## West Norfolk Disability Forum 2015/6 Report

The forum, which now meets four times a year, is a mix of councillors, representatives of disability groups and disabled individuals and occasionally other interested parties attending as well as invited speakers. During the past year we have received presentations on various schemes taking place in King's Lynn including the upgrading of the bus and railway stations and the Town Hall refurbishments.

We have also made visits to the stations and passed back hopefully helpful comments and we look forward to these being implemented as do, we hope, that suggestions from and to Norfolk Green, who came along to last Aprils meeting get acted upon. All our meetings are minuted and these can be found on line.

Last autumn we held an Assistive Technology event in the Corn Exchange. Whilst there was a good selection of exhibitors, though three who had reserved space failed to attend, the turnout from the public was poor. I feel that a complete rethink of these events is required, as we are not connecting with our target audience.

We really need to have a better involvement from all the local disability groups. There are the stalwart regulars but there are many areas of disability, represented in the community, who we never see. Perhaps a re-launching reception, with all such groups invited, might be the way forward.

We worked on a refreshed constitution during the year which was accepted by panel when presented. It, amongst other things, highlighted the need for us to be consulted at an early stage on projects. Much better to have our input at the beginning rather than having to correct problems at the finish we thought.

Work is now being done on this years Opportunity Awards. Judging and organisation takes place behind the scenes but it would be good to have a larger than usual number of councillors present at the event which would show the councils commitment in this area.



The deadline for nominations is 18th May 2016

To sum up, I think we do valuable work for the community but we could do more with better involvement by disability organisations if only we can engage with them.

Tony Bubb. Chairman