

Bury Older People's Network (BOPN)

8th April 2026

Bury Unitarian Church

Attending	Jo Mawdsley (chair); David Barnes (Bury VCFA – action notes); Joan Abbott (resident); Mike Bondi (Bury Model Boat Club); Chris Darrock (resident); Mark Harrison (Bury Model Boat Club); Gill James (resident); Carol Kemp (resident); Jane Lees (AgeUK Bury); Hilary McColl (resident); Dr Shyamal K. Sarkar (resident); Pauline Smith (resident); Barbara Stafford (resident); Gill Stainthorpe (resident); Mike Standbridge (resident); Jacqui Waite (Bury Council); Jan Wiczowski (resident);
Apologies	Annemari Poldkivi; Jean Pound; Trish Ribchester; Julie Southworth; Ania Stark-Ketcher; Shirley Waller; Brian Williams;

Welcome

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

Matters Arising

None arising

Bury Directory

Matt Peluch (Bury Council Public Health) presented. Discussion ensued:

- 12 months ago the contract for the directory was reviewed and concluded it still should be implemented as it has statutory duties attached to it. It does not have a big budget and it 'piggybacks' on other Council websites, all of which have one Content Management System.
- The directory needs to be fit for purpose and up to date so there is a system.

- A focus group was convened with Staying Well as part of the review.
- The Home page has been improved as previously people didn't know how to navigate the directory. It now has a search function on the front screen. Tip: keep search phrase short and sweet; i.e. short form.
- The search also has filter functions, e.g. Adult Social Care, Children & Young People etc.
- There is an ongoing back office work, data cleansing. All service entries that are not updated in the previous 6 months will be 'hibernated'. Also entries are continuing to be migrated from the previous iteration of the directory. Some did not migrate automatically so manual updating is in progress.
- Improved visual presentation.
- Food hygiene and CQC ratings have been added, where appropriate, to entries.

ACTION – Mr Peluch would like guidance from BOPN members on what should be additionally available on the Directory. The What's On section is under-populated. Mr Peluch could enable this feedback by allocating mystery shopper tasks. Ms Smith asked if a form could be sent to BOPN members to enable these feedback reports.

- Ms Kemp asked how to add what's on?

ACTION - Mr Peluch and Ms Kemp will liaise using Friends of Radcliffe Manor as a test case.

- Search sometimes returns too many entries.

ACTION – Mr Peluch asked all contributors to identify keywords specific to the entry as this is another piece of ongoing back office work.

- Some members think that the directory is not attractive to older people, it needs more positive events. The Centre for Ageing Better website is a good model for this. As is the GM Centre for Older People website.
- Accessibility to the Directory is not easy without a digital device.

ACTION – Hubs and libraries could be access points.

Community Safety update

Chris Woodhouse, Bury Council Strategic Partnership Manager, provided an overview of the Community Safety Partnership:

- This statutory body brings together a range of public services, including the local authority, police, fire, safeguarding, health, prisons, and VCFA. The group meets every two months and is co-chaired by a Police Superintendent and a senior leader from the Council.
- The Community Safety action plan for 2026 has five key priorities:
 - Tackling offences against young people
 - Addressing serious violence
 - Focusing on domestic abuse (including mental health and substance misuse)
 - Creating inclusive communities
 - Ensuring safe spaces (landscape and infrastructure)

Older people are included in all priorities except the first.

ACTION – Mr Woodhouse invited the group to share topics we'd like more information about, suggest speakers, and offer feedback on living in Bury.

(The PREVENT agenda is supported by a separate steering group).

There was a productive discussion about information sharing on safety issues, and Mr Woodhouse agreed to distribute information on specific topics as needed. Information on particular concerns can be provided if requested.

The group discussed PACT meetings and the need to raise their profile with the public.

ACTIONS



Mr Woodhouse welcomes suggestions on topics, speakers, and feedback on living in Bury and he will circulate more details on current safety campaigns, especially those relevant to older people.

Any other Business

There was a Live Well event on 25th March 2026 attended by Mr Wiczkowski who provided a useful one-page summary of the 113-page document associated with the event, which will be circulated to BOPN members with these action notes.

HM Circle are now delivering digital home visits for over-50s.

Next meetings of BOPN

Wednesday 13th May 2026 at Bury Unitarian Church

Wednesday 10th June 2026 at Bury Unitarian Church