

## SRF GENERAL MEETING 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

Present: D. Maddison      L. Griffiths      G. Martin      A. Wright  
O. Braithwaite      M. Cassap      J. Allen      J. Falade  
B. Taylor      G. Brewis      K. Dagg      M. Webster  
B. Turner      D. Burton      A. Caddick (council)

Apologies: O. Dodds      B. Eastick      T. Kinnair      E. Hunter  
P. Colborn

The meeting was held at Gilley Law Community Centre.

1. Doris introduced Alan Caddick from Adult Services as our guest speaker. Alan has now got responsibility for housing support and community living and is the armed forces liaison officer with the council. He explained that because of the financial restrictions the council is working under, many staff have taken on more roles within the council offices. Local level teams have been set up to give a more joined up approach to issues. 'Vanguard' has been set up to work with health services, they work with health officials to prevent larger issues and surges of illness, such as winter illnesses, to try and prevent admissions.

Members then asked several questions, or commented on his talk.

- Members felt that Vanguard needed to be publicised better.
- Some elderly refuse help from any services, if this is the case then Alan will take up the issue if he is contacted.
- The rough sleepers count, Alan liaises with local churches and parks annually. In 2015 we had 4 people roofless (true homeless). The outreach service can be notified by the council if members of the public report it. Last year the council paid £30k for B&B places, 7 years ago the bill was £300k. Claims for Housing Benefit covers most costs.
- Next year the housing benefit stops for under 25's, the government will exempt supported housing, and youth homeless. The council are expecting to see a sharp rise in homelessness. If a person comes out of care or fostering their housing benefit will be protected until their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.
- The council gets £3 million from government to cover these services, after this financial year they will receive nothing. The

council will be doing a 'Housing First' approach, a key worker will be provided to assess them, find personal accommodation and work with them to find solutions to their problems, rather than put them into institutions.

- It was generally agreed that the council expect the neighbours to be carers for those in their area. One small area has had 3 tenants removed for drug related issues after months of problems with the tenants. Older people are afraid of them and end up isolated in their own homes and it takes months for the problematic tenant to be removed.
- Alan will send a directory of help for Kash to send out to members.

Doris thanked Alan for coming to the meeting and hoped he would visit us again in the future.

2. Last general meeting minutes agreed.
3. Discussed the council replies to our questions from September. The general feeling was that our questions were not actually replied to, and that we should send a response to the Leader of the Council.
4. The committee minutes were agreed.
  - PACT meetings need more publicity with times, dates and venues. To ask a police officer to attend our meetings regularly, although this may not be viable.
  - Agreed to pay £100 to D'Arcy Court RA for our use of their communal room. We pay St. Mary Magdalene Church for room hire for every meeting held there.
  - David is now secretary and Alan chair, of Gilley Law Community Centre.
  - Gerard to lay our Remembrance Day wreath.
  - Members were reminded that personal remarks made at meetings will not be tolerated.
5. Next committee meeting – D'Arcy Court 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Next general meeting St Mary Magdalene Church Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> January