**Long Eaton & District 50+ Forum Newsletter**

**June 2023**

Date of next meeting

Monday June 12th, 2023

Sandiacre Lock Cottages

Victim Support Derbyshire

**Chair Report**



Pete Wearn

Chair

2005 -2023

The last Open Forum got off to a very shaky start with no speakers in sight! I am very sorry that the Welfare Rights speaker did not show. Fortunately, Richard Ledger was able to join us after a reminder call and as always, it was interesting to hear news of the Town Deal progress. We were very grateful to Stuart Martin and Penny Wiltshire for filling in with informative talks.

Thanks also to the three counsellors who kindly supported us on this occasion.

The raffle kindly organised by Jenny Timmins brought in £35.50.

**Speakers:**

Stuart Martin, Derbyshire Time Swap:

Derbyshire Time Swap brings local people together to use their knowledge, skills and, more importantly, time to support each other.

What is unique about Time Swap is that every member’s time is equal; for every hour you give to help someone else, you receive an hour to spend. Time Swap is flexible as you only offer or accept swaps you want to do when you want to do them. Then as you earn your hours you can spend, save or donate them to the community pot for people in need to use.

Everyone has something to offer whether it be walking someone’s dog or learning a new language – the possibilities are endless.

For more information call South Derbyshire CVS on 01283-219761 or e-mail at derbyshiretimeswap@sdcvs.org.uk

Penny Wiltshire, Funding and Development Manager, Derventio Housing Trust:

The Housing Trust offers safe and secure accommodation and intensive housing management to support people to develop independent living skills, keep their home and ultimately reduce the risk of them facing homelessness again. They also provide specialist services to work alongside people who are taking control of their lives and making positive changes.

Their main service is to provide high quality accommodation and support, tackling homelessness head-on. They work closely with property owners, local authorities and other agencies to provide appropriate housing. Housing alone does not solve the problem, so they back it up with practical support towards independent living – helping people to manage their home and understand their rights and responsibilities, and providing the emotional support, training opportunities and advice people need to change their situation.

Get in touch: e-mail: info@derventiohousing.com or Telephone: 01332 292776.

Ilkeston Office, Derventio Housing Trust, The Orchard Works, 1 Grenville Drive, Ilkeston DE7 8HT

**Richard Ledger – Update on Town Deal Plan:**

Richard explained that due to financial increases and pressures a number of the original projects have had to be taken off the table.

Stable Block (rear of EBC Council Offices) – conversion into Business Units/Office Space – contractors have been identified and work is due to commence in the next couple of months.

Old Cinema Project: the building has so much negative value and too much work required to keep the building as it is – this is currently going forward for compulsory purchase as the current owner is asking too much for the property as it stands. The adjoining property and old tyre factory will be demolished and replaced with new builds – to include commercial property on the ground floor and apartments on the first floor. There will be an outside courtyard area.

Long Eaton Green – this project has had to be shelved. £6.93M is insufficient to cover the costs of the whole project. Since being identified as an accident black spot 5 years ago, there have not been any major incidents; the priorities in the business plan covered time saving/traffic jams & reduction in accidents of which the latter is no longer relevant.

The funding has been reallocated to the High Street Project with work being carried out to the facades of the properties – also upgrading onto Tamworth Road/Bridge Street.

The canal is currently not being used as an asset – it is a barrier between West Park and the Town Centre. A new waterfront is to be built to include café, moorings for boats etc.

The old steel bridge is to be replaced giving access onto the canal path. Consultation has taken place and the results will be put forward at the next Board meeting. The Britannia Bridge project has restarted using some of the reallocated funds from dropped projects.

**Digital Inclusion Programme**

Drop-in sessions are:

 Mondays 10 till 12 pm

 Long Eaton Library, Tamworth Road NG10 1JG

 Mondays 1- 3 pm

 The ACE Centre, Community House, 173 Derby Road, NG10 4LL

**Bring your IT problems to us and we will try to help. It is free and no problem is too small.**

**laptops, tablets, and smart phones**