

Community Base participant group meeting 28th June 2007

The meeting was attended by Colin and Annette (Community Base), Katy (Community and Voluntary Sector Forum), Zoe (aMaze), Michelle (Gender Trust), Vic (Carers Centre), Melanie (TB Alert) and Paul (Working Together Project)

1 Tenth birthday party

Colin said there would be a tenth birthday for Community Base on 17th July with cake, pop and films and asked for any suggestions. People generally felt a late afternoon party would be better than an evening one and there were some suggestions about where to get good cakes.

2 Phone mast on roof

Colin said Community Base had been approached by a company wanting a lease to put a phone mast on our roof. There was some concern expressed about possible health risks although nobody really knew too much about this.

3 Mice

Annette said there had been a few incidents recently with mice and that while steps had been taken to deal with the problem it was impossible to stop mice getting into an office building altogether. It was agreed that it was important not to leave food out in unsealed containers.

4 Car park entrance

There was a discussion about people urinating in the car park entrance. Annette said that the area was washed down two or three times a week but it was impossible to prevent people urinating there especially given the lack of public toilets in the area or at the station.

5 Volunteer search

Vic asked whether there had been any communication with Brighton and Hove Volunteer Centre (BHVC) about Community Base's database of volunteer opportunities, Brighton and Hove volunteer search. Colin said he had written to BHVC some months ago asking for a meeting to discuss the matter but had not had a reply. Colin reported that volunteer search had been set up following numerous requests from potential volunteers coming into our reception who did not find that BHVC's service, which is in Hove and open 12 hours a week, met their needs. Volunteer search offers direct access to information about volunteer opportunities 40 hours a week in Brighton and directly online and is meant to compliment other services rather than compete with them - everyone accessing volunteer search in our reception or online is told about BHVC and other services for volunteers. Melanie said she thought volunteer search was a good idea as TB Alert had not been able to get volunteers through BHVC. Paul thought the service duplicated the service provided by BHVC and could create problems in reception. Colin said volunteer search would be promoted a lot once it was properly up and running.

6 Parking

Colin asked for people's views about how we allow the car park to be used flexibly while ensuring that groups that park in the car park pay to do so. There was some amazement that anyone who did not pay could use the car park at all, and various suggestions including putting meters in so cars could pay by the hour to park; clamping cars that did not have permission to be there; putting a bay aside for motorcycles; asking anyone loading, but not paying for parking, in the car park to tell reception when they were doing it; and preventing access cards from getting anyone into the car park who does not pay for parking. Colin said he would ask the next board meeting to make a decision about the matter.