



## **Bury Older People's Network (BOPN)**

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Bury Unitarian Church**

Attending	Jo Mawdsley (chair); David Barnes (Bury VCFA – action notes); Joan Abbott (resident); Mike Bondi (Bury Model Boat Club); Stephanie Boyd (Bury Council); Joanne Cocker (Age UK Bury); Chris Darrock (resident); Diane Driscoll (Age UK Bury); Steven Greason (Ageing in Place); Mark Harrison (Bury Model Boat Club); Hilary McColl; Trish Ribchester (Greenmount Cuppa n Chat); Dr Shyamal K. Sarkar (resident); Julie Southworth (Greenmount Cuppa n Chat); Mike Standbridge (resident); Jacqui Waite (Bury Council); Jan Wiczkowski; Two representatives from Precious Care also attended (Precious Neal and Alan McGregor)
Apologies	Angela Badham; Carol Kemp; Jean Pound; Pauline Smith; Barbara Stafford; Gillian Stainthorpe; Ania Stark-Ketcher; Shirley Waller

### **Welcome**

Jo and the members welcomed our guest, Natalie Kelly, Age Friendly Communities Lead from Hertfordshire.

### **Matters Arising**

- Apologies from Matt Peluch for the scheduled item on the Bury Directory – this will be re-scheduled for April meeting.
- Ring & Ride

Jo reported back on a meeting recently to address the ongoing concerns about the Ring & Ride service. Attended by representatives from D-CaFF, Jubilee Centre and Greenmount. Discussion ensued at this meeting of BOPN:

- Concerns about coverage of the service



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- Group bookings require a minimum of 6 people
- Ringing the service elicits a better response if the request is phrased in a particular way
- Volunteer drivers may offer some solution but has to be at driver and passenger own risk
- U3A encourage car sharing for their meetings
- Demand exceeds the supply and the service is currently running at a loss

**ACTION:** Steph Boyd will liaise with the Council's strategic lead to discuss these issues.

**BOPN forward agenda planning**

David presented a paper for discussion on members' preferred future guest presentations. Discussion followed:

- Digital inclusion. Possible invitee Ellie Marlow
- Intermediate Care Services (Reablement, Killelea, Hospital at Home, Intermediate Care at Home, TEC)
- AI – Hilary has discussed this with Clare Yardley of HMR Circle, looking at the social impact
- Poverty Progress Group. Possible invitee Chris Brown
- Live Well – GMCA initiative being rolled out. Possible invitee Lorna Wilson (VCFA strategic lead for Live Well)
- Bury Live Well – a separate Bury Council organisation. Possible invitee Christopher Hargreaves
- Mental Health. Discussion re role of GP surgeries. Possible invitee from Primary Care.
- Ageing without Limits Day (10<sup>th</sup> June 2026). Steven reported that Ageing in Place project will organise an event for the day. Mark H said that the Model Boat Club would be happy to assist with activities on the day.

**ACTION:** This discussion will inform planning for future meetings – update at April meeting.

### **Any other Business**

- Steven explained that Ageing in Place has become Living Well in Later Life, based upon the GM Mayor's 10-year strategy. 6 areas will have additional facilities and/or resources as part of this project. A Memories Project is an early for the Whitefield location.
- GM Community Health event – 25<sup>th</sup> March – Jan W will attend and feedback to BOPN.
- The timescale has been adjusted for the regeneration of the bus station and Metrolink area - the bridge which will initially allow access to the Metrolink from the town hall to the college will start construction later in 2026 and will take a year to complete. Once the bridge is completed the bus station will be closed and the current facilities demolished. The new bus station / Metrolink improvements will be completed in 2030. The bridge will become a permanent feature, allowing access to the trams from two points (from the town hall and the new bus station which will also have Metrolink access).
- Strength-based social work principles as set out by the Principal Social Worker at the February BOPN meeting. ACTION – David to distribute them to BOPN members
- Prestwich Clough Day – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### **Next meetings of BOPN**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at Bury Unitarian Church

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at Bury Unitarian Church