

BIMHN AGM 2016 – Campaigns Officer Report

For the last year, I have felt truly privileged to have been able to work with the other committee members, BIMHN members and other organisations across Bristol as part of my role of Campaigns Officer.

My main priority for the year has been the Callington Road Bus issue and whilst it has still not been re-instated, it will continue to be a priority for BIMHN to carry on fighting for. Through keeping the conversations happening, this issue hasn't gone off anyone's radars and with further work happening going forward we hope that with collaborative working from key stake holders this will get resolved and a sustainable and appropriate alternative arrangement can be implemented. A highlight of this work for me has been presenting a statement to the Full Council Meeting earlier this year which received standing ovation from many of the Councillors and fellow observers demonstrating the amazing support for this cause.

I've enjoyed working with the other committee members on other projects as well such as feeding in my ideas to the Winter Wonderland display (even if my suggestion of glitter got democratically overruled) and developing the BIMHN brand – being able to hand out business cards has been a really helpful way of networking and spreading the word about BIMHN.

Other opportunities I've had since being elected last year have included being involved in the recruitment of key figures in AWP BMH and BCCG, being able to write and share my experience of mental health, meet inspiring activists and campaigners from across the South West and attend conferences, events and lectures which have really broadened my understanding of mental health within different communities, the many groups within society as well as from both a medical and legal perspective.

I'm really sorry I'm not at the meeting myself to present this report – some of you may be aware I've sprained a ligament and am currently stranded in Mid-Wales unable to walk but I sincerely hope to be back at the monthly Business Meetings soon!

Amelia