

AVB Chairman's report 2018

I'd like to welcome you all to the Ascot Volunteer Bureau 2018 AGM, and particularly to welcome new members. Thank you to all of you who are able to be with us tonight. We are a small organisation so every person who attends is significant.

In June I attended a workshop set up by "WAM Get Involved" on "Financial Responsibilities for Trustees & Treasurers" which has led to the production by our Treasurer of a Finance Policy & Procedures document .

In October I attended a meeting at the Royal Berks Hospital about car parking. They plan to replace the current barrier system in 2018 with a new system based on ANPR. The Facilities Manager faced a challenge as to how free parking would work in this environment. He found there was no data at all on car parking & so had invited all the organisations he knew of who like AVB are eligible for free parking. There were quite a number & each had their own variation on how their system worked. Many were, like us, still paper based. The hospital's strategy is to try & change the way clinics operate. At this time they got everyone to arrive at 9am or 2pm which is not good for the limited parking space. Also, it is planned to have evening clinics in the future.

Since January the committee has been developing our policies & procedures for the introduction of GDPR (General Data protection Regulations). We have more on that as a separate item on the agenda.

In January the committee agreed that it should be AVB policy that we cannot take clients who are in a wheelchair. This is because of the practical difficulties with manoeuvring & transporting the wheelchair. It does not affect clients who just need to use a hospital wheelchair

Brian, our previous Treasurer has agreed to continue as our Webmaster & general IT support. He continues to keep our website up to date.

Our regular issues of the Members' Newsletters attempt to keep everyone up to date with matters, especially regarding parking arrangements at local hospitals. Please do let the office know if you find that parking procedures have changed so that we can alert others.

In December a very enjoyable Christmas buffet lunch was once again hosted by Carol Glazebrook at her home, and as always we are very grateful to Carol for her hospitality. As in the previous year, the cost of the food and drink was covered by our clients' generosity in their contributions to our "Christmas buffet lunch fund". When reviewing the Christmas lunch the committee decided that in future invitations will be extended to include spouses or partners who are ex AVB volunteers.

I'd like to thank all our volunteers for the time they have given this past year. Without our volunteers we would not exist and the older people of this area would be deprived of an immensely valuable service. My thanks to John Thomson, who is very active as our Coordinator, and I would also like to thank Liz the Secretary, Gordon our Treasurer and the

other members of the committee Heather, Marion, and Trevor for all the extra time they give and for their support.

And last but not least I want to thank our benefactors. Without the support of all of our benefactors we would not be able to provide the services that we do, and we are extremely grateful for their continuing contributions.