



Dodington Parish Council

Appendix 1 to Minutes of Full Council – September 2017

Report from Janet Biggins regarding Shopmobility

Chairman – Cllr Dave Lane introduced Janet Biggins and thanked her for taking time to come along to speak to Dodington Parish Council.

Janet explained that she is a parish councillor (at Downend and Bromley Heath) and also a South Glos Councillor and is the Chairman of Shopmobility.

Shopmobility has been established for 11 years now (started in 2016) and has just under 1400 members.

They are housed in an annex building next to Yate Library, and are open 4 days a week currently. They have 17 mobility scooters, 1 electric wheelchair and 17 wheelchairs.

They have a paid project manager – Sheridan Crew, and the rest of people are volunteers. One of their longterm volunteers received the Chairs Community Award last year.

The majority of use is Daily Hire (£5 / day) – although they do have people that hire longer term (going up from £10 - £12 / week).

People who hire on a longer term basis do so as a temporary thing – following an operation / illness / fall or to see if they get on with scooter before purchasing one themselves, while theirs is being repaired or if they have someone visiting that is less able.

70% of users come from Yate or Sodbury – with approx. 40 being Dodington residents during the last 12 months – in fact Cllr Gloria Stephen has used the service over the past year.

Users of the service speak very highly of it – saying they would be lost without it. It enables a 92year old to keep her independence and do her own shopping on a weekly basis.

As Cllr Dave Lane is aware – the group are concerned about their future due to forthcoming changes in their funding stream. An SLA that they have had in place with South Glos Council is going to be coming to an end – and they need to try and make up the shortfall through other grants. Hence coming and speaking to town and parish councils to highlight the issue.

The only comparable service is at Cribbs Causeway, so this facility really does benefit Yate Shopping Centre.

Janet went on to say that their AGM is scheduled for 5th October 2017 – at 3pm in Yate Library, and she hopes that someone from Dodington will attend. If people want to find out more – please visit Sheridan during opening hours.

The Chairmain opened up the floor to questions.....

Q1....What have the group done so far in looking for grants, etc. to help when SLA comes to an end?

A1 Looking at the new 3 year grant that South Glos Council has launched and are hoping to get some funding through that stream – maybe by joining forces with other charities, etc.

Q2 Do they get a reduced rent from the Library?

A2 Sadly – no they don't.

Q1 What is the amount from the SLA that they will be loosing?

A3 Janet wasn't able to answer this.

Janet was thanked for her time and invited to stay for meeting if she so desired.....

Chairman said that matter of funding for Shopmobility would be on a future committee agenda – when looking at setting budgets for next financial year.....and that members would possibly seek more information from Shopmobility then.