

Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum

Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday, , 2003

Rupert Street Information Centre

Action

1. Attendees

Derek Rogers,
Jenny Ward,
John Wood,
Nigel Tooke,
Rebecca Ballard
Wyndham Clampett

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Maria, Jane, Lois.

3. Notes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, May 13th, 2003, were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

a. Social Events

Derek and Nigel have yet to arrange the outing to Cliveden, but will do so in the next few weeks.

Derek
Nigel

5. Chair's Report

a. October Conference:

i. Funding

No further funding has come in since our last meeting, but Age Concern's fundraiser has now made a number of applications, including one to Age Concern England, and we are very hopeful of better news soon. We were approximately £1,250 short of total needed at the moment.

ii. Speakers/Workshop Facilitators

We now have a confirmed third speaker – Elizabeth Price (co-author of “Out of the Shadows”). Jenny is waiting to hear from Amanda Barrie or her agent. Cindy Creasy at Reading Borough Council has agreed to facilitate the Housing Workshop. Pat has tracked down the solicitor she spoke of.

We decided to run five workshops because of the space that we have booked. Should additional funding become available for more rooms we could contemplate six.

At the previous week’s meeting with Age Concern Berkshire some proposals had been made regarding the conference. The most important one was that BOLGaF should front someone to introduce the conference and perhaps also have a speaker to talk about BOLGAF. This would be an opportunity to “get us on the map”. **Margaret** and **Wyndahm** agreed to do a double act on what BOLGaF’s about, after the Chair’s (Penny Henrion) introduction.

**Wyndham
Margaret**

iii. Invitations/Publicity

Lois has compiled a database for contacts (currently over 150) for the flyer to be sent out to, and Wyndham has been working on the flyer to smarten it up. We have West Berkshire well covered. Gill Flannagan has put together names for Wokingham. **Liz** may get further contacts for Windsor and Maidenhead, and Bracknell.

Liz

Wyndham to do preliminary emailing from Age Concern. Jenny was to meet with Lois the following evening and they would decide how best to do the “snail” mailing. **Jenny** will do separate mailing to groups outside of Berkshire. Any names of people to add to the mailings should be sent to Wyndham.

**Forum
Members**

Jenny

Replies are to be returned to Age Concern Berkshire, who will collate them.

It is important that our “constituents” – older lesbians and gay men – are well represented. It would be great to have at least twenty such participants.

Another aspect we discussed was which organisations to ask to put up displays in the conference room and corridor. We agreed that Age Concern; BOLGaF; Thames Valley Police; Reading BC (including the Carers Champion); Alzheimer’s Society; Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) of Reading and Slough; Princess Royal Carers Trust and Stonewall should have space for small displays if they wished. We could share our space with beYOU if they so wished.

Liz agreed to make enquiries about the production of publicity materials, including display boards and materials for conference delegates (to include biographies of speakers, agendas, maps and joining instructions). She would also be able to arrange for colour copies of the flier to be printed.

Liz

Jenny will prepare and send out up-to-date contact list of Forum members.

b. Networking Day, Saturday, August 30th

So far we have positive responses from Opening Doors in Gloucester - at least two people maybe more; Brighton Forum – five coming; Opening Doors in Thanet – at least two coming, maybe more. Roger Newman from the Alzheimer’s Society Lesbian and Gay Carers Network (and representing the

Affinity Trust) has also confirmed. We have not yet heard from London Metro or Polari and Stephen Saunders from Age Concern England is unable to attend due to a prior engagement (but wants to be kept in touch).

Margaret and **Rebecca** have been working with **Sally** Middleton from Gloucestershire Opening Doors Project to produce an agenda for the day. RISC is booked and the agenda and location details will be sent out by the end of July, by Sally. (**Jenny** will send Sally the location details and contact addresses).

Margaret
Rebecca
Sally

Jenny

Derek agreed to arrange the buffet lunch from Panino's once he receives confirmation of numbers and dietary requirements.

Derek

6. Main Business

a. Constitution

There was some discussion as to whether we needed a simple statement of our aims and objectives or a full blown constitution. A simple document had the advantage of not tying us down at this stage in the Forum's development. However, it did not describe the "powers" that we were investing in the Forum and in the Steering Group which may not be as acceptable to potential funders.

A more detailed constitution would need to contain details of who the members of the Forum could be; procedures to elect the steering group from out of those members; quorums, meetings and AGMs etc.

We agreed that it would be better in the long term to have a full Constitution which we could use should we wish to register as a charity. **Wyndham** and **Derek** will work on a version along the lines of the Charity Commission documentation. They would circulate various versions of the document for comment, when appropriate.

Wyndham
Derek

b. Events

We agreed that there was a need to recruit more people who can arrange such events among other things. **Maria** agreed to send a message to the yahoo groups to start the ball rolling. We agreed that it would be good to have a full "forum" meeting planned for after the conference, in addition to steering group meetings.

Maria

7. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting would be on 8th July at Rupert Street for continuation of Way Ahead discussions. The next **steering group** meeting is to be held on **Wednesday, 30th July, 2003**, at Rupert Street Information Centre. The meeting will start at 8.00pm.

Further meetings are scheduled for:

- Saturday, 30th August - networking day.
- Tuesday, September 2nd - Steering Group
- Tuesday, October 21st – Steering Group
- Wednesday, October 29th - Conference with Age Concern Berkshire