

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

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You are invited to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 16 MARCH 2020

Room 1-16

Lambeth Town Hall

Brixton Hill, SW2 1RW

12.00pm to 2.30pm

Please make every attempt to attend the AGM. It is important that we elect a full and viable committee to carry out our vital work as a campaign group which we have been able to sustain for the last 40 years. Now more than ever and after the impact of 10 years of Austerity and the uncertainty of Brexit, we need to build a strong action group.

Do come and share your thoughts on our year of empowerment and activism and help us plan a strong and positive way forward

Tea. Coffee. Biscuits. Raffle. Entertainment

Climate Change

There is no doubt that we are facing Climate Change that will have a devastating effect on life, fauna, flora and the economy in the coming years. We've witnessed the Beast from the East, relentless rain and floods and increasingly colder winters. Food prices are already rising as agriculture becomes more precarious and unpredictable.

We were reminded that climate change is real and that today's children and any future generations are facing the worst possible outcomes by Greta Thunberg the 17 year old Swedish campaigner at Bristol's 10th Climate Change strike rally. In her inspirational speech before the crowd of 20,000 marchers set off, she accused the media, the government and officials of ignoring climate change. She urged the school children to be the adults and to be "patient because the solutions were" far from right". She said that nothing was being done to tackle the crisis despite "beautiful words and promises." She announced that she will not be silenced because young people were the engines of change and change was coming whether those in power and influence liked it or not. She praised **activism** and called for engagement with all communities in order to fight climate change. She warned that "**An unequal world can never be a sustainable one**". As a pensioners' action group we need play our part in bringing older people together and in joining younger people to demand that the government takes action to tackle the climate crisis before it is too late.

Home adaptations

We are living longer and as we get older especially in our later years, we are more likely to develop long-term health conditions. It becomes increasingly more difficult to carry out day-to-day activities and to maintain our independence. Many of the debates around housing focus on the need for more affordable housing to get people onto the housing ladder. The issue with regard housing in an ageing population that needs serious attention is Adaptations.

The majority of people in England live in mainstream housing but they often have small room sizes, steep internal stairs, baths instead of showers and steps outside. Very little attractive affordable housing has been built in the right locations to enable people to move to properties that are more accessible. What is needed is the provision of advice and support to access minor adaptations. Minor adaptations prevent falls and injuries, improve the performance of everyday activities and improve mental health.

The budget is looming. We will be looking for an announcement by the Chancellor on the allocation of funding that local authorities will be granted to spend on home adaptations in the financial year. Home adaptations need to be taken as seriously as the attempts to deal with the housing crisis. Health decline and lack of independence should not be an inevitable result of old age.

Committee meeting: Monday 23 March, 11.00am, Town Hall.