

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 Thursday 29 November 2012 at 2.30 pm in Meeting Rooms 1, 2 and 3, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.

PRESENT:

Representing the Borough Council:

Councillors Stephanie Smeaton (Chairman), Ms L Allen and A Bubb

Officers:

Allison Bingham and Wendy Vincent

Representing Disabled People:

Wendy Blades

By Invitation (for item 4):

Helen Sismore – Sighted Guide Ambassador, My Guide

Apologies for absence were received from:

Christine Bond, Marie Connell, Jill Darling, Pat French, Adrian Porter, Kathy Warner

		ACTION
1.	<u>APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN</u> RESOLVED: That Wendy Blades be appointed Vice-Chairman for the meeting.	
2.	<u>MINUTES</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2012 were agreed as a correct record.	
3.	<u>MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA</u> There were no matters arising.	

		ACTION
9.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>Work Programme</p> <p>To be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>23 January 2013: The Forum to undertake a site visit of King's Lynn Railway Station to look at the ticket barrier arrangements, etc at 1.30 pm prior to the formal meeting at 2.30 pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.</p> <p>Venues for Future Meetings</p> <p>The following venues were suggested for future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January – Committee Suite, King's Court, King's Lynn • March – Town Hall • June – Lynnsport <p>Future Agenda Items</p> <p>The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Smeaton suggested that the West Norfolk Deaf Association be invited to give a presentation at a future meeting.</p> <p>Regeneration, Environment and Community Panel – 3 January 2013</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Bubb, Allison Bingham advised that she would be attending the above Panel meeting to give an Overview of the West Norfolk Disability Forum.</p>	
10.	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 23 January 2013 at 2.30 pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn. The Forum would undertake a site visit of King's Lynn Railway Station at 1.30 pm prior to the formal meeting.</p>	

The meeting closed at 3.44 pm



“Looking to the Future”

An opportunity to make our communities accessible to people with sight loss

Helen Sismore – Sighted Guide Ambassador





Guide Dogs values

We want a society in which blind and partially sighted people enjoy the same freedom of movement as everyone else





My Guide - easy, safe assistance to get out and about

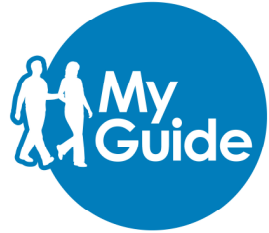
My Guide aims to reduce the isolation that many people with sight loss experience, helping them to rebuild their confidence and regain their independence.

My Guide trains people to use sighted guiding techniques in order to help people with sight loss get out of their homes and back into the community.



Open for Business: Providing Community Sighted Guides

- **My Guide** training
 - **National standard of training** endorsed by the sector body, **Vision 20-20**
 - Level 1 of **My Guide** provides basic sight loss awareness and sighted guiding training,
 - Gives people confidence to approach and provide appropriate safe assistance
 - Helps visually impaired people to navigate the environment safely, whilst **maintaining dignity** and **promoting independence**
-



Why is My Guide training so important?

Every hour, another person in the UK goes blind. When someone loses their sight, we know you join us in wanting to make sure they don't lose their freedom as well.

180,000 blind and partially sighted people rarely leave home. It is the one disability that requires contact and a physical intervention.

Guide Dogs is committed to giving people confidence and mobility assistance to leave the home and participate in commercial, leisure and social activities - when and where they want.





Some examples: Cambridge Shop Mobility Beverley Car Lift Scheme

BPSP calls the host organisation and books a trained sighted guide volunteer / driver

- Training provided to staff and volunteers
 - Assessed sighted guiding, ensuring confidence and safety
 - Linked with community car schemes, care networks, local sensory teams
 - In the process of surveying clients to understand impact
-



Examples of activity and comments

Comments

- "Its as good as a trip to the seaside"
- "I am very satisfied with the sighted guide service offered"

Examples of work

Working out bus times for a Lady to use the sighted guides so she can come to the centre under her own steam.

Working with Lady and her daughter to guide them to meet an old friend for lunch.

Working with a lady who can still drive but has a problem with light and dark arranging to meet as she cannot use Car Parks, too dark and needs a sighted guide to get her into the shopping centre





Next Stage

Promoting Sighted guide training to:

- Friends and family of blind and partially sighted people
- Organisations who could provide a direct intervention to help blind or partially sighted people
- Promotion of accessible services to blind or partially sighted people





Find out more

**Helen Sismore, Sighted Guide
Ambassador 07795611468
helen.sismore@guidedogs.org.uk**

**My Guide Hotline: 0118 983 8187
Email: myguide@guidedogs.org.uk
www.myguide.org.uk**

West Norfolk Volunteering Brief

Boarder for dogs in training – Dereham / Swaffham

Guide Dog seeks temporary accommodation – could you provide a temporary home to a guide dog during their training?

You will:

- Provide a welcoming and safe environment for a dog or puppy for the time required.
 - Ensure the dog or puppy is fed and exercised as directed
 - Embed the same behaviour and commands as your supervisor
 - In the event of an emergency, ensure the dog or puppy receives veterinary care and Guide Dogs is informed immediately.
 - Be required to attend training sessions.
 - Enjoy working with dogs and have suitable accommodation
 - Show perseverance to help support the training of the dogs
 - Have good communication skills
-
- Regular and ongoing support and training from your supervisor
 - Basic induction to Guide Dogs and to the role
 - All food, veterinary costs and the provision of equipment

Emergency Boarder / Dog Exerciser – King's Lynn

Same as boarding opportunity above but more ad hoc as usually a boarder will have a dog when its owner is in hospital. It goes hand in hand with Dog Exerciser role.

*Provide invaluable support to a guide dog owner by occasionally walking the guide dog in its local environment, either accompanied or unaccompanied by the Guide Dog Owner.

You will:

- Ensure the guide dog is exercised as directed by the guide dog owner and Guide Dogs
 - Liaise with Guide Dogs staff and the guide dog owner
 - Facilitate the collection and delivery of the guide dog at pre-agreed times
 - Enjoy working with dogs
 - Good communication skills
-
- Regular and ongoing support and training from Guide Dogs/supervisor
 - Basic induction to Guide Dogs and to the role

Fundraiser – King's Lynn

Be a part of your local fundraising team promoting and being involved in a variety of activities to raise vital funds for Guide Dogs.

Volunteering with the local branch means you'll join a friendly team and meet new people (as well as some of our fabulous four legged friends) You could be doing anything from helping out at a collection to selling our trading goods

- from cuddly toy pups to pens. Most importantly, by giving just one hour of your time, you'll be making a real difference by helping Guide Dogs enable blind and partially sighted people to enjoy the same freedom of movement as everyone else.

No qualifications or previous experience needed. We are looking for volunteers with good communication skills and an enthusiasm for raising money for Guide Dogs.

Volunteers can join a branch based in King's Lynn with volunteering taking place in the local area.