It was felt that more advertising was needed.
- The Isle of Wight County Press advert seemed to be the most effective way of reaching people as well as leaflets, personal emails and word of mouth.

Project updates

- Attendees would appreciate information on what is already available for over 50s. Information on projects, their services offered and progress should be provided.

Outcomes

- Should provide evidence of tangible results ,
- Many people are expecting quick results,
- Actions to come from the meetings,
- The meetings should feel influential.

Involvement

- A number of comments were made that attendees would like the opportunity and support to get involved and take active roles in their community.

Actions:

Taking on board all the feedback from the meeting, the Age Friendly Island team have developed core action points to move forward with the ongoing public meetings for Age Friendly Island.

- We will organise 3 meetings in different locations across the Island for the first quarter, to make the public meetings more local. We will aim to have the first of these meetings scheduled for February 2016 and will send out details of these in the New Year.
- We will invite representatives of the Delivery Partners and Management Group to attend these meetings,
- We will invite Emma Lincoln (Age Friendly Island Development Officer) to present and give an update on the work of the Age Friendly Island Steering Group,
- We will circulate the topics for discussion for the next meeting in advance,
- We will place adverts in the Isle of Wight County Press for future meetings, as well as explore other avenues of advertising,
- Work is being done to bring together an accessible list of formal and informal services and resources available to adults over 50 on the Island. This large mapping exercise will take time to compile but hopefully will be available early in 2016,
- Meetings will be open to adults of any age to include over 50s, friends, carers and interested parties,
- Anyone can become more involved in the Age Friendly Island meetings, receive support and training to help facilitate discussions and/or help organise the meetings. This is an opportunity to help

progress this project and make sure these meetings meet your expectations. If this is something you are interested in please contact Lauren Turner on 01983 525282.

If there are any core themes from the evening that you feel have not been represented in this report please contact the Age Friendly Island Team:

Tel: 01983 525282

email: hello@agefriendlyisland.org

Thank you again for being part of the Age Friendly Island meeting, we hope to see you again in February.

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to you all!