

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
AGENDA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 9th July 2009

at 7.00pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street,
King's Lynn, Norfolk

1. Welcome by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of 6 Members to the Committee who shall be people with disabilities or representatives of voluntary organisations concerned with people with disabilities.

Positions up for election: Wendy Blades, Tess Gilder, Rick Cotton, Sylvia Pomeroy, Trevor and Susan Smith, 1 vacancy.

4. Minutes – to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 10th July 2008 (copy attached as appendix 1).
5. Guest speaker – Jonathan Langman, Assistive Technology Officer, Norfolk County Council.
6. To receive the Committee's Annual Report for 2008/2009 (copy attached as appendix 2.)
7. Opportunity Awards 2009 – to receive an update
8. Issues of concern and interest to people with disabilities.
9. Schedule of Meetings 2009/2010 – to approve the schedule attached at appendix 3.
10. Any other business.
11. Thanks and close.

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Notes of the Annual Disability Forum and Annual General Meeting of the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities held on Thursday 10th July 2008 at 7.00pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

PRESENT:**Representing the Borough Council:**

Councillor David Harwood (Chair), Mrs Ann Clery-Fox, Geoff Daniell, Michael Langwade, Garry Sandell, Mrs Stephanie Smeaton

Representing People with Disabilities:

Pat French, Tess Gilder, Sylvia Pomeroy, Susan Smith, Trevor Smith, Graham Young

Professional Advisors:

Allison Bingham, Honor Howell, Mark Paflin

By Invitation:

The Mayor and Mayoress,
Teri Emery, Olive Young

Also Present:

Jacqueline Blades, Sue Lowe, Jane Murchie, Jan Warner,

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors John Legg, Mrs Janet Murphy
Judith Frary, Jonathan Toye.

1. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

The Mayor, Councillor David Johnson welcomed all those present to the meeting and hoped that it would be an informative and constructive one.

He explained that this Committee was personally important to him as he had been disabled from a young age. He assured the Committee that their presence at the meeting was very much appreciated as it demonstrated the support

for and appreciation of the work which the Committee undertook throughout the year.

He recognised that the Committee's work could sometimes be challenging but was pleased that a positive attitude was taken by Members.

He reminded the Committee that the Opportunity awards had taken place which recognised the achievements of people with disabilities and explained that the next event would be held in 2009 to coincide with the Awards twentieth anniversary.

The Mayor informed the Committee that work was ongoing to re-launch the annual disabilities forum and an event was planned for the 19th November 2008 which he looked forward to attending.

He appreciated that the Committee had an important role in highlighting problems such as dropped kerbs, pavements and access to services and thanked the professional advisors for their assistance in resolving issues.

He hoped that the Committee would remain united in its approach to issues, especially in times of uncertainty with the Local Government Review which could result in a Unitary Council for the whole of Norfolk.

He thanked the Committee for listening and appreciated their attendance and interest on this subject.

2. ELECTION

The Chair read out a letter of resignation from Paul Brandon. Paul Brandon had explained that he had enjoyed his time on the Committee and wished the Committee all the very best for the future.

The Chair thanked Paul Brandon for his valuable contribution to the Committee and it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to him on behalf of the Committee

Three members had served their two year term on the Committee and their positions were up for election. There were also two vacancies to be filled.

AGREED: That the Secretary write a letter on behalf of the Committee expressing their thanks and best wishes to Paul Brandon.

RESOLVED: (i) That the following be elected unopposed to the Advisory Committee for People with disabilities to represent people with disabilities and voluntary organisations concerned with people with disabilities for the next two years:

Kathy Warner
Pat French
3 vacancies

(ii) That the Secretary contact Robert Bunting to determine if he wished to fill one of the vacant positions and carry on his role with the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities.

(iii) That the Secretary canvass potential interested people with disabilities or people who represented disabilities to try and fill the vacant positions. The Committee were reminded that members could be co-opted onto the Committee at the next quorate meeting.

3. CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chair informed the Committee that Graham Young had requested this item be added to the agenda for discussion.

Graham Young explained that he felt it may be more beneficial to the Committee if it was represented by a disabled person rather than a Borough Councillor. He realised that this would require the Committee's constitution to change and asked that the current Chair make the necessary arrangements to proceed this issue.

The Chair explained that the Committee had originally been set up by the Borough Council and the Committee reported to Cabinet. Any changes to the Committee's constitution would need to be agreed by the Cabinet and then endorsed by the full Council. He explained that he had already approached the Leader to get his view on the matter and early indications were that the Cabinet would prefer the Committee to be chaired by a Borough Councillor to maintain the link to the Council.

The Chair felt that he was in a good position to chair the Committee as he was a member of the Cabinet and took

forward the views of the Committee directly to Cabinet when necessary.

Sylvia Pomeroy agreed that it was important to maintain the link with the Council and felt that the current Chair was in the best position to take issues forward. She reminded the Committee that its constitution was originally drawn up jointly by the Council and people with disabilities.

Councillor Smeaton reminded the Committee that many of the Councillors who were members of the Committee did in fact have disabilities themselves.

The general position of the Committee was that they were happy with the current Chairmanship arrangements but agreed to discuss the issue in more detail at a future meeting if necessary.

AGREED: That the Chair take this issue forward to Cabinet as appropriate and the matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee when the position of Chair would be up for election.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities Annual General Meeting and Annual Disabilities forum held on 5th July 2007 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. PRESENTATION ON 'OUT AND ABOUT' ORGANISATION

Terri Emery from the 'Out and About' Organisation gave a presentation to the Committee on the work being carried out with disabled children and young people aged 5-25 in the area.

The organisation was currently based at St Augustine's Health Living Centre and had been working with young people in the area since 2004.

She explained that the organisation currently covered Suffolk and King's Lynn and West Norfolk and was hoping to expand further in the future.

The vision of the organisation was to break through barriers and turn grey skies to blue by giving disabled young people the opportunity to take part in fully inclusive activities.

Teri Emery informed the Committee that an activity plan would be set up for the disabled young person to ascertain the type of activity they would like to be involved in and then work to overcome barriers preventing participation.

The organisation had a 'loans budget' which was available if families needed to purchase equipment so that the disabled young person could participate in activities.

She informed the Committee that they did not provide financial support or transport as the use of public transport was encouraged to help develop life skills. The Committee raised concerns regarding the fact that West Norfolk was a rural area and the provision of transport was sometimes difficult. Teri Emery explained that these concerns had already been raised and work was ongoing to develop solutions.

Teri Emery explained that the age limit of 5 to 25 mirrored that of Children's Services and had recently increased to 25 from 18.

The organisation was 44% government funded and the rest of the funding relied on income and fundraising.

She outlined the current projects ongoing in West Norfolk and Suffolk.

The Chair thanked Teri Emery for her interesting and informative presentation.

6. ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

The Secretary presented the Annual Report of the Advisory Committee for people with disabilities for 2007-2008.

She reported that it had been a challenging year for the Committee, having to deal with a large range of issues including those listed below:

- Endorsement of on-line access guide
- Re-launch of the Annual Disabilities Forum
- Review of the Disabilities Equality Scheme

- Access to the Arts Centre
- Pavements and Highways issues
- Opportunities Awards
- Car Parking Charges for Blue Badge Holders
- Post Office Closures

The Secretary and professional advisors had also represented the Committee at a variety of meetings.

The Chair informed the Committee that the proposal to close certain post offices in the area had recently been challenged by a disabled person due to the proposals not being compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act regarding access to services. He informed the Committee that the result of this challenge was likely to be known shortly.

Sylvia Pomeroy explained the Committee that she had recently encountered problems with parking during Festival Too, as the Tuesday Market Place had been cordoned off. She was attending an event at the Corn Exchange and due to close proximity parking being cordoned off she had had to park quite a way away from the Corn Exchange. She asked if correspondence could be sent to the relevant organisations to make them aware of the situation.

Queries were also raised regarding ticketing machines being set up to take into account the £1 charge after 6.00pm. The Secretary reminded the Committee that at its previous meeting a representative from the Car Parks department explained that there had been some technical problems configuring the machines to take into account the additional charge but these were now being rectified.

Councillor Clery-Fox enquired if anything had been set up to allow blue badge holders extra time in the car parks as it often took them slightly longer to do their shopping. The Secretary confirmed that this suggestion had been passed on to the Car Parks department for consideration.

The Chair thanked the Secretary for presentation of the Annual Report.

AGREED: That the Secretary write to the Police and the Car Parking Section of the Borough Council to bring to their attention problems encountered with parking during the Festival Too period.

7. ANNUAL DISABILITIES FORUM

The Secretary sought members views on a title for the event and asked for volunteers to sit on a working group to assist with arrangements.

AGREED: (i) On being put to the vote it was agreed that this year's event was titled 'Celebrate-ability'.

(ii) That the following members of the Committee sit on the Annual Disabilities Forum Working Group:

Councillor Harwood
Sylvia Pomeroy
Pat French
Kathy Warner

8. ISSUES OF CONCERN AND INTEREST TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

(i) Post Office Closures

The Chair informed the Committee that the results of the Post Office review were disappointing and he felt that the Borough Council's submission had been ignored.

Councillor Clery-Fox informed the Committee that she had spoken to a representative from the Post Office regarding Post Office card accounts who explained that it would be two years before this scheme came to an end.

(ii) Multi Storey Car Park

Sylvia Pomeroy sought clarification on the parking process at St James multi-storey car park. The Chair confirmed that a section of the multi-storey was in the process of being changed to a 'pay on foot' section for members of the public who were unable to easily use the barrier. The Secretary reminded the Committee that at its previous meeting a representative from the Car Parks Department was present and explained that the amount of larger bays available would be increased.

(iii) Sainsburys Car Park

Sylvia Pomeroy informed the Committee that she had recently encountered problems when parking on the top level

of Sainsburys car park. She had parked her car and then realised that the escalator was out of order meaning that she had to go back to her car and try and find a space on the lower level of the car park. She felt that signage should be erected if there were problems with the access down to Sainsburys so that members of the public with disabilities could then park on the lower level.

AGREED: (i) That the Secretary write to Sainsburys asking if signs could be erected if there were problems with the access from the top level of the car park.

(ii) That the Secretary write to the Car Parks department of the Borough Council, who owned the Sainsburys car park, asking them if disabled car parking spaces could be moved from the top level of the car park to the lower level so that people with disabilities did not face difficulties when the escalator was out of order.

(iv) Advocacy Services

Jane Murchie from Age Concern West Norfolk asked the Committee if they were aware of any organisations that provided advocacy services to people with disabilities.

She was advised to contact West Norfolk Community and Voluntary Action or Contact Jonathan Toye at West Norfolk Disability Information Service.

9. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2008/2009

A revised schedule of meetings was agreed by the Committee and is attached at appendix 1.

The next ordinary meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 9th September 2008 at 6.00pm

10. THANKS AND CLOSE

The Chair thanked the Mayor, Mayoress and all others present for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Annual Report for 2008/2009

Presented to the Annual General
Meeting of the Advisory Committee
for People with Disabilities on
9th July 2009

1. Introduction

It has been yet another challenging year for the Advisory Committee, having to deal with a wide range of issues.

The Committee held their Annual Disabilities Forum in November 2008 and are now in the process of arranging the Opportunity Awards event for October 2009.

The Committee have been proactive in raising issues, which have been investigated by the Chair and Secretary.

2. Meetings of the Committee

During the year five full Committee meetings and one special meeting (to discuss the Local Development Framework Core Strategy) were held and attendance of those meetings is shown in the schedule attached to this report.

3. Matters of Concern and Key Issues/ discussions from throughout the year

(i) Online Access Guide

The Committee have continually supported the progress of an Online Access Guide. The Guide is to be officially launched prior to the Annual General Meeting.

To assist with informing the Online Access Guide the Committee have planned to undertake visits to tourist attractions in the Borough to comment on facilities available for people with disabilities. The first of such visits took place in May 2009 to Sandringham House and Gardens. Another visit is likely to be planned later on in the year.

(ii) Consultations

Throughout the year the Committee have been consulted on the following issues/developments concerning the Borough:

- Baker Lane Car Park (Borough Council)
- Disabled crossing facilities in King's Lynn, Hunstanton and Downham Market (Norfolk County Council)
- Local Development Framework Core Strategy Document (Borough Council)
- King's Lynn/West Lynn Ferry – Developments and Improvements (Mott MacDonald)

(iii) Presentations/Updates

During the Year, the Committee have received various presentations and updates, including the following:

- Presentation on the Out and About organisation
- Freebridge Community Housing updates
- Neighbourhood Management Board updates
- Presentation on the work of the Improving Neighbourhoods Team
- Presentation on the work of Norfolk and Norwich Association for the blind.

(iv) General Issues

Committee Members are able to raise issues of concern through the Secretary at meetings. These have included issues relating to parking spaces, accessibility, highways issues, etc. Over the past year the Committee have discussed and had the following issues investigated:

- Provision of a 'drop off point' at Sainsburys Car Park
- New hoist seat at St James Pool
- Post Office closures
- Blue Badge Scheme
- Disabled toilet facilities
- Access to the Arts Centre
- The Walks
- Highways issues, including dropped kerbs, obstructions etc.

4. Working Groups

The Committee presently has established two working groups, which meet on an ad hoc basis:

- Planning Applications Working Group – to discuss the implications of public access planning applications
- Opportunity Awards Working Group – to make arrangements for the awards

5. Celebrate-ability – Annual Disabilities Forum

The Committee held its Annual Disabilities Forum on 19th November 2008. The event was held to promote and highlight

opportunities and services for people with disabilities and raise awareness of the issues faced by those with a disability.

The event took place in the Corn Exchange and involved a range of service providers and voluntary organisations.

Positive feedback was received from those that attended and it is anticipated that another event will be held in 2010.

6. Future of the Committee

(i) Opportunity Awards 2009

Arrangements are in place for the Opportunity Awards ceremony which will take place on 15th October 2009 at Lynnsport.

The Scheme was instituted by the Advisory Committee in 1989 and seeks to recognise outstanding contributions, including innovation, imagination or commitment which have enabled people with a disability to lead a normal life.

This year will be the 20th anniversary of the awards.

Posters and nomination forms are in the process of being circulated and additional copies are available by contacting the Secretary to the Committee or by visiting the Borough Council's website – www.west-norfolk.gov.uk.

(ii) RNIB React System

The Committee have fully supported the introduction of this system, which will hopefully be introduced throughout King's Lynn for the Pilgrimage trail.

Budget has been made available for the provision and installation of 8 boxes and 50 key fobs.

Key fobs for the system would be made available for hire/purchase and the system would be used to deliver location information and additional messages for a variety of purposes.

(iii) Reporting Arrangements

Since the Advisory Committee was established, many changes have been made to Local Government, including the formation of Local Strategic Partnerships.

It is now anticipated that the Advisory Committee will, in future, report to the Healthier Communities and Older Persons Thematic Partnership, which forms part of the West Norfolk Partnership.

The Committee have previously agreed this move, as it was generally felt that this would be beneficial for the Committee as a wider range of organisations would be aware of the work of the Committee and more joint working could be undertaken.

Progress on this issue is still ongoing.

Attendances at Meetings since the last Annual General Meeting

Committee Member	No of Meetings	No of Meetings attended
Robert Bunting	6	0
Pat French	6	3
Mr and Mrs Smith	6	5
Kathy Warner	6	2
Sylvia Pomeroy	6	2
Rick Cotton	6	0
Wendy Blades	6	5
Tess Gilder	6	4
Councillor D Harwood	6	6
Councillor Mrs A Clery-Fox	6	4
Councillor G Daniell	6	3
Councillor M Langwade	6	5
Councillor Mrs J Murphy	6	4
Councillor G Sandell	6	4
Councillor Mrs S Smeaton	6	5

Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities**Schedule of future meetings 2009/2010**

Thursday 17th September 2009 at 6.00pm

Monday 16th November 2009 at 2.30pm

Wednesday 13th January 2009 at 2.30pm

Tuesday 23rd March 2009 at 2.30pm

Thursday 25th May 2009 at 6.00pm

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 8th July 2009 at 7.00pm