

Present:

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| Amanda Ryan | BPHA (chair) |
| Martin Trinder | CVS Beds (minutes) |
| Sylvia MacDowell | Money Advice at St Andrews |
| Melanie Gomez | Hightown Housing Association |
| Anne Perera | Hightown Housing Association |
| Len Simkins | Autism Bedfordshire |
| Elliott Stephenson | Grand Union Housing Group |
| Chiara Mac Call | Queens Park Community Organisation |
| Beccy Campbell-Grieve | Project 229 |
| Mags Brady | PBIC |
| Nigel Rees | PBIC |
| Jenny Harris | Carers in Bedfordshire |
| Clare Anderson | Sight Concern Bedfordshire |

Apologies:

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| Trevor Moisey | Three Rivers Church, Bedford |
| Rawshana Noor | Disability Resource Centre Beds |
| Kim Daisley | Citizens Advice Bedford |
| Caroline Cook | Mind BLMK |
| Chera Gilbert | Disability Resource Centre Beds |
| Emma Branch | Counselling Foundation |
| Noor D'Agostino | Catalyst Housing Group |
| Brian Cunningham | BRASS |
| Maureen Sheridan | Sight Concern Bedfordshire |
| Paulette Rennie | Bedford Community Support Group |
| Wendy Jephcote | Autism Bedfordshire |
| Georgia Bowers | Bedford Libraries |

2. Minutes of last Forum meeting (24th February 2022) and matters arising

The minutes of the last Forum meeting were agreed. There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

3. Information Exchange

- BPHA has funding to assist some BPHA residents with rent arrears. Please contact Amanda if you have any clients that might be eligible.
- Sight Concern continues to provide advice services. A 'summer of fun' involving various activities is being planned for blind and partially sighted services.
- Carers in Bedfordshire will have all hospital base services reopen by the 11th July.
- Project 229 have converted the community café space into a co-worker space, which can be used for a very attractive fee. Contact Becky for more information.

- Grand Union Housing Group have a Financial Wellbeing team helping customers with welfare benefits and debt advice. More details at https://www.guhg.co.uk/helpadvice/benefit_and_money_advice-services/
- Queens Park Community Organisation has obtained charity status.
- Hightown Housing Association provided an overview of their services.
- Autism Bedfordshire has appointed a replacement for Len, who is stepping down over the summer. Wendy Jephcote continues to offer benefits advice.

4. Mutual Assistance

All members were reminded that if they have any requests or offers, they should be free to share them with other members at any time, including at BAF meetings.

5. Update on BAF's activities, including future BAF training

A written update will be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.

6. Any other business

None

Dates of next meeting

- Thursday 3rd November 2022 - 10am - online
- Thursday 23rd February 2023 - 10am - online