**OLEM Community Council (OCC)**

**Note for OLEM Community on OCC meetings of April and May 2017**

Committee meetings were held on 27th April and 18th May and an Open Meeting was held on 6th May 2017.

Libbi Johnson has had to step down from the Council and the office of Secretary and Bob Branch has taken on the Secretary role. Agata Wygnanska has taken on the Deputy Secretary role. We thank Libbi for all her efforts in moving the Council forward and the good news is that she has volunteered to continue to help us with Evangelisation and Formation.

The April meeting prepared for the Open Meeting of 6th May including modifying the Councils’ Standing Orders to suit the present way that the CC is operating, as mentioned in our previous note.

At the Open Meeting the Council reported on its activities in Social, Evangelisation and Formation, Communications and Parish Directory and in Welcoming and introduced the members of each team.

In the Open Forum many ideas were put forward and discussed. These included

* the need to ask for language skills to deal with visiting students as well as tourists.
* A Time, Talent and Treasure Drive to encourage parishioners to volunteer.
* Care in dealing with personal and volunteering data under the Data Protection Act.
* Freshers Fayre in October with stalls for all Parish organisations.
* Conduct of the stall at the Mill Road Fair leaflets.
* Increase profile on matters of social concern including Pro-Life Witness.
* Welcoming; develop young people’s group; contacting Language Schools.

Modified Standing Orders were put forward reflecting that originally the Council was focused on six separate areas of activity but following discussions with the Parish Priest and others about overlapping of activities the Council now is focused now on four areas only. Since there was not a quorum, the meeting could not adopt them despite significant informal support.

A number present completed forms to offer their skills to our community in voluntary help of various sorts. A good social was enjoyed after Compline which followed the meeting.

The May meeting reviewed the events of the Open Meeting and fixed dates for future events as noted below. A dialogue has been opened with those unhappy with the proposed modifications to the Standing Orders to develop a way forward with the issue. A working party was formed to consider data protection matters.

A draft of the Parish Directory has been completed. It will be issued once some data protection issues have been clarified. Meanwhile we ask OLEM community members who have not done so already to complete the forms available at the back of the church to offer their various skills to help in parish activities.

**Dates for your diary**

17 June Pro-Life Vigil Day – Holy Hour after 6.00 p.m. Mass

15 August 7:30 Mass Feast of the Assumption with social after.

8 October Church Anniversary – Lunch after 11.00 a.m. Mass; Organisations “Freshers’ Fair”;

27 October Pro-Life event in Norwich – coach available.