

Speak Up Be Heard



Date : Wednesday 9th March 2022

Venue : Zoom

Present:	Apologies:
J TAAA - Co-Chair V TAAA L1 TAAA R TAAA K TAAA D1 Eastham - Co-Chair T Royden Park P Highcroft L2 Dale Farm M Pensby Wood J Cambridge Road C1 Cambridge Road M Cambridge Road C2 Cambridge Road M Cambridge Road S Heswall S Heswall J Oakenholt D2 WEL S WEL (Host)	Lorraine Moran WEL

1) Introductions and Apologies

D1 welcomed everyone and apologies were noted.



2) Minutes from last meeting and matters arising

L1 read out the previous minutes on screen share and all agreed they were right - proposed by K and seconded by L2.

3) Feedback from the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee meeting on 3rd March

V explained that day services will be going back into the council.

This means that all Wirral Evolutions branding will be replaced by Wirral Council branding instead.

WE have a 6 month contract from 1st April which ends in September.

V added the link to the council's report in the Zoom chat to be included in these minutes :

<https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=908&MId=8999&Ver=4>

L2 asked why this is all happening.

S screen shared the easy read letter sent to everyone on Monday. L2 read it out to the group and M confirmed she had seen it.

K explained that Wirral Evolutions is a company wholly owned and paid for by the council. The council now plan to save money by running the service themselves.

C2 asked if Cambridge Road centre will still get a minibus and C1 asked how people in wheelchairs are meant to get out with no bus?

J advised this is now a council decision, not up to Wirral Evolutions.

M suggested they could get a temporary bus, maybe hire one?

D said they are right, but the decision has only just been made. WE will be asking a lot of questions in the next few weeks and as the manager of Cambridge Road, she will make sure this is followed up.



There was a discussion around all centres staying open as normal. J said that they would for now, but we don't yet know what the future holds.

K advised that with budget cuts this year and again next year, savings will have to be found from somewhere.

D confirmed that after all the surveys and videos that everyone made, the people brought in said the quality of service is excellent - it is just about management, finances and money.

K suggested TAAA could take over running the day centre user forums if need be. J was concerned that Speak Up Be Heard may be cancelled when the council take over.

K reassured everyone it is not for the council to disband the group - they can only choose to do that for themselves. All agreed.

4) Feedback from interview panel and what else can we get involved in?

D advised this is now cancelled because of the council decision, so there won't be any more new staff in Corporate Services.

L2 said she was disappointed and was really looking forward to it.

J1 praised everyone involved and said the group just need to speak up and tell the council they want to be involved going forward.

D agreed that no-one has wasted what they've learned - they are good skills to use in the future.

5) Face to face meetings

D confirmed we are still planning for this to happen as Covid numbers and weather are slowly getting better.

J hoped it would be before Wirral Evolutions handed over to the council. Paul stated if not, it will be afterwards.

With recent breakouts of Covid in a couple of centres resulting in temporary closures, it is still likely to be outdoors - we have 2 large gazebos we can use.



Open



V said that whether we meet indoors or out, we can always take tests to show that we are negative before.

T asked if it might be in May or June. P reminded everyone that Lorraine had suggested June.

(To review again next month).

6) Anything else

J1 asked following the Committee decision, did the group want Graham Hodgkinson to come back to speak to them, or would they have him back if he asked?

Everyone agreed that if he did come back, it would have to be on the group's terms this time.

7) Date of next meeting

Wednesday 6th April 2022 at 10.30am.

