

Havering Shopmobility Association

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Havering Shopmobility News – January 2017

The quarterly Trustees Meeting was held on Monday, 23 January to oversee the work of the Charity. The meeting considered various reports – the important points are listed below - but if you would like to see the full reports, please ask in the office.

Havering Shopmobility celebrated our **21st birthday** in November and 'drop-in' events were held in both shops for users, volunteers and the public. These events were well attended and as well as celebrating our achievement, raised awareness of our organisation. We signed up at least 3 new users and gave out information packs for volunteers. Although not intended as a fund raising event, impromptu collections raised several hundred pounds. An article also appeared in the local paper and Wendy had also helped record an item for broadcasting on local radio.

Jackie reported on the **Fund Raising** achievements held over the Christmas period. The Christmas raffles, Romford market charity stall, tombola, Father Christmas and dogs events had raised a total of £1335.10. In addition, sale of fashion jewellery donated by Jean Saunders had raised £340 so far, and Brian was asked to pass on a token of our appreciation to Jean. Trustees expressed their thanks to Jackie for leading these initiatives and for all those who helped. Jackie reported the next meeting of the fund raising team had been arranged for 27 February to plan further events including for Easter, so anyone who is able to lend a hand, please speak to Jackie. Trustees noted that we had received a donation of £1600 from the masonic lodge of which Brian is a member, towards new equipment, for which we expressed our gratitude.

We received **quarterly service performance and financial reports** that showed the usual quarterly and annual pattern of use of our equipment – a busy period in the run up to Christmas followed by a quiet January. Income, especially from sales was good. The lack of volunteers was still a significant issue and threatens our ability to maintain 6-day services from both shops. Trustees expressed appreciation to Michael for his input of both time and effort, and to the small band of dedicated volunteers who ensure the continued successful operation of our services. Please use any opportunity to get family or friends involved, even if only for a few hours a week.

Chairman: Mike Joyce
Giving Independence & Freedom to people with disabilities
Also at:
The Liberty 01708 765764

Following trustee's agreement to an **equipment replacement programme** last year, new equipment has been obtained or is on order to replace failing or inadequate items, including two specialised electric wheelchairs, a heavy-duty scooter, two larger Colt scooters and a bariatric wheelchair. Subject to the two scooters on order being as expected, a further two would be ordered.

Our funds are in a healthy state and trustees agreed to re-invest maturing funds that are not immediately required in a reserve account, to obtain the best available interest rate.

We also heard that the **Government's new pension requirements** whereby all employees had a right to a pension, had now been implemented by us, from 1st January.

We also received positive feedback and appreciation about the **Christmas meal** organised by Jackie and Michael, attended by volunteers, staff and trustees in December. The opportunity to get everyone together in a social gathering had worked well.

So a big 'Thank you' again to all volunteers for your help in maintaining our services to our users.

Mike Joyce, Chairman