

**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 Wednesday 16 November 2011 at 2.30pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.**

**PRESENT:****Representing the Borough Council:**

Councillors L Allen, T Bubb, M Langwade, G Sandell, S Smeaton  
Allison Bingham

**Representing Disabled People:**

W Blades, G Darling, P French, T Gilder, G Henshaw, S Kirman, S  
Pomeroy, T Tucker, K Warner

**By Invitation:**

L Tree – Norfolk Library

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors D Harwood and D Johnson.  
J Childs, S Smith, T Smith

		ACTION
1.	<b><u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN</u></b>  <b>AGREED:</b> In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman Pat French took the Chair for the meeting.	
2.	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b>  The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2011 were agreed as a correct record.	
3.	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA</u></b>  <u>(i) Decriminalisation of Car Parking</u>  Sylvia Pomeroy asked for clarification on the implications of the decriminalisation of car parking which was introduced at the beginning of November.	

	<p>Councillor Langwade explained that traffic wardens had been replaced by Borough Council staff, although a handful of offences would remain the responsibility of the Police, and some offences could be dealt with through joint working between the police and the Borough Council.</p> <p>Allison Bingham clarified that blue badge holders could still park on single yellow lines, as long as they were not causing danger or obstruction, for a period of up to three hours.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>FREE RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FROM NORFOLK LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE</u></b></p> <p>The Vice-Chairman welcomed Linda Tree, Community Librarian to the meeting who was present to inform members about the free resources available from Norfolk Libraries.</p> <p>A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>In response to a question, Linda Tree explained that e-books were available to borrow for a three week period, after which they would be automatically returned to the library.</p> <p>Councillor Smeaton asked if, in the current economic climate, there were any problems with running the mobile library service. Linda Tree explained that they had just lost one of the fleet, meaning that they had to spread out the route, but usage of the mobile library service was good, with book issues in some areas increasing. She clarified that there were tail lifts on all of the mobile libraries.</p> <p>If any members of the Forum were aware of areas which did not currently receive a mobile service, and they felt it would benefit from one, they were to contact Linda Tree.</p> <p>In response to a query, Linda Tree clarified that King's Lynn and Gaywood Library both had disabled access. Gaywood Library did have a disabled toilet, but unfortunately King's Lynn did not as it was a listed building.</p> <p>Councillor Allen asked if the reminiscence packs, which the library produced could be used out in the community in small villages. Linda Tree explained that one of the Community Librarians could come out and run a session and Councillor Allen should contact her if she was interested in finding out more information.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>LA</p>

	The group thanked Linda Tree for her informative presentation.	
5.	<p><b><u>MOBILITY SCOOTER SAFETY</u></b></p> <p>The group viewed a DVD which had been produced by Norfolk PACT (Partners Against Crime Taskforce) and outlined the safe use of mobility scooters.</p> <p>Teresa Tucker from Norfolk PACT was present at the meeting and explained that she was employed by Norfolk Constabulary and had been seconded to Norfolk PACT.</p> <p>Several sessions had been held around Norwich to promote the safe use of scooters, and it was now hoped to hold further sessions around the County. The intention was to hold a session in King's Lynn and suitable venues were being investigated.</p> <p>Teresa Tucker explained that people could come along to the sessions and would be shown how to use a scooter safely and would have the opportunity to practise different manoeuvres in a safe environment. At previous sessions various other related organisations and agencies had attended to provide information, advice and guidance.</p> <p>Councillor Sandell asked if there were any Laws in place regarding the use of mobility scooters. Teresa Tucker explained that there were not any Laws in place at the moment, only advisory notes. The Department for Transport was currently carrying out some work in this area to bring in Laws, but this would probably take a few more years.</p> <p>Councillor Sandell expressed concern that it was not mandatory to have mobility scooter insurance. Teresa Tucker agreed and explained that she was working with insurance companies to see if people could receive a discount on their scooter insurance if they attended the safe scooter courses, which would hopefully increase take up of insurance.</p> <p>Teresa Tucker informed the group that if they felt it would be a benefit for any organisations they may be involved in to view the DVD on safe scooter use, they should contact her.</p> <p>Steve Kirman from King's Lynn Mobility Centre explained that there were currently two classes of mobility scooters available. A 4mph model and an 8mph model. The 8mph scooter required</p>	All

road tax and some models weighed over 136kg.

He explained that King's Lynn Mobility Centre encouraged the safe use of mobility scooters and took users out around the town to show them how to be safe in a pedestrianised area.

Steve Kirman informed the group that King's Lynn Mobility Centre held details of insurers who provided mobility scooter insurance, which ranged from £55-£75 per year fully comprehensive or £49 per year for third party insurance.

He encouraged people to use a local reputable firm when purchasing a mobility scooter, so that maintenance and any problems could be fixed locally. In response to a question, he confirmed that the centre sent out reminder letters for their customers to bring in their scooters for an annual service.

Steve Kirman stressed the importance of fully charging scooters. He explained that if scooters were only partly charged each time, the battery would deteriorate and a new battery could cost up to £300.

The British Healthcare Trade Association policed the mobility scooter trade and anyone who had concerns about who they were purchasing the scooter from, should contact them.

The group discussed the benefits of shop mobility schemes. It was explained that people could pay a fee to become a member of the mobility scheme and then hire a mobility scooter for use in the town centre.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Teresa Tucker and Steve Kirman for attending the meeting.

## **6. BUDGET AND FUTURE EVENTS**

### (i) Opportunity Awards

The 2012 Opportunity Awards would take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 6.00pm. The Corn Exchange had been provisionally booked for the awards.

Allison Bingham asked if any members of the forum were interested in sitting on the working group to take arrangements for the event forward, they were to contact her. Meetings of the

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working group would commence early in the new year.

(i) Celebrate-Ability

The 2012 Celebrate-Ability event would take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012 in the Corn Exchange from 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

Arrangements had been made for an area of Common Staithe car park to be cordoned off for utilisation as a demonstration area during the event.

If any members of the forum were interested in sitting on the working group to take forward arrangements for the event, they were to contact Allison Bingham. Meetings of the working group would commence in March/April 2012.

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(iii) Promoting the work of the Group

The group was informed that the following ways to promote the work of the West Norfolk Disability Forum were being investigated:

- Become involved in Lynnsport's 'Live Life Better' events in March and June.
- Work with Norfolk PACT regarding the possibility of a safe scooter event.
- Submitting articles for inclusion in Parish Magazines. Allison Bingham asked if any members of the forum were involved in any way with their Parish Magazines they were to contact her – so that each article could be tailored by a local member of the group.
- Promoting the work of the group on the front page of the online access guide.
- Allison Bingham asked for the group's thoughts on any campaigns that the Forum could become involved with regarding assisting vulnerable people in periods of bad weather.
- Article on the front page of the online access guide to promote smaller voluntary organisations that people may not be so aware of.

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If members of the forum were aware of any other ways to promote the work of the West Norfolk Disability Forum, they were to contact Allison Bingham.

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7.	<p><b><u>UPDATE ON RNIB REACT SYSTEM</u></b></p> <p>Use of the REACT System was still good. In the new year the box at Hillington Square would be moved to the Quay side of St Margaret's Lane to point users along the Quay.</p> <p>Allison Bingham would be contacting the Kult Theatre Group regarding recording the message for the new box, and would also work to see if further/revised messages could be added to the existing boxes.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>ONLINE ACCESS GUIDE</u></b></p> <p>Allison Bingham explained that work was being carried out to update the King's Lynn area on the online access guide.</p> <p>Allison Bingham asked members of the forum to send through any articles, or events that they would like promoted on the front page of the online access guide.</p>	All
9.	<p><b><u>SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE</u></b></p> <p><u>(i) St James Multi Storey Car Park – Accessible Toilet</u></p> <p>The group was reminded that at the previous meeting, issues had been raised regarding the lighting in the accessible toilet at the multi storey car park. The Secretary explained that she had contacted the multi storey car park on the issue and had received the following response.</p> <p>The lights were changed approximately five years ago to discourage people from using the toilets to inject drugs, as high levels of this were being experienced. The current lights gave off a blue glow so people were unable to see their veins to inject.</p> <p>The office at the multi storey car park was already busy during the day, therefore if a RADAR key was to be fitted then the volume of people coming into the office would increase as not many people had RADAR keys. Therefore it was felt at this time that a RADAR lock would not be the solution.</p>	
10.	<p><b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p><u>(i) Chairman of the Forum</u></p>	

	<p>The Forum requested that the Secretary contact the Chairman of the Forum to wish him a speedy recovery following a recent operation.</p> <p><u>(ii) Accessible Toilets</u></p> <p>Sylvia Pomeroy expressed concern about the state of some of the accessible public toilets in the Borough. She felt that the accessible toilet at Baker Lane Car Park was not properly cleaned and currently the accessible toilet did not have a sink.</p> <p>The Secretary agreed to pass on the concerns to the Executive Director, Leisure and Public Space.</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>RP</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting of the West Norfolk Disability Forum was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 10 January 2012 at 2.30pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.</p>	

**The meeting closed at 4.17pm**