

Seaford Community Network: ‘Volunteering...Making it happen!’ (Follow up & feedback)

Wednesday 16th January, St. James’ Trust

We very much hope you that those of you who came along enjoyed the Network meeting. Please find attached the slide presentation from the event.

Evaluation summary

- 25 participants attended, representing approximately a third of those people on the Seaford Community Network mailing list. Of those you who attended, almost a third did so in a voluntary capacity and half of the participants present were attending a Seaford Network meeting for the first time.
- Of the 17 respondents completing evaluation forms, a summary of the main outcomes indicate that:
 - The highest benefit to participants appears to have been an increase in knowledge of (other) groups active in Seaford and networking with other participants. Comments included: “Wow! - appreciating how much is going on in Seaford. Various aspects. Very helpful.”
 - There was also an indication among participants completing the evaluation process, that the main outcome because of attending the meeting will be following up with contacts made.

Main outcomes

The main theme of this Network meeting was to discuss ‘Volunteering in Seaford’ and specifically exploring potential ways of increasing local levels of volunteer recruitment. Following the introduction of this theme at the October 2018 Network meeting, this theme was approached by considering four potential areas for discussion:

- Holding a local volunteer recruitment fair.
- Learning about other local 'brokerage' models and establishing a volunteer 'hub' in Seaford.
- Providing training on – creating/transforming volunteer opportunities for groups in Seaford.
- Mapping existing volunteer opportunities in Seaford.

During the meeting a mini-training workshop was delivered on promoting volunteer opportunities and participants were invited to identify the key offers made to potential volunteers by their organisations and the main needs required of volunteers by their group. Participants then explored how best to convey these 'offers/needs' within their volunteer recruitment materials and to present their ideas to other participants.

This was followed by an open discussion about how best to approach generating greater awareness of and interest in volunteering opportunities in Seaford and participants felt that the focus should be placed upon several issues including:

- Increased use of East Sussex Community Information Service (ESCIS)
- Promoting volunteer opportunities via; Job Centres, Seaford Noticeboard, Seahaven FM, Seaford Scene – Paper/magazine
- Could we set up a Seaford Facebook page?
- Targeting younger people
- Next Door
- Putting together a toolkit, starting up a hub – working group to do this?
- Link to befriending group

We are keen to follow up with these proposed initiatives and we are proposing to explore if there is sufficient interest to set up a working group to take forward some of these issues as on-going project work. If you feel that you might be interested in being part of that, please email lee.shepherd@3va.org.uk by **Thursday 28th February** and we will organise separate meeting in Seaford to see how some of these ideas could be taken forward.

Next meeting

Wednesday March 27th 2019 at Seaford Baptist Church, to book your place please visit: <https://www.3va.org.uk/events/seaford-community-network-5>

We hope to see you there. If you have any questions about the Seaford Community Network and/or the next meeting please feel free to contact us.

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