



## **SCEN Meeting Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 10am – 12pm at Ideas Test Sittingbourne**

### **Present**

Linda Brinklow, Belinda Lamb, Jo Francis, Riëtte du Bruyn, Rachael Hudson, Kelly Collins, Chris Twydell, Sharon Gambell, Heather Medlock, Neema Kambona, Zoe Deveson, Helen Stock, Sandy Hammock (Chair), Angie Berkley, Ruth Darmola.

**Apologies** - Beverley Bryant

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Sandy thanked everyone for attending the meeting and invited introductions around the room. Sandy read through the minutes of the last meeting and everyone agreed they were an accurate representation.

### **Belinda Lamb – Guardians of the Deep**      [www.guardiansofthedeep.org](http://www.guardiansofthedeep.org)

Belinda works for Medway and Swale Estuary Partnership, which is a small not for profit charity. They have received three years of lottery funding to engage local volunteers in protecting the estuary and marine environment. The Guardians of the Deep project is a partnership between Kent Wildlife Trust, Thanet District Council, Medway Swale Estuary Partnership, Kent County Council and Natural England.

There are five parts to the project:

#### Coastal Guardians

A network of volunteers giving two hours a month to monitor people's use of the local beaches. Volunteers are offered free courses and access to a closed Facebook account.

#### Undersea Explorers

This is a project for primary school children and is delivered at local swimming pools. Children snorkel and learn about water safety and the marine environment.

#### Wild Beach

This is for school groups and is particularly good for those with special needs. Groups must be able to self-transport to the beach and activities are offered including art, games, shelter building etc.

#### Coastal Connections

This is about raising awareness of issues for the marine environment by attending community events, newsletter and social media.

#### Coastal Citizen Science

Survey training is provided for local people and they carry out a monthly survey.

They also hold lots of events including walks and beach activities targeting different ages.

### **Linda Brinklow – Aspirations Group**

This is a small over 50's group that meet on the first Friday of the month at 2pm at Sheerness East Working Man's Club. They are always looking for new members to join their proactive group. The group takes part in community events and organises lots of activities with members taking an active role in making arrangements. Activities have included meals out, talks, walks, boat trips, bowling, picnics and drawing lessons. The next meeting will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February with a talk given by St John's Ambulance about their history. New members would be welcome to just come along.

### **Heather Medlock – Building Better Opportunities**

This project is offered to people over 45 who are unemployed and trying to get back into employment. Heather offers one to one employment support including job search, CV writing, completing applications and offering training to update skills, confidence building and finding volunteering opportunities. Heather spoke about the fact that she had volunteered herself and had found it hugely beneficial and great experience to add to your CV. Clients need to live in Kent, Medway or East Sussex and be unemployed.

<http://www.swalecvs.org.uk/working-partnership/lots-more-offer/>

### **Hot Topics**

Rachael Hudson from Child's Vision Charity supports children affected by Domestic violence. They are holding a coffee morning on 1<sup>st</sup> February between 10am-12pm at Newington Church incorporating Time to Talk Mental Health Awareness. They are also holding a support group on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January from 4.40pm – 6pm at Swale CVS. Also there is a fundraising event on 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Lateef in Sittingbourne. Tickets are £20 each with a limited number still available. From 5<sup>th</sup> February they will be alternating each week between Sheppey Matters Healthy Living centre and HOUSE at Eastchurch Village Hall.

Chris from East Kent Sands would like to set up more support groups in the area for families that have been affected by Baby Death. They are offering speakers for groups.

Neema from Diversity House spoke about their new lottery funded project 'Black and Ethnic Minorities Can Volunteer', to be delivered in partnership with Swale CVS. This project will Promote volunteering to BME communities within Swale to encourage volunteering, other training and ongoing support. Ongoing projects include SWAG (Swale Women and Girls) which aims to empower girls and young women to reach their full potential and WW1 in Africa which is raising awareness of the contribution made by African people during the war. They are also looking for inspiring speakers for the event they are holding to celebrate International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March being held at Ideas Test.

Jo Francis from Sateda said they have two projects starting in February providing support for victims in family court and also starting a schools project. On the 20<sup>th</sup> April they are holding a quiz evening at Sheerness East Working Man's Club.

Belinda Lamb, Guardians of the Deep. Contact Belinda if you have any interest in volunteering. Belinda pointed out that all volunteers work alone. If anyone knows of any swimming pools that can be hired out that maybe at schools or holiday sites etc. please contact Belinda on 01622 768573 (Wed-Fri)

Helen Stock, Swale Borough Council. Visit Swale and Visit Kent are providing free online regional website promotion. Your events can be publicised on both sites. Contact Martin Goodhew, Tourism Officer for more information on 01795 417399. Helen also mentioned the online vote on whether Sheerness should have a town council.

Sandy Hammock, Swale CVS and Big Local Eastern Sheppey. Following up on Helen's comments Sandy pointed out that groups can also get free advertising in The Net magazine. Sandy also mentioned that Big Local has a community chest fund open to applications from groups working on the East end of the Isle of Sheppey.

Sandy thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Anyone that is interested in being a speaker at a SCEN meeting contact Sandy. Currently have availability for meetings in July and October.

**Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 10.00am to 12.00pm at Ideas Test, High Street, Sittingbourne.