

‘Considerate Friends’ Report with Recommendations for Over 50s Club, St. John’s Church – Lodge Causeway

Considerate Friends are a group of unpaid family carers and disabled people who visit local services to suggest recommendations and improvements for disabled people, carers and people aged 50 and over. The project works across the Greater Fishponds area and visits started in January 2018.

The project is under the umbrella of Bristol Ageing Better and run in partnership between The Care Forum and Carers Support Centre. Carers Support Centre supports carers to volunteer for the project and organises the visits.

On 4th March 2019, a small group of Considerate Friends visited Over 50s Club in Lodge Causeway and made the following observations and recommendations.



Did you find the venue easy to access? Score **10/10**

Yes, there is a car park with parking for disabled people and a ramp into the church.



Were the staff easy to talk to? Score **10/10**

Yes, Zoe was extremely friendly, welcoming and open.



Were the opening times suitable for carers? Score **10/10**

Yes, it was felt that the opening times for the club of 2-4pm every second Monday were appropriate for carers.



Did you feel understood? Score **10/10**

Very much so. It was a good two-way conversation.

Would you go back again? Score **10/10**

- Yes. One Considerate Friend said she may join the group occasionally if she is free on the day.

What was the best thing about the club?



- Having facilities for showing films.
- Welcoming and friendliness
- Zoe is very committed to the task of leading the over 50s group and is supportive of people attending.
- On the day of the visit, there was cheese tasting which included a variety of cheeses, biscuits and a cup of tea! Luxury!

What would you like to see improved about the club?

- The toilet might be difficult for some disabled people to use. However, the church has a vision for toilet to become disabled and for a new kitchen and has received some funding for this, so this is in the pipeline. The existing toilet has a step to access – perhaps a small ramp could be fitted. Wheelchair users have to use the toilet in the church hall.

In summary – This was a very pleasant and warm visit. The club is a great facility for local people.