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LAMPAG OPEN MEETING
Monday 20 January 2025
12.00 pm to 2.30 pm
Room 16 Lambeth Town Hall

AGE FRIENDLY LAMBETH UPDATE

You are invited to an update of the Age Friendly Lambeth Plan

Facilitator: Cllr Tim Windle

Age Friendly boroughs are about identifying the needs of older and disabled people as they age with the view to ensuring that their needs are met. Age Friendly boroughs are part of a global movement of cities and districts looking historically at issues facing older people and what can be done to enhance their lives in retirement. Lambeth is committed to creating an Age Friendly Borough based on the 8 World Health Organisation (WHO) domains i.e., outdoor spaces and buildings, transport, housing, social participation, aspect and social inclusion, civic participation, community sport and health issues including Communication and information. Creating an Age Friendly Lambeth is closely linked to the delivery of the Lambeth 2030 Borough Plan. We had an opportunity to respond to the Age Friendly Lambeth Plan in May 2024, where we were able to put forward our thoughts on what an Age Friendly Lambeth would mean to us.

The meeting on Monday will present feedback on what has been achieved so far. We are residents of Lambeth. The quality of our lives is determined by the extent to which the local authority takes forward its commitment to create an Age Friendly Borough where we will age well. This is your chance to have your voice heard. For example, it seems to be becoming more challenging to book a room for our meetings, which we need to tackle. It's your Lambeth. It's your life. It's your well-being.

We are asked to use the glass lift to access the meeting room upstairs. As you are aware we depend on funding from subscriptions, donations and raffles. Could you kindly bring in unwanted Christmas presents for the raffle? Every penny counts.

Thank you.

Tea, coffee, biscuits, raffle

Committee Meeting: Monday 27 January 2025 Room 1, Lambeth Town Hall 1pm

LOOKING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to you.

I sincerely hope that you had an enjoyable Festive Season with friends and family wherever you were. The year usually begins with reflections on past events and circumstances followed by pledges and resolutions to make changes and a difference. 2024 was a year of significant events and circumstances.

On a national level there remains a number of issues of interest and concern which affect pensioners across the spectrum. **Pensioner Poverty** is one of our concerns. Over 2 million pensioners live in poverty due to low pensions and lack of savings.

The **high cost of living** has left deep holes in the pockets of poor, vulnerable, and disabled pensioners. While struggling to make ends meet. **Energy prices** are due to rise by 36% leaving many to make the hard choice between heating and eating. Vulnerable older people will succumb to cold-related illnesses, resulting in hospitalisation and even early death. This will put pressure on the NHS which is already under stress.

Housing is an ongoing issue because of the scarcity of affordable, accessible, warm and well-insulated homes in the proximity of essential services. The **NHS** itself is 'on its knees', plagued by gross underfunding, staff shortages, low staff morale, long waits for patients for surgical procedures and stays in corridors awaiting hospital beds. It has been a year with the highest number of call outs of emergency service. The delivery of **social care** in the community remains a big issue exacerbated related problems of the care system itself, i.e. paid and unpaid care system which needs urgent reform. (Ref Dilnot Report). The shocking decision to means test the **Winter Fuel Payment** is the most recent issue which will drive 100,000 older people into Fuel Poverty. Furthermore, the increase in **Water Bills** will be a nasty attack on our finances and especially when water companies are paying out huge bonuses despite polluting our water. Pensioners and disabled people have the right to dignity and financial security.

There is a call for a **Commissioner for Older People**. Older People need representation now to ensure that the economy and society adapt to the demographic shift, thereby enabling more Older People to have the choice to live with dignity. The Commissioner would be the voice of Older People, engage with ministers and be the analyst for Government Policy Makers to take a holistic view of what needs to change.

We have our work cut out. As an action group, we need to strengthen our resolve to achieve dignity, respect and financial security for today's and tomorrow's pensioners.