

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

WEST NORFOLK DISABILITY FORUM

Notes of a Meeting of the West Norfolk Disability Forum held on Monday 21 March 2011 at 3.30pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.

PRESENT:

Representing the Borough Council:

Councillor D Harwood (Chair), M Chenery of Horsbrugh (substitute for Mrs J Murphy), Mrs A Clery-Fox, M Langwade, J Legg, G Sandell and Mrs S Smeaton.
A Bingham

Representing Disabled People:

W Blades, C Bond, P Bond, A Bunting, J Darling, P French, T Gilder, G Henshaw, C Maule-Oatway, S Pomeroy, S Smith, T Smith, Kathy Warner, M Winter

Apologies for absence were received from:

R Carroll, Councillor Mrs J Murphy, D Richards, K Saunders, M Smith,

		ACTION
1.	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2011 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
2.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p><u>(i) West Norfolk Partnership</u></p> <p>The forum were reminded that at the last meeting they had been informed that a review of the West Norfolk Partnership structure had been carried out and it had been decided to disband the thematic partnerships, which included the Healthier Communities and Older Persons Partnership, which was the body that this group had been reporting to.</p> <p>The Secretary had investigated where this group should feed into now that the Healthier Communities and Older Persons Partnership had been disbanded. She explained that she had been advised that the group should not have a specific place to report to, but instead should feed into which ever Panel or Group</p>	

	<p>was relevant, dependant on the issues raised.</p> <p><u>(ii) Blue Badges</u></p> <p>At the previous meeting, issues had been raised regarding blue badges and the Chair had agreed to raise issues with Norfolk County Council in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services.</p> <p>The Chair explained that he was aware that the Blue Badge scheme was soon to be reviewed to bring it together under one service and make it consistent across the County. He agreed to keep the group informed of progress and would bring the proposals to this group in due course.</p> <p>He agreed to discuss the issue with officers at Norfolk County Council with the hope that an officer would be able to attend a future meeting of this group to update the group on the proposed changes.</p>	Chair
3.	<p><u>SAFE SHOPPING IN THE VACOUVER QUARTER</u></p> <p>The Secretary explained that a walk around of the Vancouver Quarter had taken place prior to this meeting. She explained that she had noted down the comments and suggestions made by those that attended and would use these to create a short report which would be sent to the Vancouver Quarter Manager.</p> <p>The Secretary agreed to circulate the draft report to members of the group before submission to the Vancouver Quarter Manager.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs Clery-Fox explained that she had recently been made aware that the tables and chairs which had been positioned outside of Wimpey in the Town Centre had to be removed as the premises did not have the relevant permission to site them outside. She did not consider that the tables and chairs were an obstruction as there was plenty of space in the area. She was disappointed that the tables and chairs had been removed as often people in wheelchairs made use of the area because it was easier than going inside the premises.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs Smeaton asked that it be noted on the Secretary's report that today was a particularly light foot fall day in the town centre, and there were not as many obstructions in the Vancouver</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>RP</p>

<p>Quarter as there were at other times.</p> <p>Sylvia Pomeroy asked the group who attended the visit if they had noticed any mobility scooters or cyclists in the town centre. She explained that the scooters and cycles sometimes caused obstructions and could be dangerous if they were going too fast.</p> <p>The Chair explained that the use of bicycles in the pedestrianised area of the town centre was prohibited. He requested that the Secretary highlight this issue with Norfolk Constabulary and ask if any measures were being put in place to tackle the issue.</p> <p>Allison Bingham informed the group that she was aware that Police Community Support Officers were looking into this issue and would target specific areas of the town centre that had problems with cyclists.</p> <p>Councillor Sandell queried why the cycle racks in the town centre were positioned within the pedestrianised area, where cycles should not be used. The Chair explained that the cyclist should dismount when entering the pedestrianised area and walk their cycle to the rack.</p> <p>The group discussed the rules for cyclists in the Walks and it was explained that there used to be a separate cycle path along the walkways in the Walks, but since the area had been regenerated, these had been removed. The Chair requested that the Secretary raise the issue with the relevant officer to find out what the rules were for cyclists in the Walks.</p> <p>With regards to the issue of mobility scooter safety, the Chair requested that the Secretary contact West Norfolk Mobility Centre to ask if they promoted the safe use of mobility scooters when they were hiring them out.</p> <p>The Chair reminded the group that at the previous meeting they discussed seating arrangements in the town centre and suggested that covered seating areas, similar to those used at the Quay, could be incorporated into the town centre. Allison Bingham explained to the group that some anti social behaviour had taken place around the seating areas at the Quay, as people could climb up on top of the roof of the seating area.</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>RP</p> <p>RP</p>
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4.	<p><u>HATE CRIME DVD</u></p> <p>Prior to the meeting, the group viewed a DVD produced by the WNVCA on hate crime.</p> <p>Allison Bingham explained that the DVD would be used to educate schools and local community groups on the important issue. If any members of the group would like to show the DVD to any other groups they were involved with, they were to contact Allison Bingham.</p>	All
5.	<p><u>WINTER WEATHER</u></p> <p>The Chair reminded the group that they had discussed ways to encourage people to consider vulnerable people in periods of bad weather.</p> <p>He suggested that this issue be removed from the agenda over the summer period, and further thought would be given to this issue in the Autumn.</p>	
6.	<p><u>ONLINE ACCESS GUIDE</u></p> <p>Allison Bingham thanked members of the group who had recently assisted her to update the entries within the guide in Hunstanton and Downham Market. She explained that most of the entries for King's Lynn had now been updated.</p> <p>The group was informed that two articles had been submitted for inclusion on the front page of the Online Access Guide. She urged the group to forward her any further items of interest for possible inclusion, including forthcoming community events.</p> <p>Allison Bingham informed the group that visits to the website were averaging at about 600 per month.</p> <p>She explained that there were currently approximately 700 entries on the guide.</p>	All
7.	<p><u>SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p><u>(i) Opportunity Awards</u></p> <p>The group asked the Secretary if she was aware if budget would</p>	

	<p>be available to hold an Opportunity Awards event this year.</p> <p>The Secretary agreed to investigate the issue and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>(ii) Councillor Mrs J Murphy</u></p> <p>The Secretary explained that she had received an email from Councillor Mrs J Murphy, which read as follows:</p> <p>“I am really sorry to miss the meeting as it would have been my last one as I will not be standing at the elections. I have really enjoyed being part of the forum and I think you have done splendid work as Secretary as has Allison with all the initiatives she has led. Thank you both so much for all your support on this.”</p> <p>The Chair requested that the Secretary pass on a message of thanks to Councillor Mrs J Murphy for her constructive contributions to meetings. He also passed on thanks to all other Councillor representatives on the Forum, who may or may not be standing in the election.</p> <p><u>(iii) Potholes on the Tuesday Market Place</u></p> <p>The Secretary informed the group that she had received an email from a member of the Polio Group, which read as follows:</p> <p>“Is there any information about when the potholes in the Market Place and surrounding areas will be repaired? As a user of two walking sticks and having a balance problem it is very difficult to get from one side of the Market Place to the other without risking life and limb.”</p> <p>The Secretary agreed to investigate the issue and report back to the next meeting.</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>RP</p> <p>RP</p>
8.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p><u>(i) Libraries</u></p> <p>Sylvia Pomeroy explained that she was aware of cars parking in the disabled parking spaces at Gaywood library, without a blue badge. She explained that the disabled parking signs were not very clear and suggested that signs should be mounted at eye</p>	

	<p>level rather than painted on the floor.</p> <p>She also raised concern regarding the use of the accessible toilet at King's Lynn library. She was unaware of any toilets available for public use at the library.</p> <p>The Secretary agreed to investigate the issues and report back to the next meeting.</p> <p><u>(ii) Mental Health Services</u></p> <p>Councillor M Chenery of Horsbrugh informed the group that Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health Services had been hoping to merge with Suffolk Mental Health Services, but unfortunately this was now not happening.</p> <p><u>(iii) Online Access Guide</u></p> <p>The Chair asked Allison Bingham if there were any venues within the remit of the online access guide, which would benefit from a visit from the Online Access Guide Working Group.</p> <p>Allison Bingham explained that eventually she would like the guide to incorporate all of the businesses in Gaywood and coastal areas, but this would be dependant on budget available.</p> <p><u>(iv) Dukes Head Hotel, King's Lynn</u></p> <p>Mr and Mrs Smith raised a query regarding the refurbishment works to the Dukes Head Hotel, and if the accessible toilet would be made more accessible as part of the works.</p> <p>Allison Bingham explained that she was aware of the planned works and explained that the current rear entrance would be made into the main entrance, which should make it easier to gain access to the toilets.</p>	RP
9.	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The Secretary explained that the date for the next meeting was still to be confirmed as the date would depend on when Councillors would be appointed to this forum, following the election in May. She agreed to inform Forum members of the date in due course.</p>	RP

The meeting closed at 4.25pm