

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**Notes of a Meeting of the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 4.00pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.**

**PRESENT:**

**Representing the Borough Council:**

Councillors Michael Chenery of Horsburgh (substitute for Councillor Garry Sandell), Ann Clery-Fox, Michael Langwade, John Legg, Janet Murphy, Stephanie Smeaton.

**Representing People with Disabilities:**

Allison Bingham, Ruth Carroll, Judith Frary, Pat French, Sheridan Hall, Sylvia Pomeroy, Kathy Warner.

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Wendy Blades, Jill Darling, Tess Gilder, Sue Smith, Trevor Smith, Eddie West-Burnham.  
Councillors Harwood and Sandell

		ACTION
1.	<b><u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR</u></b>  <b>AGREED:</b> In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Councillor John Legg was appointed Chair for the meeting.	
2.	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b>  The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to Tess Gilder being added to the list of apologies.	
3.	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b>  There was none.	
4.	<b><u>RNIB REACT SYSTEM</u></b>  Allison Bingham provided the group with an update regarding the installation of the React System on the Pilgrimage Trail in King's	

Lynn. She reminded the group that the system consisted of boxes which would be positioned along the trail and would provide blind and partially sighted people with information. She explained that boxes would be installed at the following points along the Pilgrimage Trail:

- King's Lynn Museum
- Red Mount Chapel
- Greyfriars Tower
- All Saints Church
- St Margarets Church
- Town House Museums
- Customs House
- St Nicholas Chapel
- St Johns Terrace

There would also be one spare box available in the event that one would need replacing.

Allison Bingham explained that the boxes were likely to be situated on lamp posts near the relevant building, however some would need to be placed on the actual building, and Allison Bingham was in the process of gaining the necessary consents to do this. She explained that the boxes could be painted to blend in with the surrounding environment.

The boxes would be programmed to provide information in the following languages:

- English
- Lithuanian
- Portuguese
- Russian

She explained that the key fobs would be set to different radio frequencies dependent on the language required by the user. Allison Bingham expected the key fobs to be available, for a small deposit, at the Museum and the Tourist Information Centre. She anticipated that approximately 30 key fobs would be available.

The group discussed where the key fobs should be made available as the Tourist Information Centre did not open on a Sunday morning. It was suggested that some could be made available

	<p>from the Green Quay. Allison Bingham explained that this area did not form part of the pilgrimage trail, but she would investigate other ways of making the key fobs available. She explained that if a box was placed outside of the Pilgrimage Trail it would need to be marketed and promoted so that people knew it was there.</p> <p>In response to a question, Allison Bingham explained that she would be working with Norfolk County Council, who produced the current leaflets promoting the Pilgrimage Trail, with a hope to including additional information regarding the React System.</p> <p>Allison Bingham informed the Committee that she anticipated installation of the boxes to take place in September/October 2010. She agreed to keep the group updated on progress.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>AB</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b><u>FREEBRIDGE COMMUNITY HOUSING UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>Sylvia Pomeroy explained that Freebridge Community Housing was to open a Customer Care Centre, which all enquires would be directed to and dealt with.</p> <p>She also explained that an agreement had now been reached to rent out the houses and flats on the 'Yours' site, which had not been sold. She informed the Committee that these houses and flats had been on the market as affordable housing for some time, but due to the current market situation they had not sold.</p> <p>Sylvia Pomeroy informed the Committee that Freebridge Community Housing had now had plans agreed for a development at Great Massingham. One of the houses within the development would be built as a 'House for life'. Sylvia Pomeroy explained that a 'house for life' was a property that could be easily adapted, so that if a family expanded walls could be moved to make more space. The property could also be easily adapted to suit people with disabilities.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><b><u>NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT BOARD</u></b></p> <p>The group were informed that Sue Lowe had now left Age Concern.</p> <p>The Secretary agreed to arrange for a written update from the Neighbourhood Management Board in future so that the Committee could be kept updated on current issues.</p>	<p>RP</p>

7.	<p><b><u>ONLINE ACCESS GUIDE</u></b></p> <p>Allison Bingham provided the Committee with an update on the Online Access Guide. She explained that ‘web-hits’ were averaging at 512 searches per month, this figure had increased following the on-air campaign by KLFM.</p> <p>She requested that Members of the Committee forward her any information that could be used to populate the front page of the site, which could include advertisements for upcoming events or any other relevant information.</p> <p>Allison Bingham referred the Committee to she proposed to send to all of the places on the access guide which had been attached to the agenda. She asked if the Committee were happy with the content of the letter and if they agreed to the charge of £10 per year for each entry within the guide. The Committee agreed to this small charge, which would be used to cover maintenance, administration and publicity costs of the guide.</p> <p>It was suggested that other services could be included in the guide under a separate heading of ‘service providers’. Allison Bingham explained that some service providers were already on the site.</p> <p>The Committee suggested that it would be good to promote the following events on the guide, and Allison Bingham agreed to investigate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanse Festival</li> <li>• St George’s Day event</li> <li>• Specialist Markets</li> <li>• Freedom of the Borough parades</li> </ul> <p>Allison Bingham informed the Committee that the Guide’s one year anniversary would be in July 2010 and felt it would be good to hold an event to mark the anniversary and further promote the guide. She explained that this would be held on the same evening as the Committee’s Annual General Meeting and sought the Committee’s views on what type of event to hold.</p> <p>Allison Bingham agreed to keep the Committee updated on progress.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>AB</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>AB</p>
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8.	<p><b><u>ANNUAL DISABILITY FORUM</u></b></p> <p>Allison Bingham reminded the Committee that they had carried out initial discussions on the Annual Disabilities Forum at their last meeting.</p> <p>She had subsequently booked the Corn Exchange on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010. She anticipated that the event would be held over the lunch period, opening at 12noon, to try and encourage maximum attendance.</p> <p>Allison Bingham explained that she wanted to form a working group to take the arrangements for this forward. Members who would like to take part in this group were to contact the Secretary. The group would initially meet after Easter. The following Committee Members expressed an interest in being involved in the working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allison Bingham</li> <li>• Pat French</li> <li>• Councillor Stephanie Smeaton</li> <li>• Sheridan Hall</li> </ul> <p>Allison Bingham explained that the working group would report back to the Committee's next meeting in May.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the possibility of making the event more interactive and suggested contacting Mark Spinks and the West Norfolk Partnership who had Wii fits which were used in the Community.</p> <p>Allison Bingham informed the Committee that the Corn Exchange had allowed her to use the venue at a discounted price, however arrangements for refreshments had not yet been agreed and Allison Bingham agreed to investigate the most cost effective way of providing refreshments.</p> <p>The Committee were requested to email the Secretary with any other comments or views regarding the arrangements for the event.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>AB</p> <p>ALL</p>
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9.	<p><b><u>SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE</u></b></p> <p><u>(i) Tactile Paving at North Lynn</u></p> <p>The Committee were reminded that issues had previously been raised regarding an area of tactile paving at North Lynn Industrial Estate, opposite the dentist surgery. There was a drop on the edge of the curve rather than a slope.</p> <p>Paul Groom from Norfolk County Council Highways department had emailed the Secretary with a response explaining that work had been identified from the enquiry raised relating to the pedestrian access opposite the surgery and this would be done when resources and budget allowed.</p> <p><u>(ii) Review of Constitution</u></p> <p>The Secretary explained that this Committee now reported to the West Norfolk Partnership Healthier Communities and Older Persons Partnership. The Partnership had previously requested that this Committee review their constitution to make it more in line with the West Norfolk Partnership. The Secretary informed the Committee that she would carry out work to amend the constitution and the amendments would be presented to the Committee's Annual General meeting in July. The amended Constitution would then be submitted to the West Norfolk Partnership's Healthier Communities and Older Persons Partnership for final approval.</p> <p><u>(iii) Annual General Meeting Arrangements</u></p> <p>The Secretary asked if anyone had any suggestions for presentations or guest speakers for the Committee's Annual General Meeting in July.</p> <p>The Secretary informed the Committee that the date of the Annual General Meeting had been moved from 8<sup>th</sup> July to <b>15<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm in the Committee Suite.</b></p> <p><u>(iv) Swifts and Night Owls</u></p> <p>The Secretary explained that she had contacted the above organisation following discussions held at the Committee's last meeting. She explained that the Swifts and Night Owls were</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL TO NOTE</p>
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currently not operating in the West Norfolk district as yet. Norfolk County Council had explained that out of hours nurses carried out similar tasks to those of Night Owls.

During the day, there was a service called LIST based at Priory House which performed the same functions as Swifts, though they did not carry out falls recovery or personal care. They did however, signpost people onto all kinds of sectors, including those from the third sector.

The Swifts and Night Owls were not universal across the County because there had been in the past some debate about funding. The original Night Owls and Swifts were, four years ago, brought into being through funding from the Government's 'At Home Not Alone' project, when each district set up the services it felt most closely met the needs of its locality.

The success of the Night Owls and Swifts had led to a great deal of discussion about how this service could be put in place across the county.

Night Owls and Swifts were now part of Norfolk First Support, the county's re-enablement service, which had a county wide presence, including in the west, which provided care and re-enablement services for people who had recently come out of hospital.

Increasingly, First Support workers were also called in to assist older people who had health and personal care emergencies.

The Secretary informed the Committee that Norfolk County Council had confirmed they would shortly be recruiting to have a Night Owl service in the West, so that they could augment the health work undertaken by the out of hours nurses. This should be underway in the next couple of months.

#### (v) Pavements surrounding St James Pool in King's Lynn

The Secretary reminded the Committee that they had previously raised issues regarding the state of the pavements surrounding St James Pool. The Secretary had received a response from Paul Groom at Norfolk County Council Highways on this issue.

Paul Groom explained that he would inspect the footway and any

	work required would be programmed and completed as soon as budget and resources allowed.	
10.	<p><b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p><u>(i) Alleyway to the side of the Duke's Head</u></p> <p>Sylvia Pomeroy explained that she was aware of cars parking in the alleyway, meaning people in wheelchairs could not easily navigate through the alleyway. The Secretary agreed to raise this issue with the necessary authority and feedback to the Committee.</p> <p><u>(ii) Red Cross Centre – Older Persons Committee</u></p> <p>Councillor Legg informed the Committee that he had recently attended the above meeting which was run by Hazel Fredericks at the Red Cross Centre. He explained that the Committee was open to all and anyone interested in attending future meetings should contact the centre.</p> <p><u>(iii) Asperges Syndrome</u></p> <p>Councillor Smeaton explained that she was aware that Council funding for the younger persons Asperges Syndrome group had been withdrawn. She requested that the Secretary, on behalf of the Committee, write to the necessary Authority to highlight the importance of this group.</p> <p><u>(iv) Parking outside Barclays Bank in Hunstanton</u></p> <p>Ruth Carroll explained that she had recently encountered problems with cars parking in front of the dropped kerb outside Barclays Bank in Hunstanton which made it difficult for wheelchair users to get up onto the kerb to access the Bank. She requested that the Secretary investigate this issue.</p> <p><u>(v) Dropped kerb to the rear of Boots, King's Lynn</u></p> <p>The Secretary had previously raised this issue, but Members of the Committee explained that work had yet to be carried out in this area. The Secretary agreed to investigate and provide an update at the next meeting.</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>RP</p> <p>RP</p> <p>RP</p>



11.	<b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b>  The next meeting of the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities would take place on Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 6.00pm at the Borough Council Offices, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.	

**The meeting closed at 4.45pm**