



Hampshire Children and Families Forum
c/o Bushy Leaze Early Years Centre, Eastbrooke Road, Alton, GU34 2DR
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MINUTES FOR HCFF ALTON BRANCH MEETING
HELD AT THE ALTON MALTINGS
ON 5TH OCTOBER 2005

Present: Kim Francis-HCFF,, Maria Elliott – Leisure Learning Activities Co-rod, Jennie Marlow – Chatterbox Toddler Group, Karen Lloyd – Parent, Pam Bradford – Alton Town Council, Christine Lehegarat- Homestart Weywater, Caroline Trimmer-Education Department, Anita Jackson-Area SENCO, Verity Tucker-Brown-Portage, Karen Mabbott-PLA, Dawn Murphy-PLA

Apologies: Ella Palmer- Head Wootey Infants

Kim opened the meeting by welcoming everybody and thanked them for coming. Kim then invited members to read the minutes of the last meeting and to inform her if there was anything that needed attention.

Co-ordinators Report: Kim went through the report and updated members on any projects she has been involved in. The East Hants Community Partnership Conference and The Children and Young Peoples Plan Conference was highlighted and discussed with the members and main points were talked about.

Kim then went on to update the members on the constitution of HCFF and informed members that the age was to be increased to 19 as agreed at the Extraordinary General Meeting, but as yet further funding was to be sought before extra hours or another co-ordinator were to be put in place. However, Kim did inform members that if someone needed advice or help then she would do her utmost to help.

Consultation

Kim ran through the consultation that had been undertaken since the previous Branch Meeting and that the subject had been Accessibility of Leisure Facilities for Children with Additional Needs and their brothers and sisters. She also explained that the report from the Childcare for 10-13 Year olds were available for members to read and also the report was available on the website.

Kim then went on to explain about the next consultation subject was Viability of Parent and Toddler groups for both parents and those running the groups.

Speaker-Christine Lehegarat

Christine informed member that the scheme was now fully operational and that the launch in September had been a great success. She formally thanked Kim for all her help and support in the run up to the launch and also her support in organising the raffle.

Christine then gave members a run down on how the scheme works and to those it is aimed to help and support.

Members were told that the Homestart Weywater scheme had 8 volunteers working in the community and had 8 volunteers on the existing training scheme and 5 volunteers on the books waiting for the next training course.

Karen Lloyd asked about volunteering and asked for some details.

Newsletter

Kim informed members that 2,500 newsletters were distributed around the Alton area each term. Please can you let Kim have any articles before the 13th October for the next Newsletter.

Local Issues

Maria Elliot –Maria informed members that the Summer Club in August had been a great success. Maria informed members that she would be applying for funding to run a one-day play scheme in each half term and one week in the summer holidays. Funding has been granted from Global Grants to offer free places on Adult Leisure Learning courses. Proof of low incomes and those who have mental health issues are eligible. Any courses in the brochure can be booked and there are up to 25 free spaces per term *Maria Elliot-mail address: acaaded@btconnect.com*

Pam Bradford updated members on the Skate Park and informed members that an official opening had taken place. Pam stated that it was as well planned due to the change in mayor taking place. Graffiti has been painted over the wall and Pam informed members that someone had been caught by security sparing the ramp with graffiti. Pam Said that she would obtain feedback from those using the skate park to find out what they think.

Verity Tucker-Brown informed members that there was a monthly support group 'Portage Pals' at the Chase Centre in Bordon and that there were to be Makaton language courses organised.

Dawn Murphy informed members that the Fun Day held in Alton in August was well attended and fun was had by all. Another Fun Day is planned for 2006 and is funded by the PLA. All attractions such as bouncy castles and slides were free. Stalls included Healthy Eating. All the local pre-schools attended.

Karen Lloyd stated that things were fairly quiet at present and no meetings were being held until after half term due to Bushy Leaze being refurbished.

AGM

Kim informed members of the upcoming AGM. She invited members to inform Beaconsfield House if they wished to attend ASAP. Pam Bradford kindly offered to vote on behalf of Alton, as she will be attending.

Any Other Business

Kim informed members that she was still in the process of gathering information and a committee for Happy Families, but also the possibility of running Confident Parents, Confident Kids courses as there is a need for these. Kim said that Ella Palmer was interested in having the courses run at Wootey Infants. Kim will pursue this and keep members informed of her progress.

Kim also informed member that she is still looking for a chair for the Alton Branch. Again if you know of anyone who may be interested, inform Kim.

Finally, Kim informed members that she would be taking on the Bordon and Liphook Branch of HCFF as the coordinator is leaving. Kim assured members that this will not affect her work for the Alton branch, but will enhance it!

Date: Wednesday 11th January 2006
Time: 11.30am – 1.00pm
Place: Alton Fire Station

Early Years Development

& Childcare Partnership

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