

Seaham & District u3a

Meeting of Group Leaders – Discussion on Shared Interest Group Policy

Date: 29 October 2025

Time: 12:00 pm

Venue: Seaham Town Hall

Chair: LS

Minutes taken by: LS

1. Welcome and Purpose of Meeting

The Groups Coordinator welcomed attendees and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the Shared Interest Group Policy following questions about its current validity and relevance. The committee had suggested that the policy may need to be amended or withdrawn, while some group leaders expressed a wish for it to remain in place. The meeting aimed to gather group leaders' views before a recommendation is made to the committee.

2. Attendance

Present:

- JL – Social Outings, CAMEO, Monthly Quiz
- MM – Book Club, Litter Picking
- CR – Canasta, Singing for Pleasure
- LS – Crochet, UDance, The Hobby Hub
- BF & JG – Lunch Club
- PP – Mahjong
- GG – Photography
- SS – Red Hatters
- TW – UTunes
- GV – Board Games
- YB – Rummikub

Apologies:

- CM – Art Appreciation
- SM – Sewing & Embroidery
- LH – Coffee Morning
- SO – Garden Outing
- AH – Wine Group

- PS – Knicky Knack Knitters, Strollers
- SE – Walking Club

3. Background Summary

The Shared Interest Group Policy was introduced shortly after our u3a was established. The aim of the policy is to allow members from other u3as to participate in one of our interest groups without being required to join our u3a as members. This arrangement encourages greater participation, fosters collaboration between u3as, and enables the sharing of skills and knowledge across a wider network. It also provides additional support towards room hire costs.

4. Committee Concerns

Some committee members have expressed concern that our associate members might feel disappointed if they learn that people from other u3as are attending one of our groups without joining as associate members.

5. Summary of Views

All group leaders agree that the Shared Interest Group Policy is a good thing, as it reinforces our reputation for being open, welcoming, and friendly. However, most group leaders suggested that the policy wording could be clearer — specifically to state that visiting members should only attend one of our groups. They also recommended keeping a simple register of visiting members, shared among group leaders, to ensure the guidelines are applied fairly.

It was also recognised that it remains entirely at the discretion of each group leader whether to accept members from other u3as into their group.

6. Agreed Actions

- The views of the group leaders will be presented to the committee for consideration and vote.
- If approved, the policy will be updated to include the above recommendations.
- LS will maintain a register of all members from other u3as who attend any of our interest groups. This register will be available to all group leaders on request.

Meeting closed at: 12:45 pm

Minutes prepared by: LS – Groups Coordinator