



Caerphilly County Borough 50+ Forum

2014/15 Annual Report

www.CaerphillyOver50.co.uk

 [Caerphilly Over 50](https://www.facebook.com/CaerphillyOver50)

 [@50plus_Agewell](https://twitter.com/@50plus_Agewell)

I am proud to be writing this annual report in our 10th Anniversary year! This year's AGM marks the end of two-years as Chairman of the Forum. When I was elected Chairman in September 2013, the Forum was not performing as successfully as it had been in previous years for a number of reasons. The task for the new Steering group was to revitalise our Forum and put it back on a sound footing for the future.

We were successful in **expanding our membership** from 200 to 300 over the first year but we then found we were limited in the way we could interact with the members. Traditional methods of contact such as posting information was an effective distribution method but less successful in creating a way for people to interact with us. Mailing can be costly and public meetings attendance was not always very good. We realised that we needed to be able reach a much wider audience and find different ways of connecting with those who are 50+ across the borough. The steering group decided that we would march with the times and make better use of the new fangled digital media methods of communication with **a redesigned website** www.caerphillyover50.co.uk and **a Facebook page** called [Caerphilly Over 50](#).

This project started in October 2014 and the new website was launched at the end of April 2015, together with our Facebook page. We also worked with the Caerphilly 50+ Positive Action Coordinator to link their **Twitter account @50plus_Agewell** account to our website. We felt the new 'title' Caerphilly Over 50 was easier for people to relate to and was also one of the frequently searched terms on Google, which we hoped would help direct people to the information they needed more effectively.



The forum's aim has always been to support those who are 50+ in the borough by providing useful information in as many ways as we are able to. However, the forum should be pertinent to the whole age range of those who are 50+, recognising that within this large age bracket there are residents who

- Have children and grandchildren as well as parents and grandparents who often make calls on their time,
- There are people who are still working and those that are retired
- There are people wanting to remain independent in their own homes and those who are looking to move to more support housing
- As well as those that are active/ inactive/ people with disabilities/ those that are lonely and the list goes on!

My point being that we are trying to build a forum and a website that offers something for everyone which is quite a task! We would welcome suggestions and contributions or offers of help whether you're a member or not! We will continue to develop the website and Facebook pages. We post new things regularly so please revisit both the website and Facebook regularly to keep up to date.

We have successfully managed to recruit a number of new members to the Steering Group, but sadly for a range of reasons some of those members have had to finish. However, those that have remained have brought much needed skills, valuable expertise and energy to the group. This has enabled us to move forward in a number of ways.



In January, we were able to once again hold **public meetings**. The first being a consultation on the Council's proposals for budget cuts. The output from the workshops at this event were warmly welcomed by the Council and resulted in modifications to their plans.



The next public event, held in April, was the **formal launch the new website** by Iwan Williams, from the office of the Commissioner for Older People in Wales. He was impressed by the website and the workshops we combined with this event. The topic of the event was about various aspects of **digital inclusion**, and was supported by [Get Caerphilly Online](#). Obviously, we want to encourage older people to get online now that we have a dedicated website and Facebook and to be able to do so safely. We have subsequently run a second digital inclusion workshop and will run more if there is sufficient demand.



Our **partnership working** continues to thrive and in the last year we have developed positive working relationships with the Caerphilly Youth forum, Get Caerphilly Online, the Welsh Commissioner's office for Older People in Wales, Age Cymru, CCBC trading standards and the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS). We also continue to build on our partnership working with 50+ Positive Action and CCBC Social Services with whom we are working to create **Age friendly & Dementia supportive Communities**.

As part of our Tenth anniversary celebrations we are proud to launch our **'Natter that Matters' Newsletter** which will be going out to 5000 older people across the borough and we hope many more via our website!

And finally: we have our first **'Share a Smile' event to marking UK Older Peoples' day** which we hope will mark the beginning of another year of expanding activities and participation.



YOUR FORUM NEEDS YOU!

Without a strong and energetic membership and Steering Group we are nothing. You are the older people that we are trying to connect with so please join the forum and get in touch. We would value your feedback and ideas for the things that interest you.

You can: -

- Pick up the phone,
- Put pen to paper

Or take your life in your hands

- And email,
- Or facebook
- Tweet

It doesn't matter how you contact us but please do... and let us know what you want so we can continue to support you and others who are 50+ across the borough.

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH 50+ FORUM CONTACT DETAILS:

Phone: 01443 864277

Email: 50plusforum@mail.com

**Letter: C/O 50+ Positive Action
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Penallta House
Tredomen Park
Ystrad Mynach
HENGOED
CF82 7PG**



www.CaerphillyOver50.co.uk



[Caerphilly Over 50](#)



[@50plus_Agewell](#)