



LRSB Minutes Thursday 24th May 2018
The Bell Inn, 7:30pm

Attending: Penny Dare, Daniel Shaharudin (Bude Refugee Support Group), Georgy Bellem; Roger Creagh-Osborne; Joe Thompson; Terry Faull; Bill Glen; Trevor Cook; Elspeth Nicholson; Rebecca Brewer; Keith Roberts; Frances Tippett

Apologies: Janet Rogerson; Ruth Christine; Jain Ritchie; Karen Farrington

Contacts for

BRSG: weststaddon@gmail.com (Penny) dan.r.dane.s@gmail.com (Daniel)

Reports & discussion:

- Penny & Dan (BRSG) described their experience. Their group was in existence for 18 months before they achieved charity status in January 2017. They have a Chair, Trustees, and between 15-20 supporters actively involved. Community sponsored families; independent group. Their aims are similar to those of LRSB: support families; send aid to camps in Greece & France; provide holidays for refugee children (yet to be started)
- Two families settled: June 2017; March 2018
- Interpreters: Exeter University is a good contact. Pay for time and for travel hours. (£10 hour) Be prepared to adjust who works with family. As interpreters have access to all the family's business it can cause tension.
- BRSG allocated £15K to each family (amount estimated to support for two years)
- The family (-ies) will be complex; won't necessarily get on. Respect their views/reactions.
- Vital that women have female GP and female interpreter. Try to access NHS dentist.
- BRSG pays 'top-up' of £115 pw for rent, as housing benefit is capped.
- Open a bank account with the family; help with establishing a budget.
- Funding: through regular donations (FB page) = £350 pm

- Local groups support; e.g. % of sales at events; teas/coffees at events.
- Some larger donations from benefactors.
- Structure: Lead co-ordinator; befrienders - responsible for different aspects (e.g. health appointments; benefits & job centre; social; activities with the family; baby-sitting) Lead co-ordinator draws up a weekly schedule.
- Have a structure for all involved. Don't write up every meeting; coordinators to log concerns (mostly to do with children)
- Trustees have decided to restructure meetings: monthly for those involved with the family only; open general meetings every three months. Protects confidentiality & allows befrienders to share and peer support.
- We need to know what structure we want, and what CC require.
- DBS - through CC; £12; existing DBS are acceptable.
- Policies - published on the BRSG website.
- Cultural differences. Prepare: talk & support. There is a huge spectrum of experience. Attitudes to Moslems and different values from within and without are wide and complex, and need to be discussed and managed.
- Advice: the group can 'have a say' and set criteria for the family to be allocated. This is important.
- Housing: Rebecca, and later Frances, frustrated by response from CC officer visiting the house. Hope pinned on the return of Serena to post; she has greater understanding and empathy. Frances to pursue decisions on housing and on allocation of family.

Business:

Finances: We have £8872.75 in the account.

Sponsored Walk: a great success; many thanks to Georgy for organising. A total of close to £250 has been raised.

Charity status; there has been a delay; responses to specific questions have been sent and we await a further response.

Volunteer database setup & questionnaire: on hold but Roger overseeing this.

Events:

1. 'Human Cargo' is playing Exeter Phoenix on June 12th - highly recommended.
2. **Rebecca's event: "Stories from Refugee Camps in Lebanon"** at Jericho's: Saturday 26th May - please let her know asap if you wish to attend. Georgy to organise a raffle for LRSG.

3. **Benefit Gig Saturday 30th June**

- - 3 music acts: Lionhat; Thomas Ford; The Moment
 - Style this as: Music, Food, Beer from all over the world.
 - Bar: Joe
 - Food; Joe & Frances
 - Posters: Joe & Lee (Lionhat)
 - Publicity: Frances
 - Raffle: Roger
 - Security, Cleaners, Licence, Booking, Tickets: Bill

4. **Garden party @ Frances' house Saturday 21st July: Joe & Frances**

AOB:

- **Launceston Show** publicity: Terry
- **Regular donations:** FB - Bill
- **Refugee Course:** The start date is 25th June and the weblink to be included to sign up is <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/volunteering-with-refugees/3>
- **Collections of donated items:** currently managed by Trevor but these are drying up and Trevor needs to stand down in August having done the coordination for two years. Tremendous thanks to Trevor for his sterling work in getting several loads collected and despatched. We need a volunteer to coordinate the collections and relaunch the service from the summer.

A reminder:

The minimum target per family under the 'hybrid model' we are pursuing is £8-9,000.

Regular givers are needed: our bank details again are:

Bank Account name: Launceston Refugee Support Group

Account number: 24335460

Sort Code: 30-94-91

Date of next meeting: **Thursday 21st June at The Bell**