

Dear Forum Member,

Hoping this letter finds you in good health and that you have been coping with the changes to life that the Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted on all of us.

Our ever decreasing Events Team (previously called the committee) has been working hard in the background in order to make sure that FORUM can continue. As mentioned in Duncan's last Newsletter, we have had to put in place some changes to enable Forum to operate as a more professionally recognised organisation. These changes need agreement from the members. This agreement is sought at an AGM. However, due to the current restrictions, all our face to face meetings have had to be cancelled, including our AGM

The Events Team has decided that we **need your input**, so that we can move forward.

To this end, we are planning to hold a **very brief** AGM (half an hour at the most) to be conducted via Zoom. This will take place immediately before an **Open Forum Event** on Wednesday 07 October 2020. An Agenda and voting details will be sent to you via email, saving time on the night.

Please **SAVE THE DATE. WEDNESDAY 07 OCTOBER 2020 starting at 6.30pm** with the AGM, followed by the Open Forum which will end at 8.30pm

You will be sent a link to join the event. The Events Team look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

The event will be an **Open Forum**. An opportunity for you to share your experiences of the past six months with other members. There will be a panel of three who will facilitate the discussion and there will be smaller "break-out" rooms to ensure that everyone has a chance to participate. The evening will end with a taster of a calming breathing technique that encourages relaxation and some guided imagery, both of which you can use for yourself and with clients. An experience we hope will leave us all feeling calm and relaxed.

This event is **FREE** – however, you will need to book a ticket. Information about how to do this will be provided at least one week before the event. You will be sent an email with a link to take you to the booking process. Information will also be available nearer the date on our new website [Forum4counsellors.com](http://Forum4counsellors.com)

The proposals that will be put before members at the AGM are as follows:

To accept (or reject) FORUM's new Constitution

FORUM will be an unincorporated association carrying appropriate legal recognition of that status.

As an unincorporated association, FORUM will be an organisation providing training for its members only and not for others outside its membership.

FORUM will introduce a third category of membership to add to the existing Individual and Organisational Member categories. The new category will be **STUDENT** or **RETIRED MEMBER**.

FORUM also needs its members to vote to accept (or reject) the Team Members currently working in an "acting" capacity, so that they may take on the roles in full.

Very best wishes to you all, and I look forward to seeing you on 07 October.

Linda Widdows (Acting Secretary)