

Sefton Faith Forum Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting



Thursday 15 July 2021

Present:

Pete Spiers	Archdeacon Knowsley & Sefton
Maria Parker	Birkdale Catholics
Patricia Jameson	Christians against Poverty
Richard Owens	Compassion Acts
Raj Patel	Leyland Road Methodist Church
Doreen Iddon	Liverpool Rd Methodist Church
Nigel Mawdsley	Lord Street Methodist
Luke Smith	Methodist North Circuit
Lesley Muir-Taylor	Salvation Army Friendship Café
Liz Chestnutt	Sefton North Deanery
Ravi Sangra	Team Vicar Litherland & Orrell Hey Team Ministry
Kate Eaglestone	Together Liverpool – Social Action
Peter Lyth	URC North Sefton
Liz Smith	Waterloo United Free Church
John Smith	Waterloo United Free Church
Sue Williamson	Waterloo United Free Church
Sarah Proctor	Woodvale and Ainsdale Community Association (WACA)
Maggi Aslet	Sefton CVS, Group Development
Nigel Sharp	Sefton CVS, Group Development

Apologies:

Angela White	Sefton CVS, CEO
Rebecca Gommersall	Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure
Steven McGanity	Christ Church, Southport, Area Dean - North Meols Deanery
Hayley James	Formby Methodist Church
Tony Slingo	Heart Stone Catholic Parish Ainsdale
Tom Carpenter	Holy Trinity, Southport
Jean Washbourne	Iraeus / St John's Church Ainsdale
Gwen Cooke	Lingsway Christian Fellowship Church
Liese van Alwon	Quakers
Munzi Ali	Sefton Muslim Centre
Simon Cunningham	Shoreline Church, Southport
Selwyn Goldthorpe	Southport Synagogue
Jane Morgan	St John's Ainsdale
Romils Mathew	Syro Malabar Catholic Church
Claire Morgans	Y Kids

Welcome & Introductions

PS and MA welcomed all followed by brief introductions.

Previous Meeting (15.4.21) and The Community Champions Fund

MA provided a recap of the previous meeting which included details of the Living Well Sefton Community Champions Fund. There were over 70 applications to the Fund with 51 bids approved, including 17 from faith based organisations, covering a wide range of projects and activities, including community hub development, art, music and community gardening.

RS provided an update, with particular reference to St Paul's Church, Litherland. Finance has been a concern owing to loss of income from unavailable Hall hire with a need for alternative fundraising. Sessional youth work has been delivered through a partnership with Vibe and additional activities include support for parent/ toddlers, a lunch club and a community garden. Activity has been supported by help from a fundraiser.

The Community Champions Fund will support 'Hatton Arts on the Hill' arts therapy session to help community mental health and RS noted how all these activities have provided support for the community recovery.

Community Collaboration - WAVE

SP (Woodvale & Ainsdale Community Association) provided a summary of the development and progress of Woodvale and Ainsdale Volunteering Enterprise (WAVE). Initiated by Fr Tony Slingo, St John Stone church has brought together local partner organisations – including WACA, Ainsdale Lunch & Leisure, Bridge Inn Community Farm and supportive individuals, including a local councilor and school teachers, keen to develop a coordinated approach and activity in their community. From initially sharing updates and ideas, there have been spin-off 'Ripple' group meetings to consider children and young people, and the development of a community garden.

NS added that the latter has provided a tangible project to engage the local community and a 'Heartstone Garden Launch Day' in June provided an opportunity for people to comment and get involved in the garden proposals, at an enjoyable social event.

Breakout session: Group updates re. Summer activity programmes/ events in Localities

Breakout discussions aimed to determine the level of activity, both faith led and with partner organisations; future plans and any related issues or group support needs. Comment included:

Lord St Methodist

- Partial reopening, aim to restart in September
- Activities to include youth club and arts related
- Lack of volunteers may be an issue

Leyland Road Methodist

- Resuming services – also use as a vaccination centre
- Harbour project through LWS funds to provide support for loneliness
- Developing a dog walking club
- Links with other partner organisations inc. Swaca, Cherish and St James (Birkdale)
- Links with local GPs and social prescribers

Waterloo United Free Church

- Services outside in car park
- LWS funds for Community Garden development – partner work with Salvation Army
- Musical evenings events

Compassion Acts

- Expanding food pantry provision inc. Formby
- Open up 'wrap around' service
- Strategic framework 'Going Upstream' <https://www.compassionacts.uk/goingupstream.html>
- look more at causes of problems – aim for prevention

Linacre Mission

- resume Sunday services
- also use as vaccination centre
- foodbank open
- heritage link with schools
- hampers for schools targeting those in need identified through schools

General discussion/ comment

- loss of regular social activity leading to isolation and loneliness
- reluctance to go out and resume contact
- confidence needed - guidance, case studies, outreach support/ buddies could help
- need more volunteers to support
- promote building use and availability
- potential for shared use –scope for an audit of facilities?
- Need for support for men's mental health.
 - o RP mentioned 'Mate Watchers'
 - o Tool Shed projects – e.g. Bootle Tool Shed

Sefton CVS Update

MA and NS provided a brief update on Sefton CVS services and support.

Shaping Care Together

- NHS engagement programme for W Lancs, Formby & Southport
- Developing an integrated approach to future service delivery
- A newsletter summary was circulated prior to (and following) the meeting.
- Scope to input through a survey, also payment for groups providing a focus group
- More details at: <https://yoursayshapingcaretogether.co.uk/home-welcome>

Funding

A separate note was circulated immediately following the meeting including:

- The National Lottery Local Connections Fund was highlighted (closing 6 August)
- PH Holt Resilience Grant <https://phholtfoundation.org.uk/resiliencefund/>
- Rathbone Charitable Trusts
 - o <http://www.eleanorrathbonetrust.org.uk/guidelines.html>
 - o <http://www.elizabethrathbonetrust.org/>

Directory

'Here for You' is the Sefton CVS directory of organisations and services, currently being expanded with

additional entries and information – an invaluable resource to support local research and networking.
Details at: <https://directory.seftoncvcs.org.uk/>

More details on any items available on request groupdevelopment@seftoncvcs.org.uk

Future Forum Comment

PS invited comment on future activity and items for consideration by the Forum. There was general support to continue a programme of regular zoom meetings to enable networking and sharing of updates and ideas.

KE provided an update - Together Liverpool covers the full diocese from Southport to Warrington – not just Anglican churches – working to encourage churches to respond to new needs, collaborate and use share assets and resources to develop social action drawing on local group strengths.

Date of Next Meeting

- **2.00pm Thursday 14 October [by zoom]**
to confirm attendance e-mail groupdevelopment@seftoncvcs.org.uk