

GIVING A VOICE TO YOUR EXPERIENCE

Voice
of
Experience
Forum



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VOICE OF EXPERIENCE FORUM NEWSLETTER

WE HOPE YOU ARE SAFE & WELL



Welcome to this, the fourth and final, edition of 2020 of the Voice of Experience Forum newsletter. We hope that you all continue to be safe and well during this time of uncertainty.

Staff continue to work from home but can still be contacted during working hours on the details provided in the blue panel on the left hand side of this page.

Our AGM which normally takes place in August each year was rescheduled in the hope that a face to face event could take place. Unfortunately due to the continuing concerns over the spread of the virus, we had to move the meeting online. Please read our message on page 2 regarding our 'virtual' AGM.

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

We continue to develop our own community response to the pandemic. The Trustees of Voice of Experience Forum have undergone Zoom training to enable the Forum to carry out its functions as normal and meet its stated aims and goals.

With the restrictions continuing for the foreseeable future, VoEF plan to deliver future information sessions and consultations by digital means. We are aware that not all of our members are in a position to access these. As a result, members will have received a letter asking them to provide their current digital status within their postal AGM invitation. We would ask you to complete this by ticking the box most relevant to you and return to Voice of Experience Forum.

If you would like more information on what help is available in your area contact us on **01236 439550** or email us at either **info@voef.org.uk** or **denis@voef.org.uk** and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

VOICE OF EXPERIENCE FORUM — IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



ONLINE 'VIRTUAL' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to the current Covid-19 outbreak, we took the difficult decision to conduct Voice of Experience Forum's AGM as a virtual meeting. This year's Annual General Meeting took place on [Tuesday 3rd November](#) via the Zoom platform.

Sandra Maguire, New College Lanarkshire, provided attendees with a very informative talk on Digital Inclusion. This was followed by the normal AGM business which included presentations from our Chairperson, Maria Donovan, Carris Marshall (Treasurer), Denis O'Keefe (Development Worker) and Thomas Moan (Partnership for Change).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Guest Speaker, Funders and Attendees for taking part in the event and hope to see you all, face to face, at next year's AGM.



LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY SURVEY

North Lanarkshire Council are developing a new Local Housing Strategy covering the period from 2021—2026 and would like to hear your views on what is important to you and what you feel should be taken into consideration when planning this strategy for local housing. They are asking for your views via a short survey which takes only 5 minutes to complete.

This is your opportunity to voice your opinions and local knowledge to influence decisions which could affect you and your local community. Among some of the areas open for discussion are older people's and specialist provision housing. The direct link to the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LHSEarlyEngagement>



COMMUNITY HIGH TEA

In partnership with other local organisations forming the Airdrie and Villages Community response to COVID, Voice of Experience Forum delivered a Community High Tea in the grounds of the Islamic Centre in Airdrie in August.

This was a social distanced, pilot event and was attended by 10 individuals from the local area. The numbers were limited deliberately as the health of those attending was paramount. The event was a great success and a survey was taken by VANL to gain the opinions of those who attended.

This proved to be an excellent opportunity to meet some of our members as Voice of Experience Forum provided 7 of the 10 attendees on the day. In addition to engaging with other community partners to co-produce the event, the day provided a further opportunity for inter-faith partnership working as the local Islamic Centre provided a space for the event and marquees. A huge thank you to Big Bite Caterers who provided the food on the day.



MONKLANDS REPLACEMENT PROJECT SITE SELECTION PROCESS UPDATE

NHS Lanarkshire has undertaken a process to assess three short-listed sites for the replacement of University Hospital Monklands. The final option appraisal scores are:



Site	Gartcosh	Glenmavis	Wester Moffat
Score	194.12	156.84	195.74

There are three factors which impact upon these final scores:

1. Non-financial scoring undertaken by public and staff (postal scoring)
2. Combined economic appraisal (financial and non-financial scoring)
3. Risk Appraisal The first factor is the combined non-financial scoring undertaken by public and staff. The second factor is the combined economic appraisal (non-financial and financial scoring) which reflects the cost of building at each site and the cost of additional emergency department attendances at Gartcosh and Glenmavis due to cross-boundary flow. The third factor is the risk appraisal which further considers contamination, cross-boundary flow and transport infrastructure. A final decision on site selection will be made by the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport following a recommendation from NHS Lanarkshire's Board. The Board will take into account the scores and a range of other information as part of its decision making process.

Non-Financial

Postal Process to determine non-financial benefit scores.

The outcome of the weighting part of the exercise is:

Criterion 1: travel times (public) 31.10% *Criterion 2*: travel times (staff) 22.96%

Criterion 3: access/connectivity 19.27% *Criterion 4*: contamination 14.47%

Criterion 5: crossboundary flow impact 12.20%

The outcome of the postal scoring part of the exercise is: Weighted by participant, weighted by criterion

	Gartcosh	Glenmavis	Wester Moffat
	5319.07	4295.15	4808.18

Combined Economic Appraisal

This appraisal aligns the scores from the weighting and scoring exercise (postal scoring) against the cost of each option to determine a cost per benefit point.

Economic Appraisal	Gartcosh	Glenmavis	Wester Moffat
Net Present Cost (000's)	£542,800	£521,000	£512,500
Points scored	5,319.07	4,295.15	4,808.18

NPC Cost per benefit point (000's) £102,047.91 £121,322.89 £106,589.19

Score	100	84.11	95.74
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Risk Appraisal

Each location was assessed on a combination of the following risk factors; Contamination, Cross-Boundary Flow and Road Infrastructure. The results were; Gartcosh 17, Glenmavis 22 and Wester Moffat 16. A score relative to 100 was then determined and was awarded as follows;

Gartcosh	94.12	Glenmavis	72.73	Wester Moffat	100
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Combining these scores gives the overall score.

MONKLANDS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - VIEW FROM OUR CHAIR

VoEF Membership

FREE Membership of Voice of Experience Forum is open to anyone over the age of 60 and organisations representing older people in North Lanarkshire.

Benefits of becoming a member include:

- Regular Newsletters
- Invitations to events
- Involvement in consultations
- Your views & opinions being heard by other agencies
- Influence in the planning of service provision for older people

VoEF also deliver presentations throughout North Lanarkshire.

If you run a group or attend a group for individuals over the age of 60 and would like to book VoEF for a presentation, please get in touch with Denis O'Keefe using the details on page 1.

Remember, Membership is **FREE!**



The Voice of Experience Forum Board felt that it was important to reiterate the effects of moving the hospital further away from its current location between the towns of Airdrie and Coatbridge.

As a result our Chairperson, Maria Donovan MBE JP, has submitted the following statement to give the MRP team an indication of the impact of relocating the new facility to the Gartcosh site from the viewpoint of residents of outlying villages. The residents of these small villages already find it more difficult to attend the hospital on its current site and are very concerned that a move further away with limited and more expensive transport options may ultimately cost lives.

Maria says, *"I represent Greengairs, Wattston and surrounding areas. I am very concerned about the implications for ease of access if the chosen location should be Gartcosh, considering the present difficulties with access to Hairmyres and Wishaw by public transport.*

Presently, for those who don't have access to a car as a means of getting to the outlying hospitals detailed above, it is a lengthy process for even a short appointment. Currently we have one bus per hour and the last bus is around 5.30pm out with these times it would be around £10 one way to Airdrie. This isn't suitable for elderly or less mobile residents and I would urge decision makers not to discriminate against those who have no cars and are challenged by health issues and/or financial constraints.

We have an increasing percentage of elderly people facing mobility, general health and financial challenges within the villages, as well as young families living in poverty. A decision that isn't inclusive of all of the public is not a fair decision."

We hope that our comments are taken into consideration in the decision making process to come.



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS!

We would like to say a great big 'Thank You' to The Scottish Communities Fund for awarding us £1,000 to purchase 6 new tablets. This allowed Trustees to work more productively from home during the current pandemic. The tablets will be used to provide information and consultation events in line with our aims.

VoEF would also like to thank NLC Grant Awards Programme for the £1,000 towards the production of our 2021 Calendar which will soon be launched. This will allow us to distribute 2,000 copies throughout all of North Lanarkshire. With the theme of Adult Safety, each of the months will provide a local resource, helping you to navigate the year ahead safely.