

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

WEST NORFOLK DISABILITY FORUM

**Minutes of a Meeting of the West Norfolk Disability Forum Meeting
held on Wednesday 21 January 2015 at 2.30 pm in the Committee
Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn**

PRESENT:

Representing the Borough Council:

Councillors L Bambridge, T Bubb (Chairman), M Chenery of
Horsbrugh, J Leamon, M Pitcher, S Sandell

Officers: A Bingham, D Morton, R Parker

Representing Disabled People:

W Blades, M Connell, J Darling, G Henshaw,
P French, H Sismore and K Warner

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Lawrence, T
Gilder, S Pomeroy, R Stafford.

		ACTION
1.	<u>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</u> The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those present introduced themselves.	
2.	<u>MINUTES</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2014 were agreed as a correct record.	
3.	<u>MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA</u> <u>(i) A Boards</u> Allison Bingham explained that the introduction of a management scheme for A Boards had not yet been implemented. The arrangements to transfer powers from Norfolk County Council to the Borough Council had not yet been finalised. Allison Bingham agreed to keep the Forum updated on progress. At the request of the Forum the Secretary agreed to write to the	AB RP

	<p>relevant officers and the Manager of the Vancouver Quarter to ask them to be considerate of the needs of people with disabilities when positioning obstructions on the highway.</p> <p><u>(ii) Dementia Patients</u></p> <p>Councillor Leamon explained that she worked with people with Dementia and felt that it was often a “hidden disability”. The Chairman suggested that Councillor Leamon write an article for publication in the Members Bulletin to raise awareness of the disability.</p> <p><u>(iii) Parking on Pavements</u></p> <p>The Chairman reminded those present that at their previous meeting he had agreed to send a letter to the Police Crime Commissioner to highlight issues with vehicles parked on pavements. It had been suggested that a note could be produced which could be slipped on the windscreen of vehicles to remind them that it was an offence to park on pavements. The Chairman had also raised the issue at a recent Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel, but had received conflicting information.</p> <p>Helen Sismore explained that Guide Dogs for the Blind were campaigning on this issue and had produced a flyer to provide information to drivers who parked on pavements. She had a supply of flyers available if required.</p> <p>Councillor Baron Chenery of Horsbrugh suggested that correspondence be sent to the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel.</p> <p>At the request of the Chairman the Secretary agreed to invite representatives from the Police to the next meeting of the Forum to discuss issues.</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>TB</p> <p>RP</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>CYCLE RACKS AT THE MULTI STOREY CAR PARK</u></p> <p>David Morton, Resort Operations Manager from the Borough Council was present at the meeting to consult the Forum on plans to introduce additional cycle storage at the Multi Storey Car Park. He explained that representations had been received from local cycle user groups to request additional cycle storage in the area and the multi storey car park was their preferred location.</p> <p>The Forum was informed that options to extend the existing</p>	

	<p>provision had been investigated and it had been suggested that the ‘hatched’ area beside the pay and display disabled spaces on the ground floor would be the most suitable location, however there was the possibility that the cycle storage would not fit in the hatched area and may take up the use of one disabled parking space.</p> <p>David Morton provided statistics on the use of the car park and highlighted that the car park was very rarely at capacity.</p> <p>The Forum considered the proposals and it was suggested that if a disabled space was lost in the area to accommodate the cycle racks, an additional disabled parking space should be installed in an appropriate location elsewhere in the car park. David Morton felt that this was a good solution and agreed to take the comments of the Forum on board.</p>	DM
5.	<p><u>FEEDBACK FROM THE CELEBRATE-ABILITY EVENT</u></p> <p>Allison Bingham explained that she had received positive feedback from organisations involved in the above event and thanked the Members of the Forum who had been involved in the organisation of the event.</p> <p>She explained that the next event would be held in 2016.</p> <p>The Forum thanked Allison Bingham for organising the event.</p>	
6.	<p><u>GUIDE DOGS CAMPAIGN – UPDATE</u></p> <p>Helen Sismore provided the Forum with an update on Guide Dogs campaigns as follows:</p> <p><u>(i) Dog Attacks</u></p> <p>This campaign had resulted in a change of law and new legislation had been introduced in May 2014. The campaign was now raising awareness of the new legislation which now classed attacks on guide dogs as an aggravated crime on the individual and could result in up to three years imprisonment. Helen Sismore had posters available for display if required.</p> <p><u>(ii) Talking Buses</u></p> <p>Guide Dogs had campaigned for the introduction of Audio/Visual</p>	All

	<p>announcements on buses, which would be a benefit to those who had visual impairments and also tourists who were unfamiliar with the area. The MP for Transport had responded to the campaign saying that although she agreed in principle to the idea, she would not enforce it on bus operators because of the increase in costs. She encouraged people to make use of their own technology such as smart phones instead.</p> <p>Helen Sismore explained that it cost approximately £2,000 to install Audio/Visual equipment retrospectively on a bus and less than half of the figure to have the equipment installed on a new bus. She explained that work would be carried out with operators to promote the importance of installing the equipment.</p> <p><u>(iii) Streets Ahead</u></p> <p>This campaign was targeting street clutter, including A Boards and tables and chairs. Helen Sismore explained that the campaign was requesting that street furniture outside of retail premises should be properly barricaded so as to not cause an obstruction for people with visual impairments. Work was also being carried out to encourage businesses with A Boards to ensure that they did not impinge on the pavements.</p> <p><u>(iv) Parking on Pavements</u></p> <p>Work was being carried out with the public, police and Council to highlight issues with vehicles parking on pavements. Helen Sismore explained that it was against the law to drive on pavements and should be enforced by the police. Leaflets had been produced which was available from Helen Sismore upon request.</p>	All
7.	<p><u>SECRETARY’S CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p>The Secretary read out the following correspondence which had been received from Mr and Mrs Smith:</p> <p>“We are writing to update on our campaign getting a change in the law when people refurbish a pub or hotel and fail to spend money on disabled improvements because they did not do structural work on the exterior of the building. The Wildfowler (star pubs and bars) spent £200,000 on such work and failed to spend £5 on a toilet handrail or £20,000 on a disabled toilet. The Conservative Club at Gaywood also did improvements but failed and refused to fit handrails in the correct position alongside their female toilets. We</p>	

	<p>feel that when the whole toilet space is 144 square feet 25% of this space should by law be converted to a cubicle for the disabled. If this is not possible every toilet in the UK should be fitted with a correctly placed handrail by law. While our fight with Star Pubs and Bars continues please give me the views of your committee on this matter. Trevor and Susan Smith.”</p> <p>The Forum indicated that they supported the content of the correspondence and at the request of the Chairman the Secretary agreed to forward the correspondence onto the Building Control Section.</p>	RP
8.	<p><u>WORK PROGRAMME</u></p> <p>The following items were suggested for possible inclusion on the Work Programme and would be investigated by the Secretary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite a representative from Norfolk Green to a future meeting of the Forum to clarify what their policy was on accepting disabled passengers. • Arrange a follow up visit to the Railway Station now that works were complete. • Update on the King’s Lynn Transport Interchange Project. • Update on the Lynnsport Road. 	RP
9.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p><u>(i) Alive Leisure Website</u></p> <p>Allison Bingham had received comments on the above website saying that it was difficult to navigate. She agreed to pass on the comments to the relevant officers.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that Members of the Forum have a look at the website and pass on any comments to Allison Bingham.</p> <p><u>(ii) Specialist Equipment</u></p> <p>Allison Bingham explained that she had been asked if the Forum had considered holding an event to display assistive technology available. The Forum considered this to be a good idea and Allison Bingham agreed to progress.</p> <p><u>(iii) Temporary Blue Badges</u></p>	<p>AB</p> <p>All</p> <p>AB</p>

	<p>The Chairman explained that it took approximately six weeks for an application for a blue badge to be processed and suggested that it would be good to make a temporary badge available for people that may need use of disabled parking spaces on a temporary basis. The Forum discussed this issue and it was explained that there was certain criteria which needed to be met to be eligible for a blue badge.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the West Norfolk Disability Forum would take place on Wednesday 8 April 2015 at 2.30pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.</p>	

The meeting closed at 4.02pm