

TAMAR AREA PROSTATE SUPPORT (TAPS)

REPORT on 15th MEETING, 29 April 2020

Attendance was 7 men.

This meeting was held virtually using Zoom video conferencing software. It was billed as an experiment to see whether Zoom would work for TAPS during this period of coronavirus restrictions on real meetings. The TAPS Steering Group held a meeting by Zoom earlier in the month and found it user friendly. The purpose of this members meeting was therefore to test the ease of access using Zoom, make sure everyone present could use it including speaking and finally to decide how we could use it in future.

The first 15 minutes were taken with accessing the system, ensuring that everyone was visible and audible and that, even if using someone else's computer, their own name was attached to their picture! Chris then gave a briefing on the fact that the Zoom licence was subcontracted to each of PCUK's support groups and that it was funded by PCUK. He currently attends a fortnightly Zoom meeting with SG leaders from which we can learn a lot about how we can use Zoom for group meetings. As an ice breaker with TAPS, each participant was invited to give a sketch of something funny, weird or interesting about some aspect of their prostate journey to date. This led to some interesting and informative discussion.

The group agreed that Zoom was pretty user friendly and that we should therefore hold virtual Zoom meetings in the lockdown period. The meetings will continue to be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month but at the revised time of 4.00pm for about an hour. It was agreed that where possible speakers should be invited. PCUK have offered speakers from among their specialist nurses to all support groups (subject to availability). I have since written to Sue Boyes at PCUK requesting a speaker for 27 May on a topic such as managing side effects (ED & Urinary issues) or health and well being or any other relevant issue!

The speakers that we had previously organised have agreed to come back in due course and we may invite some to speak to us virtually once we have more experience with Zoom and if there is demand from our members.

Other matters:

Tesco Bags of Help

The token scheme was stopped by Tesco in mid-March and the company decided to split the money on offer between each of the 3 organisations involved. We are now awaiting a cheque for £1167.

Callington Community Day: Saturday 14 March 0900 – 1200 and

Pentillie Castle Discovery day: Sunday 29 March 1100 – 1600

- both cancelled

Prostate Cancer UK have awarded TAPS a grant of just over £800 to cover start up expenditure.

Finally I hope you are all well and coping with lockdown. Please let me know if we can provide support with prostate related matters.