



Challenges of Running a Community Group for Older People

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Callendar Park Tenants & Residents Association

Who We Are

- ▶ A very close community group for residents in Callendar Park, Falkirk
- ▶ We run popular activities for residents that include ...
 - ▶ Bingo
 - ▶ Knit & Natter
 - ▶ Afternoon teas
 - ▶ Keep Fit
 - ▶ Art Class
- ▶ We also arrange day trips for members
- ▶ Committee made up of tenants & residents and also co-opted members
- ▶ We try to resolve any issues residents may have, i.e. housing, general maintenance etc.

Why Community Groups Matter

- ▶ Get folk out of their flats
- ▶ Combat loneliness and isolation
- ▶ Welfare checks
- ▶ Sense of purpose
- ▶ Encourage physical activity
- ▶ Create friendships
- ▶ Celebrate events and contributions
- ▶ Older people can left behind by technology and changes to services

Organizational Challenges

- ▶ Venue and accessibility
- ▶ Compliance and safety
- ▶ Keeping a strong management committee
- ▶ Maintaining interest
- ▶ Volunteer burnout and succession planning
- ▶ It's difficult to find new members (especially “younger” people); this in turn causes issues filling office bearer roles

Communication Challenges

- ▶ Keeping everyone informed ...
- ▶ Misinterpretation - information needs to be clear to everyone
- ▶ Information overload, or gaps ...
- ▶ Vision / hearing / memory issues
- ▶ Digital divide - not everyone is comfortable with technology ...
- ▶ Personal security - not everyone is vigilant and can be caught out by scams

Financial Challenges

- ▶ Sources of income
- ▶ Budgeting
- ▶ Grant applications and reporting
- ▶ Book-keeping and accounting
- ▶ Limited expertise amongst office bearers
- ▶ Back up for absence of post-holder
- ▶ Audits

External Pressures

- ▶ Local council changes - reduced support
- ▶ Venue management & maintenance
- ▶ Inflation and cost-of-living
- ▶ Regulatory requirements - Health & Safety, Compliance, Data Protection ...
- ▶ Neighbourhood anti-social behaviours

Adapting to Social and Technological Changes

- ▶ Business and agencies want us to work online ...
- ▶ Innovations are changing how people engage with services
 - ▶ Government
 - ▶ Health/ eHealth
 - ▶ Council
 - ▶ Support services
- ▶ Environment / climate change

The Future - What We Need To Do

- ▶ Keep going ...
- ▶ Build up our committee base
- ▶ Encourage membership
- ▶ Success with grant applications
- ▶ Efficiency and thrift
- ▶ Get / keep the Council onside

Thanks for Listening