



The Midcounties Co-operative Society
Member Volunteering
15 May 2010
AGM Motorcycle Museum

Chair: Margaret Jarvis

1. Introduction

Margaret Jarvis welcomed Members to the Member Volunteering meeting and introduced the panel.

Claire Downs
Di Bateman
Maxine Sharman
Mike Abbott
Steve Allsopp

Margaret explained that the panel wanted to discuss with the group what they understood 'member volunteering' to be and to have members views on how to shape the Member volunteering programme. A 'brief' had been circulated prior to the meeting (attached).

The following points were raised:

Staff Retention: Figures reveal that the turnover of colleagues involved in volunteering was between 3 – 4%, compared with the standard turnover level of 20%. It was suggested that volunteering should be offered at interview stage.

It was noted that Volunteering can have a positive impact, not just on those being helped but also on the volunteers.

Volunteering Hours in Colleagues own time: It was questioned why volunteering hours in colleagues' own time could not be claimed. It was explained that the Society only paid colleagues for hours completed in their own working day.

Members recruiting new members: One member advised that they sit on another committee where they encourage other committee members to become Midcounties Members.

2. Possible Volunteering Opportunities

Members were asked to review the list of 15 possible Volunteering opportunities and suggest more. The meeting split into groups to do some 'possibility' thinking.

A further 20 opportunities were identified (see appendix).

It was agreed that all these ideas should be taken into consider action.

It was apparent from the 20 additional suggestions provided that there were 3 types of volunteering opportunity:

1. **Challenge Activities** – Group activities e.g. Property improvements, Garden regenerating, etc.

2. **1 to 1 Volunteering** – Shopping, Hospital visits, etc.

3. **Campaigning** – Supporting Charity Partners

The MSC will review this in relation to the Member Volunteering programme.

3. Questions

Members attending the meeting were asked to share their views on the following questions.

Would you consider becoming a member volunteer on behalf of Midcounties?

Yes 73%
No 8%
Maybe 19%

Would you register your skills and your preferred volunteer activity on an online database?

Yes 66%
No 7%
Maybe 27%

Preferred means of Communication

Email 62%
Telephone 13%
Member Forum 16%
Post 9%

4. Meeting Close

Margaret Jarvis thanked all members for supporting the meeting, their input would be reviewed by the MSC.

Appendix

Member Volunteering Opportunities:

Shopping for the Elderly (17 members)
Member Ambassadors (12 members)
Supporting the elderly with visiting them (11 members)
Working with adults with learning disabilities (10 members)
Stewarding at local community events (7 members)
Supporting Society member events (7 members)
Helping Charity Partner (7 members)
Dog Walking (7 members)
Princes Trust (7 members)
Transporting patients to outpatient appointments (6 members)
Recruiting members (5 members)
Prescription deliveries (4 members)
Decorating for the elderly (4 members)
Skills Talents – List of people – resource centre (bee keepers etc) (4 members)
Mentoring Children (4 members)
Working with young people (4 members)
Supporting Campaigns – like carrier bag free (4 members)
Supporting the Woodcraft Folk (3 members)
Charity bag packing (3 members)
Lunch Clubs (3 members)
Visit to Co-op Winery (3 members)
Gardening at Churches (2 members)
Hospital visitor (2 members)
Campaigning – petitions (2 members)
Help the homeless (1 member)
Knitting for the needy (1 member)
Keep marginal schools open (1 member)
Engage with Scouts and Girl Guides for them to carry out painting etc (1 member)
Gardening for the disadvantaged (1 member)
Working in Community stores (1 member)
Pet sitting if person in hospital (1 member)
Organising fun runs (1 member)
Window cleaning for the elderly (1 member)
Running management training for hospices (0 members)
Working with previous charity partner (0 members)