

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

WEST NORFOLK DISABILITY FORUM

Notes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Norfolk Disability Forum held on Thursday 19 July 2012 at 2.30 pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.

PRESENT:

Representing the Borough Council:
Councillors L Allen, M Langwade, S Smeaton.

Officers:
Rebecca Parker

Representing Disabled People:
W Blades, M Connell, G Darling, P French, T Gilder, S Pomeroy

By Invitation:
Deputy Mayor Councillor Garry Sandell
Abraham Eshetu

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors T Bubb and D Johnson.
M Allen, C Berkley, A Bingham, C Bond, P May, K Saunders, L Tree, K Warner

		ACTION
1.	<p><u>WELCOME BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK</u></p> <p>The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Garry Sandell welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked the Forum for his invitation to attend.</p> <p>He explained that he had been a member of the Committee for over ten years. He also had experience working with people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor referred to the recent successful opportunity awards and felt confident that the forthcoming Celebrate-ability event would be just as successful.</p> <p>He thanked the Forum for working together to improve West Norfolk for people with disabilities.</p>	

2.	<p><u>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>AGREED: That Councillor Mrs Stephanie Smeaton be elected as Chairman of the Forum for the period 2012/2013.</p>	
3.	<p><u>ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>AGREED: That Pat French be elected as the Vice Chairman of the Forum for the period 2012/2013.</p>	
4.	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p>The minutes from the West Norfolk Disability Forum's Annual General Meeting held on 28th July 2011 were agreed as a correct record subject to Councillor Smeaton's name being added to the list of those present.</p>	RP
5.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>There was none.</p>	
6.	<p><u>HATE FREE NORFOLK – PRESENTATION</u></p> <p>Abraham Eshetu, Corporate Equality and Diversity Manager, Community Safety, Norfolk Constabulary provided those present with a presentation on Hate Free Norfolk.</p> <p>A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Forum discussed the impact of hate crime on disabled people and the importance of ensuring that all hate crimes and hate incidents were reported so that they could be investigated by the Police or one of the other organisations signed up to the Hate Crime Multi Agency Protocol.</p> <p>Comments and questions were invited from the Forum some of which are summarised below.</p> <p>In response to questions Abraham Eshetu explained that hate related crimes carried higher sentencing as they were crimes against a section of the community rather than an individual.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Langwade, the Forum were informed that if an incident is reported relating to hate crime, it would be investigated by the Police and if the Police were unable</p>	

	<p>to prosecute they could impose other sanctions such as warnings and anti social behaviour orders etc. They would also liaise with other relevant organisations such as Housing Associations to help solve any issues.</p> <p>Abraham Eshetu explained that by law no community has any more rights than the other and all communities were equal. No community should be discriminated against. He referred to the 'Welcome to West Norfolk Guide' which he had helped to produce and was given to people who were new to the area.</p> <p>In response to a question from Sylvia Pomeroy, Abraham Eshetu explained that Safer School Partnership Officers carried out work in schools to raise awareness of the importance of reporting hate crime. There were also Diversity Liaison Officers who carried out work in the local community.</p> <p>The forum thanked Abraham Eshetu for his informative presentation.</p>	
7.	<p><u>ANNUAL REPORT</u></p> <p>The Secretary presented the Forum's Annual report for 2011/2012 which had been circulated with the Agenda.</p>	
8.	<p><u>ISSUES OF CONCERN AND INTEREST</u></p> <p>(i) <u>Cobbles near St Margaret's, King's Lynn</u></p> <p>Tess Gilder informed the Panel that one of her guests at Park House Hotel had fallen over in their wheelchair on the uneven cobbles surrounding the area near St Margaret's Church in King's Lynn.</p> <p>The Chairman, Councillor Smeaton asked the Secretary to pass on the Forum's concerns regarding the uneven surface to Norfolk County Council Highways department.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Baker Lane Public Toilets</u></p> <p>Sylvia Pomeroy reminded the Forum that several meetings ago she had raised concerns regarding the facilities available at Baker Lane Public Toilets. She informed the Forum that improvements had now been made to the toilets but she still</p>	RP

	<p>had some concerns regarding the cleanliness of the facilities, although she felt that this was slowly improving. The Chairman, Councillor Smeaton, requested that the Secretary email the Leisure and Public Space Department to pass on the concern.</p>	RP
9.	<p><u>BUDGET</u></p> <p>The Secretary advised that an update on the budget position would be provided by Allison Bingham at the next meeting.</p>	AB
10.	<p><u>SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p>(i) <u>Mobility and Scooter Safety Awareness Event</u></p> <p>The Secretary informed those present that she had received details of a forthcoming Scooter Safety Event which would be held on Tuesday 9 October 2012 from 10am to 3pm at North Lynn Community Centre.</p> <p>Anyone requiring further information about the event should contact Norfolk PACT.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Norfolk Older People's Strategic Partnership – Older People's Day 2012</u></p> <p>The Secretary informed the Forum that she had received information from Norfolk Older People's Strategic Partnership asking organisations to get involved in activities for Older People's Day 2012. If any organisations were interested in getting involved they should contact janet.holden@norfolk.gov.uk</p>	
11.	<p><u>SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u></p> <p>AGREED: The Schedule of meetings for 2012/2013 were agreed as follows:</p> <p>Wednesday 12 September 2012 – 2.30pm Thursday 29 November 2012 – 2.30pm Wednesday 23 January 2013 – 2.30pm Wednesday 20 March 2013 – 2.30pm Wednesday 22 May 2013 – 2.30pm Wednesday 17 July 2013 – 6.30pm – Annual General Meeting</p>	

12.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u> There was none.	
13.	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the West Norfolk Disability Forum would be held on Wednesday 12 September 2012 at 2.30pm in the Committee Suite.	

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

