

**MAGIC Committee Meeting  
Usk Garden Centre on 24 October 2013**

Who came? Sandra Peebles, Helen Leamon, Sara Chicken, Carol Wheeler, Sue Parry, Sue Pugh, Gemma Martin & Mike Logan.  
Apologies from: Simon Quick and Louise Rixon.

**1) Money:** Mike reported that the Coop Bank Account application had been sent off to the Coop Bank.

Sara reported on some fund-raising (and awareness-raising) activities:

- ★ The Waitrose collection for October was going well: Waitrose will need our bank account details in two weeks time.
- ★ Sara's friend has prepared Xmas card packages for us to sell, using some photos collected by group members and supporters. We will need a price for each pack of 8 cards (around £3?). When these packs arrive, Sara will let committee members know and we can sell them.
- ★ Sara has contacted the Abergavenny Pantomime group who can nominate us as one of their charities for bucket collections at their shows in February half term. Gemma and Mike said that they should be able to find some volunteers for these bucket collections.
- ★ Sara has contacted the Abergavenny Masons who can provide funding for local charities
- ★ Sara has made contact with Goodies Womenswear in Abergavenny who run fashion show events at the Angel Hotel, which can raise money for local charities. Sara said that they would be able to hold an event for MAGIC in April.
- ★ Sara has made contact with 'Abergavenny Elvis' who is willing to use one of his twice-yearly charity shows to raise funds for MAGIC.
- ★ Sara has contacted Abergavenny Focus who can include a 250-300 word article on MAGIC in their monthly publication.
- ★ Sara said that she has contacted Tracey Davies from GAVO (Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations) who can link the MAGIC group up with other carers and carers' groups.
- ★ Sara said that she was part of a group looking at funding applications from community projects which are seeking funds from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. Sara said that we could consider make such an application in the future.

The committee thanked Sara for all her hard work on these fund-raising activities, and gave approval for Sara to continue with these activities.

**Charity status:** The committee agreed that it would be desirable for the group to have charitable status for fund-raising purposes. Mike said that he would look at the HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) rules for being treated as a charity for tax purposes.

**Joining GAVO:** The committee agreed that the MAGIC group should be registered with GAVO in Monmouthshire so that we can find out about local fundraising opportunities.

**2) Agreeing priorities:** These fund-raising activities led us into a discussion about how the group will spend any funds that are raised. We talked about how we have 'gone around in circles' over the past few meetings, and how it has been difficult to agree unanimously on our main priorities.

Mike suggested that we could use a different way of moving forward: if anyone on the committee (or involved with the MAGIC group) has a proposal for a project or campaign that fits with the overall aims of the group, then the committee could approve this proposal which would allow the proposer to take their idea forward. This 'enabling' approach would mean that a variety of projects and campaigns could be running under the 'MAGIC umbrella'. If any funds are raised for one of these specific projects or campaigns, then these funds would be 'earmarked' for that specific project/campaign within the group's bank account. If any funds are raised more generally for the group, then the committee would need to decide how to use these general funds.

**The group agreed to use this way of working.** We also talked about the need to do some more detailed planning on the priority issues of the group (e.g. if we decide to apply for any particular grants). But we accepted that we still aren't at a point where we can clearly define what these priority issues are.

**3) Making contact with other parents groups:** Mike said that Lisa Collins from the Parents for Change group in Newport was interested in having discussions with the MAGIC group, but wasn't able to make it to this meeting. Mike said that he would circulate the dates of the next Parents for Change group meetings, so that members of the MAGIC group could arrange to attend.

**4) Facebook Group:** Mike said that he would set up a Facebook group for the MAGIC group, and that he would invite committee members who are on Facebook onto the group to see how we could use it. Mike said that the 'Pass It On' group in Newcastle used their Facebook group to share information between parents (e.g. on transition-related issues).

**5) Paul's Place in Bristol:** Sue Parry told the group about a group of people in Bristol who have worked together to set up a base for their charity in Bristol ( see <http://www.paulsplace.org.uk/> ). We talked about how having a base would open up more opportunities for the group, but we recognised that this would be a big commitment and would take a long time to achieve. Sue Pugh explained how a local group had worked with Newport council to set up a community base in Caerleon, in the old Post Office.

**6) Bob Rhodes' offer:** Sandra said that she is interested in taking up Bob Rhodes' offer to talk with a group of parents from the MAGIC group. The purpose of the talk is to explore how the group of parents, and how individual families within the group, can find the best ways of achieving positive futures for them and their children. Mike said that he would check on where the funding for this work would come from. Helen, Sara, Sue and Sue also said

they were interested in this discussion. Mike said that he would pass contact details to Bob so that an initial meeting can be set up.

Mike said that Bob had given him a book published by the PLAN group in North America (The Company of Others – see: <http://plan-31.myshopify.com/collections/books/products/the-company-of-others> ). The book is currently with Sara and she will pass it back to Mike who will circulate this.

**7) Parent representation on various groups:** Mike listed 4 groups where parent representation is being sought or considered:

- ★ Monmouthshire Multi-Agency Transition Group
- ★ Monmouthshire Council's Complex Needs Service planning group
- ★ Pan-Gwent Multi-Agency Transition Group
- ★ Bright New Futures steering group

Mike asked the committee if they would be willing to nominate representatives for these groups. **The committee agreed that they would consider invitations to nominate representatives for each of these groups.**

**8) Next meeting:** The Committee agreed to hold their next committee meeting on Thursday 21 November at 7pm at a venue to be arranged in Raglan or Usk. Mike would check this date with committee members who aren't at this meeting, and then identify a suitable venue.

Mike Logan  
27 October 2013

Updates following this meeting:

The Coop Bank explained that our Bank Account application requires another signatory. Sara and Louise are the 2 main signatories. Mike offered to be co-opted onto the committee to act as the 3<sup>rd</sup> signatory to help move this forward. Committee members were consulted by email from 25/10/2013 – 27/10/2013 and a majority of committee members agreed to this course of action.

Mike has set up a facebook group for Magic. This group can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/magic.allability/>  
Committee members who are on Facebook are invited to join the group, and try out some postings.