

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 22 May 2013 at 2.30pm in the Wembley Room,
Lynnsport.**

PRESENT:

Representing the Borough Council: Councillors Mrs S Smeaton
(Chairman), T Bubb, M Chenery of Horsbrugh, M Langwade, A
Lawrence, G Sandell

Officers: R Parker

Representing Disabled People: P French (Vice Chairman), J Ablitt, W
Blades, G Henshaw, G Newell, H Sismore, T Tucker

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors L Allen, C
Bond, G Darling, T Gilder, K Warner.

By Invitation: M Mitchell

		ACTION
1.	<u>MINUTES</u> The Minutes from the meeting held on 20 March 2013 were agreed as a correct record.	
2.	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> There were none.	
3.	<u>FEEDBACK FROM THE TOUR OF THE BODYWORKS STUDIO AND RESULTS FROM THE CUSTOMER SURVEY</u> Mark Mitchell, Bodyworks Manager, was present at the meeting to receive feedback from the Forum on the new Bodyworks Studio at Lynnsport. The Forum had conducted a tour of the Studio prior to the meeting. Mark Mitchell explained that the new studio had been designed to be as inclusive as possible and prior to redevelopment he had consulted with users of the facility. A feedback exercise had also been carried out following the refurbishment of the new studio and	

<p>further changes had been made as necessary.</p> <p>Geneve Henshaw informed those present that she had recently made enquiries into becoming a member of the facility at Lynnsport, but explained that she had been told by a member of staff that she would not be allowed to bring her guide dog into the facility. Mark Mitchell apologised to Geneve Henshaw regarding the incorrect information which she had been told and he explained that Lynnsport did have a guide dog policy. He explained that there were no prohibiting factors to prevent Geneve Henshaw using the facility with her guide dog. He explained that each new member was provided with a one to one consultation and induction and through this process a needs analysis could be produced and measures would be implemented to ensure that Geneve Henshaw could use the facility with the aid of her guide dog.</p> <p>Mark Mitchell offered Geneve Henshaw the opportunity to make an appointment to go to the Bodyworks Studio and try out the equipment with her guide dog.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor M Chenery of Horsbrugh, Mark Mitchell explained that Lynnsport did have a Guide Dog Policy in place, which was in the process of being updated. He explained that there was no 'off limit' areas for guide dogs and each case would be considered on its own merits with changes made as appropriate to suit each individual using the facility.</p> <p>Helen Sismore from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association was pleased that Lynnsport was an inclusive facility and had a policy in place for guide dogs. She explained that her Association offered sighted guide training for staff as well as offering information and advice on legislation and the law relating to guide dogs.</p> <p>Helen Sismore and Mark Mitchell agreed to liaise regarding possible future training sessions for staff.</p> <p>Councillor Bubb explained that his son attended the disabled swimming session at St James Pool on a Saturday and was concerned at the lack of attendance at this session. He felt that work needed to be done to promote the session and increase attendance. Mark Mitchell agreed to pass on Councillor Bubb's concerns to the relevant Operations Manager at St James Pool.</p> <p>Councillor Lawrence suggested that the Forum make the Portfolio</p>	<p>HS/MM</p> <p>MM</p> <p>All</p>
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	<p>Holder for Assets, Councillor David Pope, aware of any concerns they may have relating to the leisure facilities, he could then ensure that they were passed on and dealt with by the appropriate officer.</p> <p>The Chairman, on behalf of the Forum, thanked Mark Mitchell for the tour of the Bodyworks Studio and for attending the meeting.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>MOBILITY AND SCOOTER SAFETY AWARENESS EVENT</u></p> <p>Teresa Tucker from Norfolk Constabulary was present at the meeting to provide the Forum with information on the Mobility and Scooter Safety Awareness Event which would be held on Monday 1st July 2013 from 10.00am to 1.00pm in the Corn Exchange in King's Lynn.</p> <p>The event was open to everyone and would promote safe use of mobility scooters.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>OPPORTUNITY AWARDS</u></p> <p>The Secretary informed those present that the closing date for nominations for the 2013 award was 7th June 2013. Unfortunately so far only one nomination had been received.</p> <p>She informed the Forum that if insufficient nominations were received the awards ceremony would be deferred until next year and any nominations made for this year would be carried over.</p> <p>The Secretary agreed to inform the Forum of the situation with the awards following the close of nominations.</p>	<p>RP</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p><u>(i) Police and Crime Commissioner Focus Groups</u></p> <p>The Secretary informed the Forum that she had received an email from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk explaining that they were intending on holding focus groups with disability groups and asked if this is something that the West Norfolk Disability Forum would be interested in.</p> <p>The Forum agreed that they would be interested in participating in the focus groups and the Secretary agreed to respond to the email.</p>	<p>RP</p>

	<p><u>(ii) Access to medical facilities</u></p> <p>The Secretary reminded those present that at the previous meeting concerns had been raised regarding access to medical treatment and facilities. She explained that she had contacted the hospital and local surgery to find out what facilities they had in place and was awaiting a response.</p> <p>Councillor M Chenery of Horsburgh informed those present that the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee could deal with this issue if it was felt that insufficient facilities were in place. Councillor Lawrence suggested that concerns could be forwarded to the Clinical Care Commission if required.</p> <p><u>(iii) Role of the Group</u></p> <p>The Secretary reminded those present that at the previous meeting, they had considered ways to promote the role of the West Norfolk Disability Forum. The Secretary explained that an article had now been published in the Borough Council's staff newsletter and an article had been sent to Parish Magazine editors to promote the group.</p>	All
7.	<p><u>WORK PROGRAMME</u></p> <p>The Forum considered their work programme as attached to the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Bubb explained that he was aware that a Norfolk Disabled Parents Group was in existence and asked if they could be invited to a future meeting of the Forum to provide information on their role. The Secretary agreed to investigate.</p> <p>It was suggested that someone be invited to a future meeting of the Forum to provide information on the different types of tactile paving. The Secretary agreed to investigate.</p>	RP RP
8.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p><u>(i) Hospital Transport</u></p> <p>The group discussed problems faced with the lack of availability and cost of hospital transport. Councillor M Chenery of Horsburgh explained that the West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group met</p>	

	<p>regularly and offered a public question time at each meeting. He suggested that concerns such as this could be raised by individuals at the meetings.</p> <p><u>(ii) Correspondence from the Forum</u></p> <p>Councillor A Lawrence referred to the issues raised at the meeting regarding Hospital Transport and access to medical facilities etc. and explained that he felt that correspondence would have more merit if they came from individuals rather than a standard letter send by the Secretary on behalf of the forum. He explained that if the same issue was raised by a number of different individuals it was likely to be given more consideration. Councillor Lawrence suggested that concerns and complaints could be sent to the Local Member of Parliament or the West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group if they related to healthcare.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the West Norfolk Disability Forum would be the Annual General Meeting and would be held on 1st July 2013 at 2.30pm in the Corn Exchange, King's Lynn.</p>	

The meeting closed at 3.50pm