

**Forest of Dean Health Forum  
West Dean Centre, Bream  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016– 7.00-9.00pm**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Linda Vaughan – Secretary	Albert Weager – Chair
Mary Thurston – Friends of Lydney Hospital	Di Martin – Cinderford TC
Peggy Jordan	Hilary Bowen – Governor Barnwood Trust
Mary Matthews	Lynn Teague
Dr Peter Jackson – Governor GHNHST	Don Pugh – Lydney Town Council
Clive Elsmore – FODDC / CTC	Jane Hamilton – Great Oaks
Terry Hale – Newand/FODDC	Peter Hamburger
Doug Battersby	Chrissie Johnson – Gov. NHS Hosp Trust

**Jackie Frost – Forest Sensory Services**

**1. Welcome and Introductions – Albert welcomed members and our speaker.**

**2. Speaker Jackie Frost – Forest Sensory Service (FSS)**

**Jackie introduced herself as the Administrator and Eye Care Liaison Officer at Forest Sensory Services based at Foxes Bridge Cinderford.**

**Support**

The aims of FSS are to help maintain independence and assist people to pick up the pieces of their lives after the finding that they are losing or have lost their sight. The Charity provides information by signposting to organisations that are able to assist with finance, equipment etc. It provides support in adapting to sight loss and Jackie is able to give one to one support and practical advice with no time restraints. It provides inspiration and hope so that people can continue to lead full lives, albeit with some adaptations and restrictions. The Charity holds a wide range of equipment that people can try before buying.

Jackie will soon be carrying out her ECLO role with patients at the Dilke Hospital where she will see people who would otherwise have to travel to Gloucester.

**Training**

Sighted guide training is provided to volunteers so that they can assist in the best way possible, and training is offered to families, organisations and nursing homes so that staff become more aware of the needs of a person with sight loss.

The “Eye Journey” for people who may suffer from retinopathy, tunnel vision, macular disease can be very varied and so the members were invited to try out the various Sim Specs to experience these conditions. The importance of colour contrast was pointed out.

## **Community Support**

Classes are held regularly and these provide interest, company and stimulation: reducing isolation and increasing mobility. Classes include:

Balance, Computers, Cookery, You and Your Eyes with expert speakers e.g. Macular, Glaucoma, Independent Living, Reading Group, Lunch Club, Hand bell ringing, Singing for fun.

## **Hearing Loss**

Jackie explained that she is able to help look after hearing aids by replacing and cleaning tubing and batteries. She can also help with demonstrating hearing amplifiers and other devices to help with communication and again reduce the isolation felt by people whose hearing is impaired. She is not able to undertake hearing tests. Lyn Teague pointed out that one of the CAB employees is able to do British Sign Language and may be able to help by prior arrangement.

Contact [tutor2@cabnet.org.uk](mailto:tutor2@cabnet.org.uk)

It was noted that the recent restructure of the Charity means that it is now sustainable and all services can continue and hopefully expand.

It was agreed that the Charity fills a much needed role in the Forest and Jackie was thanked for her presentation and for the great work she does.

Fundraising continues and the next event will be a Zip Wire Challenge across the Quarry at the National Dive Centre where about 12 volunteers will cross the 80 metre deep flooded quarry, 70 metres high and 700 metres long.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/JamesSpiers>. Forest Sensory Services Dare Devils. Closing date for donations on this site is 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Contact details for Forest Sensory Services:

Tel 01594 827711

[forestsensoryservies@btconnect.com](mailto:forestsensoryservies@btconnect.com)

**3. Apologies:** Lyn Sterry, Fiona Woodroffe, Jim Spiers, Tim Fretter.

**4. Matters Arising – there were no matters arising.**

**5. News Updates and correspondence**

- **Chair's report**

Report on Health and Care Fest 2<sup>nd</sup> July:

The majority of attendees had reported back that they felt the event was a success and that it was a great opportunity to network with other organisations.

There was only one quite negative email stating, amongst other things, that the Forum is not representative of the FOD and that we need to attract new, younger members. It was agreed that most organisations face this problem. The email suggested that future events should be in a venue where there is passing foot trade.

It was agreed that this would be ideal but no-one could actually suggest where that might be, as large enough venues with car parking are usually on the outskirts of town.

There were two attendees who did not turn up and our Patient Governors will investigate why the three of the patient experience demonstrations were not available i.e. maggot therapy, maternity teams and resuscitation teams.

Grateful thanks to Lydney Town Council who have also donated £150 towards the event.

Many thanks to all attendees and supporters including the Friends of Lydney Hospital who gave a lot of advice and practical help, and the caretakers at Lydney Community Centre who could not have been more helpful.

## **6. Treasurers Report- Balance £1159.43**

## **7. Members Reports**

Hilary Bowen reported that there had been a telecom problem at Cheltenham Hospital and all the phone lines were down.

Albert reported that there is a safety programme running to evaluate patient flow, led by Dr Kate Hellier. They will look at whether the Hospitals Trust is linking efficiently with Community Hospitals and Care services.

At the blood transfusion committee meeting it was noted that the Blood fridge at Dilke is now running again.

New matron has started at Lydney and Dilke. Her name is Cheryl Haswell and she comes from a local family.

The Locality meeting will be on 20<sup>th</sup> July at Lydney community centre.

The question of Lydney Hospital Theatre will be raised again with Magda Davis

Lydney Hospital Fete – 16<sup>th</sup> July

Hilary Bowen is now our Patient Governor for 2Gether NHSFT.

### **Bus services.**

Clive Elsmore reported that the County Council is looking at changes (cuts) to the evening and Sunday bus services for 30 -31 buses. They are also looking at the 23/24/30/31 circular evening bus which could affect workers along A48 and up to Bream. These are services currently funded by the CC.

**Please complete the County Council questionnaire and also put your views to the Council if you are concerned about the cuts.** Terry Hale said that Cabinet will put pressure on County to preserve routes to FOD.

**[gloucestershire.gov.uk/bussurvey](http://gloucestershire.gov.uk/bussurvey)**

Paper copies are available from Celia Weir at FODDC offices 01594 812381, Dial-a-Ride at Lydney Bus Station.

Email from Sue Dubois has been circulated to members as follows:

Dear Bus Users Please Help. Please complete a survey OR call me for a paper copy. 01594 **517297** ALSO Lydney Dial A Ride at Lydney Bus Station have paper copies and so does Community Transport Celia Weir at FODDC offices. Her PHONE No 01594 812381. Leave her your name & address if she's out. Reception desk at Coleford should have them but check first 01594 810000

There was a survey on all BUS routes in Forest last Autumn. **Figures & profit/efficiency** etc. were scrutinised. These are being relooked at.

Money and subsidy TIGHT. Gloucestershire County Council will be carrying out ON BUS survey from today until July 22nd.

They are looking closely at the EVENING AND SUNDAY SERVICES. They will also be looking at the viability of that CIRCULAR EVENING BUS of 23/24/30/31. This would enable the Severnside A48 villages and up to Bream services after 6.20pm. It may be that this evening reinstatement does not happen.

There are other routes being surveyed – Community Transport Inter village to Town hopper buses etc. They are literally LIFELINES in isolated rural areas.

If your work relies on your BUS please complete a survey. Watch out for the very tight options -read before sending responses. Very "weighted" !

Call me **01594 517297** if you want to know more.

Di Martin said that the X-ray equipment at Lydney has broken down and will need to be replaced. In the meantime they are using a portable machine that has limitations. Friends of Lydney Hospital are considering purchasing a new machine that could be future proof in that it would be very up to date and could be re-located if necessary.

Di Martin asked if the Governors Drop-in session might be rolled out to Cinderford in the future. Chrissie reported that the Lydney pilot had been successful and it would be ideal if it could to go to Cinderford as well, provided staff were available.

Our Two Governors were thanked for their support and hard work

#### **8. Future meetings:**

**Suggestions:** **Teens in Crisis and Action for Children**  
**Young Carers/ Youth Café**  
**Fire Service – home safety and road safety**  
**Bones, Joints and Muscles**  
**Dementia update – Lena Maller**