



The Future of TAPS

AGM: options for discussion

The AGM is a timely moment to consider the future direction of TAPS. The main issue is that at present the meetings organised by the Steering Group do not seem to be attractive to members. Of the 38 members at 1 Nov 2020, 15 have registered in the last month to continue their membership. Of the 26 possible meeting attendances in the past 3 years, the table shows numbers attending:

No. of meetings attended	Not re-registered	Re-registered
0 – 4	19	4
5 – 9	4	3
10 - 14		3
15 or more		5 (SG members)
Totals	23	15

This implies that 8 people may attend future meetings with speakers but those numbers do not really supply a worthwhile audience for our speakers. Furthermore the meetings are probably not supplying the right support to members so we are not achieving our first aim in the Constitution.

Aim 1, Member support: TAPS currently tries to provide one-way support through organising meetings and speakers, but a real support group would be a two-way relationship. Its members would attend frequently whatever the topics, would proactively relate to other members and take part in the group's wider activities. To offer support to individuals, TAPS would have to become more of a "Members Club" where people get to know each other and are happy to chat.

Alternatively TAPS could just act as a list of people who have been through the prostate process and are willing to give advice to others if requested. No meetings would be required but some members may wish to meet informally occasionally for a coffee/drink.

Aim 2, Raising awareness of prostate cancer locally to encourage men to get checked: Arguably this is the most useful activity that TAPS could undertake and it could be conducted by a small group, eg the SG, who would offer presentations to local organisations and have a stand at various events.

Aim 3, Fund raising for prostate cancer research organisations: Although this has not been done before, it could be led by a small group on a project basis.

Options: One or more of these activities could be undertaken in future but maybe there are other alternatives.

- 1 Maintain TAPS as at present with speakers provided alternately with Torbay
- 2 Maintain a TAPS membership list as a mutually supportive group but with no formal meetings.
- 3 Set out a programme of awareness raising events.
- 4 Establish a fund-raising programme.
- 5 Alternatively close TAPS and encourage members to join another group.

Resources required:

Even these limited activities require volunteers such as a Steering Group. There needs to be an admin secretary to maintain the TAPS membership records and also leaders for the two programme streams. Four members of the existing SG are prepared to run with these options but more volunteers would also be welcomed.

Way Forward: These options, and any other suggestions, will be open for discussion on Wed 27 Oct in the Town Hall after the session with Andrew Gabriel. Formal decisions on the future of TAPS will be made at the AGM on Wed 3 Nov (see Agenda).