



7th September 2020

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Steve MacDonald (Chair), Alison Sarson, Martine Blaser-Smart, Elodie Lanworn, Sally Slyfield, Keith McPherson, Sue Peters, Tanja Conway-Grim, Jenny Daniels, Libby Looseley

Apologies: John Schultz

Items:

1. Welcome

Steve welcomed the group and checked that everyone was coping with the Covid lockdown.

2. Apologies

Steve gave the apologies.

3. HAIRE

Jenny gave an overview of the HAIRE project 'Healthy Ageing through Innovation in Rural Europe'. It is run by Exeter University and funded by Interreg 2 Seas. They have selected Robertsbridge and Rye as the two areas to review. The aim is to identify ways to reduce isolation and loneliness and improve wellbeing in the 60+ age group.

Jen Wells from Rother Voluntary Action is coordinating the project. She is looking for (1) volunteer 'enablers' to conduct 'guided conversations' and (2) residents to talk to. The enablers will receive training.

Martine volunteered to be involved. ACTION: Jenny to put Martine in touch with Jen Wells. Alison, Sally & Sue also expressed an interest.

4. Walking Group

Steve shared that the walk coordinator, Lorna, has been furloughed. All agreed we need to postpone the project until post-Covid.

5. Flu Clinic

Steve has been working with Dr Sewell & Libby to plan Covid safe flu clinics. The proposal is to use Robertsbridge Village Hall and Battle Health Centre. He has completed the World Health Organisation's Covid module for designing Covid hot environments and has used the learning from this to ensure a safe flu clinic.

Steve circulated a copy of his plan for Robertsbridge Village Hall and ran through his proposal for queuing, stepping just inside the door for the vaccine and exiting the way they came. All agreed this looked the safest option.

Steve said we need 20 volunteers and has approached Helping Hands to help too. He will divide the volunteers into 2 hour shifts. ACTION: Steve to email to seek volunteers.

Steve is currently coming up with a plan for Battle. Sue suggested contacting the Muffins for Battle volunteers.

6. AOB

Online consultations – Sue asked if consideration had been given to the difficulties of long distance relationships with online consultations. Libby advised that telephone appointments are also available and patients can choose which they prefer. GPs are inviting patients in for face to face appointments where they feel they need to see someone or do an examination.

Email address – Libby confirmed that the email address is on the website.

Autism – Tanja suggested running training sessions for people with autism to support them in using online consultations. Steve recommended linking this to the 'Digital First' project being run by the CCG to upskill patients with IT skills.

Private blood tests – Martine asked Libby to look into whether the surgery could offer private blood tests. The consultant provides the blood bottles & envelope for postage.