

Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council – Community Committee

Proposal from Cllr Connor Winter

A Monthly Dementia Friendly Coffee Morning

Introduction

After, speaking to various residents and a local care home provider of whom we came up with this idea together. I think Little Common needs a dementia friendly coffee morning for care home residents and their families.

I spoke with a local care home provider who told me the hardships that their residents had faced recently in trying to locate a reasonable café, coffee morning and social group that would welcome their residents and families with dementia. Obviously, some restrictions are on Care Homes due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and the restrictions around testing. However, this specific care home assured me that they would be up for encouraging their residents to attend a monthly coffee morning as there isn't anything else out there available to them and it is nice for the residents to get outside the care home.

Background

There is a local charity who already run something similar on a weekly basis however my proposal would be on a monthly basis and only opened initially to Care Home residents, staff, and family members. I have contacted this group and am awaiting a response.

Location

My first initial thought for the location would be Little Common Community Centre which is somewhere fairly cheap, disability friendly and plenty of parking. Costs are to be agreed with venue holder as we could possibly do a block booking.

Initial Proposal/Idea

Once a month, BoSTC would hold a Dementia Friendly Coffee Morning open to St Marks Care Homes and their families. The reason for only being open to St Marks Care Homes is other venues and councillors can take this idea and if they wanted to put it on in their own ward. Also, COVID-19 restrictions and the risks behind lots of different care homes mixing together can cause quite a worry with residents and families.

BoSTC would provide refreshments like biscuits, cake, tea, and coffee which are fairly cheap to get and can be done for around £15pcm. We would also encourage the Care Homes to bring games and such other entertainment resources, whilst we could also provide themed music from eras such like the 1940s, 50s & 60s.

To mitigate the number of people in a room at one time that are not from the care homes themselves I would recommend that the Ward Councillors take up the responsibility where

possible with a risk assessment in place done by both the Care Home and BoSTC. Of course, either a recent negative covid test would need to be shown to the care home staff and or a COVID-19 certificate of a recent double-vaccination or testing to stop the spread of COVID-19. This would be down to the councillors to provide themselves and show to the care home.

This would not be a money-making exercise and can be open to all ward councillors if wanted to take up in their own wards and their own care homes.