Northampton LGBT and Q People's Forum

on Tuesday, 28 January 2014 at 6:30 pm until not later than 8:30 pm in The Holding Room, The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE

Agenda

- 1. Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies
- 2. Minutes and Matters Arising
- 3. Northampton Borough Council Budget 2014/15 Cllr. Bottwood
- 4. SOLAR Presentation
- 5. Planning the work of the forum
 - (A) WAD feedback
 - (B) February 14th Events
 - (C) Umbrella Fair and Pride
- 6. Taking the Forum forward
 - (A) Code of Conduct
 - (B) Action Plans
 - (C) Draft Events Calendar
- 7. Community Information Exchange
- 8. Any Other Business
- 9. Items for Future Meetings
- 10. Date Of Next Meeting Tuesday, 11th March.

Map and directions at: www.northampton.gov.uk/guildhall

For more information about this meeting please contact: Alice Morgan, Community Development Officer





More information about the Forum generally is at: www.northampton.gov.uk/forums

Facebook page: www.northampton.gov.uk/lgbtqpf

Please note that this Forum is supported and funded by Northampton Borough Council. The Forum may work in partnership and collaboration with other community groups, councils and local services from time to time. The views expressed and decisions taken by the Forum are not necessarily those of Northampton Borough Council.



Agenda Item 2

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTHAMPTON LGBT AND Q PEOPLE'S FORUM

Tuesday, 12 November 2013

PRESENT: Councillor King (Chair), Wendi Buchanan (SOLAR), Amudah Olusola

(SOLAR), Annette Somusi (SOLAR), Lee Gilbert, Matt Brenan (Interpreter), Katie Billingham (Interpreter), John Leivers (NHFT), Matthew Toresen (NVC & FAN), Rob Smith (Police), Enady Muza (Sunrise Families), Carole Purnell (Lesbian Line), Jeanette Ross (Lesbian Line), Ben King (Unison), Ian Bates (UFO), Gracie Okusanya (Health Watch), Beccy Salmon (NBC), Matt Steele

(NBC), Vicki Rockall (NBC), Alice Morgan (NBC)

NOTES: Alice Morgan

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. APOLOGIES

Barry Hansford (Co-Chair) Stephen Bennett Chris Gorm (NHS)

3. MINUTES

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

5. CONSULTATIONS - COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT : BECCY SALMON AND MATT STEELE

BS and MS talked to the forum about the current consultation on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The attendees of the forum were informed of the current changes proposed to the council tax support system and were notified of the online survey and drop-in sessions for the consultation. Letters were also circulated to all attendees at the meeting further detailing the consultation and details of the drop in sessions.

A Q&A session followed.

Further information for the consultation can be found here:

http://www.northampton.gov.uk/ctrs-year2-consultation

6. DISCUSSIONS/ EVENT PLANNING

6.1 HEALTH WATCH - GRACIE OKUSANYA

GO spoke to the forum about Health Watch, what they do and how the public can get involved.

A Q&A session followed.

6.2 WAD 2013

It was AGREED that the event should be held at 12pm, to accommodate those who work to attend.

Plans – the Mayor has been invited to make a speech. The forum would also like a guest speaker from the community.

Theme – AM agreed to look into this. WB advised that the theme is generally around reducing transmission. The three focus points that SOLAR are focusing on are early testing, regular testing and reducing and challenging the stigma around those living with HIV. WB also encouraged all to wear something red on the day to create a visual impact.

SOLAR have got a number of projects on-going which relate to WAD, sexual health and the LGBTQ Forum:

- Facebook page: Countdown of 100 ways to show someone you love them without sex. WB encouraged all to 'like' the SOLAR Facebook page, and invited any ideas.
- National HIV Testing Week 25th to 29th November: Engage in dialogue and make regular testing a normal part of the sexual health routine. SOLAR are going to be running regular testing sessions. WB invited forum attendees to come forward with any ideas to use as part of this campaign.
- Launch of 'Let's talk about sex' sessions: Monthly sessions to provide a regular space to speak about sex and raise sex awareness. This are primarily aimed at those aged 16 and above, however SOLAR are looking into providing support to different target groups, such as young people under 16 and parents. Cllr. King asked if this service is developed for young people that SOLAR provide AM with any information or links to be posted on the Youth Forum Facebook page.
- SOLAR documentary/ viral ad: This will be rolled out again, and will feature on the NHS website and intranet. If anyone would like the link to watch or share, they can contact SOLAR for this. It was asked by LG whether signing or sub-titles would be available for this. WB said that SOLAR would look into getting subtitles onto the documentary.
- WAD Activity: Raising awareness around HIV. A 'Wall of Support' is going to be constructed, where people are encouraged to write something of support or information around HIV, sex or love onto the 'bricks' of the wall. Cllr. King agreed that we would look into SOLAR and FAN having a joint stall in the one-stop-shop on the day.

It was AGREED that AM would send an email to all on the LGBTQ forum invitee list about WAD plans.

VR AGREED to look into releasing a joint press release.

7. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Umbrella Fair and Pride March - IB and MT

The Forum discussed the idea of recreating Pride March. It was suggested that a Pride event could be part of the Umbrella Fair, rather than an additional event. BK said he is happy to work together with others to help keep the idea of Pride and build towards having this event in the future.

It was suggested that attendees could find out feedback about including a 'Pride' type event with Umbrella Fair from other groups and bring this back to the next LGBTQ forum meet. It was AGREED that IB, MT, AK, AM and VR would be included in future discussion.

Health and Wellbeing event 14th February – JL

JL informed the forum of an event being organised on behalf of NHFT for LGBTQ History Month. This event is still in its planning stages; LGBTQ community will be a target, however it will be open and accessible to all. JL will contact AM regarding availability at the Guildhall. BK offered to work in partnership with JL for this event around education etc. and will contact JL separately.

It was suggested by IB that as the event is for LGBTQ History Month, that local history groups are approached and invited to engage in the event.

LGBTQ History Month Valentines Event - MT

This event is also in the planning stages. More will be discussed at the next forum meeting.

UNISON

BK notified the forum that he is hoping to set up an LGBTQ forum for Unison.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was AGREED by the forum that an events calendar would be useful to ensure focus on actions/event planning and encourage partnership working. VR and AM will bring a draft forums event calendar to the next meeting.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- World Aids Day Feedback
- 14th February Events
- Umbrella Fair and Pride

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 28th January 2014 at 6:30 pm

The meeting concluded at 8:00 pm

Budget in a minute 2014/15

- Extended free parking including every Saturday and 2 hours free during the week
- Business incentive scheme
- Capital budget projects and investment
- Providing an additional neighbourhood warden, two park rangers and a new vehicle
- Increase opening hours of Northampton Borough Council's museums
- Maintaining the investment of small community grants
- Senior management savings and review
- Staff terms and conditions

Extended free parking including every Saturday and 2 hours free during the week

Proposal:

To provide more free parking to shoppers visiting the town throughout the year, including free parking every Saturday in multi-storey car parks (St John's, St Michael's, Grosvenor and Mayorhold) plus an extension of the previous one hour free stay to two hours in St John's, St Michael's, Grosvenor and Mayorhold.

Background:

- Northampton Borough Council is committed to providing convenient, safe and reasonably priced parking to help businesses, attract shoppers and visitors and improve the local economy
- In September 2011 Northampton Borough Council introduced cheaper parking in the town.
 Measures included: free parking on Sundays in all car parks; a stay of up to an hour free in the
 town's St John's, St Michael's and Mayorhold multi-storey car parks with two hour stays
 reduced by 25 per cent; and a 25 per cent reduction in the price of parking for two hours in
 Northampton's premier surface car parks and the Grosvenor Centre car park
- In summer 2013 and in the run up to Christmas, Northampton Borough Council offered free Saturday parking in the council's multi-storey car parks (St John's, St Michael's, Grosvenor and Mayorhold) plus free parking on Thursdays from 3pm in all NBC car parks and continued free Sunday parking in all NBC car parks also
- The extended free parking will start April 2014

Budget investment if approved:

Free Saturdays: £282,348 First two hours free: £382,435

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Business incentive scheme

Proposal:

There will be more help for businesses looking to grow or join our town centre. Working with town centre businesses we want to invest £250,000 in improving the business environment and making our town centre a more vibrant and attractive location for shoppers and investors.

Background:

- In consultation with businesses we will be looking at supporting existing businesses as well as attracting new enterprise to our town centre.
- We will set up a business incentive scheme, with an initial contribution of £250,000 to fund measures aimed to fill empty properties and encourage small businesses.
- The scheme would be in addition to the cap on business rate increases and doubling of Small Business Rate Relief that were announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.
- The scheme could see money invested in improving the appearance of the town centre and shop fronts of both occupied and vacant stores.
- The Council will also be looking at a range of incentives for business to take over vacant shops and premises.

Budget investment if approved:

£250,000

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Capital budget projects and investment

The Council's Capital Budget is used for investments in land, infrastructure and equipment.

Proposals:

- Following the decommissioning of Greyfriars Bus Station work will start to demolish the building and free up land for redevelopment. The demolition programme will cost £3.5million and save the Council around £500,000 a year.
- The restoration work at Delapre Abbey will continue with over £1.1million being invested next year in essential work to restore the buildings and roofing.
- Work is also set to start on reopening Abington Street. Next year the Borough Council will invest £2.85million in supporting businesses and making it easier for shoppers and businesses to come into Northampton town centre.
- To support our Cultural Quarter we will be investing £2million in public realm improvements to establish the identity of the area, promote the features of the Quarter and make the area more welcoming to visitors who want to spend time enjoying what the area has to offer.
- This would include work to widen pavements for example, which would allow for street entertainment or pavement cafés

Budget investment if approved:

£13,663,567

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Providing an additional neighbourhood warden, two park rangers and a new vehicle

Proposal:

To provide one new post for a town centre warden, two new posts for park rangers and a new vehicle for park rangers' use so that parks across the town can be more effectively patrolled and monitored

Background:

- Northampton Borough Council is committed to helping look after the town's parks and make
 Northampton a better place to live and visit
- In September 2011 Northampton Borough Council introduced dedicated park rangers to work with other agencies and community groups to look after three of the town's premier parks (Abington Park, Delapre Park and the Racecourse)
- In 2012 the council committed to investing further in the service to recruit one more fulltime and one part-time park ranger to look after other parks and green spaces in the town.
- There are currently 14 wardens working for Northampton Borough Council and 3 park rangers
- The previous town centre warden was established by 'borrowing' a warden from another area. This new post will make the position permanent
- The new warden will be responsible for environmental issues and supporting proactive projects designed to improve local quality of life in the town centre
- The two new park rangers will also be responsible for environmental issues and coordinating projects that provide other interests and attractions in our parks
- The aim of this proposal is to get the greatest efficiency from park rangers by making them as mobile and visible as possible. The new vehicle will mean that they can cover a greater number of parks more quickly.

Budget investment if approved:

£121,750

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Increase opening hours of Northampton Borough Council's museums

Proposal:

To increase the opening times of Abington Park Museum on winter weekend afternoons and to reopen Northampton Museum & Art Gallery on Mondays.

Background:

- The current opening hours of Abington Park Museum are April to October on Thursday –
 Sunday 1pm 5pm
- The current opening hours of Northampton Museum & Art Gallery are Tuesday Saturday
 10am 5pm and Sundays 2pm 5pm all year round
- The extended opening hours will help increase tourism to Northampton and raise the town's profile
- Many of the town's cultural venues are shut on a Monday and it would therefore be beneficial to open Northampton Museum & Art Gallery on this day
- Abington Park is used all year round and the museum is a favourite with locals. Extending the
 opening hours of Abington Park Museum in the winter will make for a more effective use of
 the building and provide facilities for visitors using the park throughout the year

Budget investment if approved:

£41,000

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Maintaining the investment of small community grants

Proposal:

To maintain the current investment of £50k to help community based projects in Northampton through the small based grants process.

Background:

- Northampton Borough Council recognises the excellent work being done by community groups and voluntary groups in the town
- So far in 2013/2014 the small grant scheme has helped 10 local community and voluntary groups
- The small based grants are administered by Northampton Community Foundation (NCF) on behalf of NBC
- The funding of the grants will be reviewed in the future

Budget investment if approved:

£50,000

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Senior management savings and review

Proposal:

The cost of senior management at Northampton Borough Council has reduced by more than 40% over the last three years. Since 2010/11, the number of senior managers has been cut from 21 to 10.

Background:

- These savings are a result of work to streamline the organisation and create efficiencies.
- Savings have been achieved through sharing back office functions such as HR and finance with other authorities through the LGSS scheme.
- Savings in the cost of senior management has helped to protect frontline services at the Borough Council.

Budget saving since 2010/11:

£850,000

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Staff terms and conditions

Proposal:

Consult staff and Trade Unions on the review of a number of terms and conditions of employment, which will be discussed with trade unions and employees starting today.

Background

NBC is having to make £2 million worth of savings in 2014/15. These are unprecedented times and we have very difficult budget choices to make.

Last year the council removed the essential car user allowance and ended payment of professional fees on behalf of employees. A proposal to charge for parking for NBC staff was agreed but deferred until April 2014 and will now be implemented.

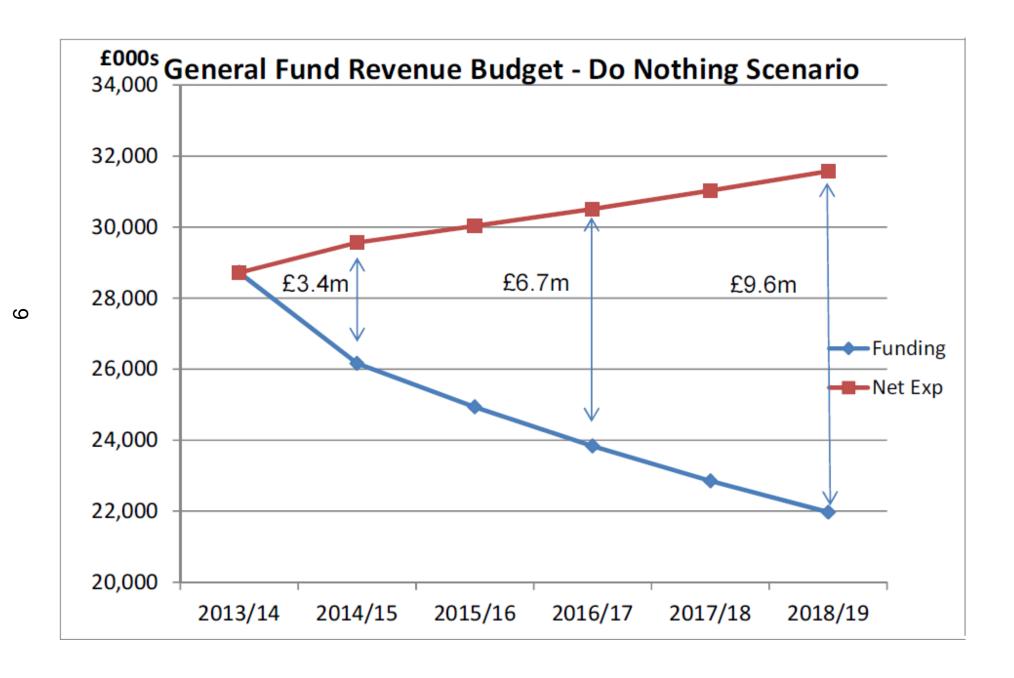
We have no option other than to look at reducing employment costs, which currently stand at £19.5 million a year. In 2014/15 it is anticipated that we will need to reduce this figure by £365,000.

The alternative we face would be making further difficult decisions about reducing services and jobs.

Budget saving if approved:

£365,000

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Your views are wanted!

Northampton Borough Council is facing an unprecedented financial challenge. Cuts in Government grants and increasing demands for our services mean that we will need to find £2m of savings over 2014/15 in order to balance the books.

We know you will understand these pressures, with households across the county sharing the challenge of making ends meet as living costs continue to rise and money coming in is harder to find.

We have already transformed the way we work, reducing our back office and senior management costs. We are now working more efficiently with fewer resources and will continue to make savings wherever possible.

We have a duty to rise to the financial challenge and this will involve some very tough choices.

Despite this bleak picture, the Council is committed to ensuring that we provide quality services, focusing our efforts in helping our economy to grow and those people who most need our support.

Your views will also help us understand how our proposals may affect you and our communities so that we can consider whether and how we can mitigate, if possible, the impact of any changes we introduce. Our decisions will only be made after listening to your views and we will continue to support the most in need and vulnerable in our society Full details about the budget are also available on our website or can be obtained upon request.

Please complete this survey online. Alternatively, you can post your completed questionnaire to:

Corporate Policy and Consultation Manager Northampton Borough Council FREEPOST MID 17237 Northampton NN1 1WJ

If you need help with this form or require the information in a different format, please visit our Customer Contact Centre at our One Stop Shop at the Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE or call on 01604 837837 or by minicom on 01604 838970 Closing Date: 31 January 2014

Personal data supplied on this form will be held on computer and will be used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis, management, planning and the provision of services by the Council. The Council will not share any personal information collected as part of this survey. The Council's Data Protection Registration number is Z5256045.

Despite the significant financial pressures faced by the Council, Council Tax levels were not increased since 2010.								
The Council is considering keeping council tax levels the same for 2014/15. Do you agree or disagree with this approach?								
C Strongly agree C Tend to agree C Tend to disagree C Strongly disagree								
Please use this space for comments that will help us understand your response								

Draft Budget Proposals

Council Tax Level

A challenging programme of internal cost-cutting measures is proposed to tackle the shortfall and prevent the budget gap growing even further in 2015/16.

At the same time, order to promote growth, there will be a focus on investment, despite the need for the Borough Council to make savings to deal with a budget shortfall of £3.4 million in the next financial year.

A list of the draft budget proposals and background information can be found at www.northampton.gov.uk/budget2014

These proposals, if/when agreed, will help the Council balance its budget for 2014/15. This is your opportunity to comment on the Council's draft budget options before they are submitted to the Cabinet for their consideration. Full Council will in turn consider the Cabinet's recommendation for approval on 24 February 2014.

Your comments on our options

Key proposed budget options:

- Extended free parking including every Saturday and 2 hours free during the week
- Business incentive scheme
- Capital budget projects and investment
- Providing an additional neighbourhood warden, two park rangers and a new vehicle
- Increase opening hours of Northampton Borough Council's museums
- Maintaining the investment of small community grants
- Senior management savings and review
- Staff terms and conditions

Please tell us which option you wish to comment on and include any concerns you may have about how our specific proposals may impact on yourself or any sector of the community and if appropriate, tell us how we can minimise any such impact.

Please tell us which option you wish to comment on and include any concerns you may have about how our specific proposals may impact on yourself or any sector of the community

and if appropriate, tell us how we can minimise any such impact.						

Alternative proposals					
Is there anything else that you think we could do to achieve savings and/or any other comments you would like to make in respect of the budget options for 2014/15?					
Your details					
Name: Organisation (if applicable): Address (including postcode): Telephone number:					
Email address:					

Monitoring Information (optional) About you Yes No I live in Northampton I work in Northampton I study in Northampton I have a business in Northampton I am employed by Northampton Borough Council I am responding on behalf of an organisation/group (insert name below) Name of the Organisation I am responding from: Are you: Male Female How old are you? Under C 16-24 C 25-34 C 35-44 C 45-54 C 55-64 C 65-74 C 75 or 16 How would you describe yourself? Black/African/Caribbean/Black British White Mixed/multiple ethnic groups Other ethnic group Asian/Asian British Prefer not to say Thank you for taking part!

Code of Conduct for the Forums

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards that the Forums expect of its members. It aims to provide members with an effective ethical framework in which to do business. It is not intended to be exhaustive, or to cover every eventuality, but sets out some common sense requirements to enable the forums to function smoothly and successfully

1. Meeting Etiquette

As an attendee you must comply with the following requirements and any others that may be stated from time to time:

- 1.1 Contribute positively to discussions concerning the issues of the meeting
- **1.2**Be friendly, polite, courteous and respectful at all times to fellow members, and others present
- 1.3 Not insult, abuse or use offensive language or behaviour
- 1.4 Comply with Northampton Borough Councils Equal Opportunities Policy
- 1.5 Demonstrate actively that you are interested in and care about the issue that you are discussing and want to make a positive difference
- 1.6 Show respect for buildings, facilities and equipment being used
- 1.7 Speak only through the Chairman of the meeting and not interrupt, heckle, make distracting noises or gestures
- 1.8 Speak clearly into any microphone provided and comply with any instructions given about its use

2. Being Objective

- **2.1** Your own experience and views should inform, but not dominate or dictate how you participate.
- 2.2 If you have a specific issue with regards to a service matter to raise these can be discussed with a member of staff at the end of the each meeting or you can ask for the appropriate officer details. Meetings attended by other residents are not the place to raise any issues of this nature.
- 2.3 Being Fair
- 2.4 You must have and show respect for the people you deal with, and take their circumstances and personal differences into account. This is about putting equality into practice. The key is simply to respect differences fairly, so that you do not exclude anyone, or treat anyone inappropriately or unfairly because of their particular circumstances.

Breaching the Code of Conduct

If any person's behaviour breaches this Code of Conduct, they will be required to leave the meeting and vacate the premises where it is being held. They will not be permitted to attend future meetings unless they provide satisfactory evidence to Northampton Borough Council that they will comply with the Code – e.g. a letter of apology.

If you would like further information or if you would like to discuss the Code of Conduct please contact Vicki Rockall, Partnerships and Communities Manager at vrockall@northampton.gov.uk or on 01604 837074

Alice Morgan Community Development Officer (NBC) Tel: 01604 837795 Email: alicemorgan@nortthampton.gov.uk

COMMUNITY EVENTS 2014

DATE	NAME OF EVENT	DATE	NAME OF EVENT	DATE	NAME OF EVENT	DATE	NAME OF EVENT
8th <u>October</u> 11:00-13:00	Northampton Women's Forum Godwin Room, Guildhall	2nd <u>December</u> 12:00-12:30	World Aid's Day Civic Ceremony <i>Courtyard, Guildhall</i>	27th January 12:00-12:30	Holocaust Memorial Day Civic Ceremony Courtyard, Guildhall	26th February	Northampton Youth Forum The Guildhall
11th October	International Coming Out Day Supported by LGBTQ Forum Northampton Museum	3rd December 18:00-20:00	Northampton Women's Forum Holding Room, Guildhall	18:30-20:00	Evening Event Supported by Youth Forum Great Hall, Guildhall	8th <u>March</u> TBC	International Women's Day Supported by the Women's Forum Northampton Museum
16th October 17:30-19:30	Northampton Disabled People's Forum Godwin Room, Guildhall	12th December 14:00-16:00	Northampton Pensioner's Forum Jeffrey Room, Guildhall	28th January 11:00-13:00	Northampton Women's Forum Jeffrey Room, Guildhall	11th March 18:30-20:30	Northampton LGBTQ Forum <i>Holding Room, Guildhall</i>
29th October	Northampton Youth Forum The Guildhall	19th December	Northampton Youth Forum <i>The Guildhall</i>	18:30-20:30	Northampton LGBTQ Forum Holding Room, Guildhall	13th March 18:30-20:30	Northampton Diverse Com- munities Forum <i>Holding Room, Guildhall</i>
31st October 14:00-16:00	Northampton Pensioner's Forum Jeffrey Room, Guildhall	3rd <u>January</u>	Northampton Youth Forum <i>The Guildhall</i>	<u>February</u>	LGBTQ History Month	20th March 14:00-16:00	Northampton Pensioner's Forum Jeffrey Room, Guildhall
12th <u>November</u> 18:30-20:30	Northampton LGBTQ Forum Holding Room, Guildhall	16th January 14:00-15:00	Northampton Pensioners Forum Special Budget Meeting Jeffrey Room, Guildhall	6th February 14:00-16:00	Northampton Pensioners Forum Godwin Room, Guildhall	25th March 17:30-19:30	Northampton Disabled People's Forum TBA
19th November 17:30-19:30	Northampton Disabled People's Forum Holding Room, Guildhall	21st January 17:30-19:30	Northampton Disabled Peoples Forum Holding Room, Guildhall	14th February TBC	FAN Valentines Event Supported by LBGTQ Forum NN Cafe	16th <u>April</u>	Northampton Youth Forum The Guildhall
23rd November 12:00-20:00	Break the Shire Supported by Northampton Youth Forum Great Hall, Guildhall	23rd January 18:30-20:30	Northampton Diverse Communities Forum Holding Room, Guildhall	18th February 17:30-19:30	Northampton Disabled People's Forum Holding Room, Guildhall	May	Mental Health Awareness Month Various Youth Forum Activity

Alice Morgan Community Development Officer (NBC) Tel: 01604 837795 Email: alicemorgan@nortthampton.gov.uk

COMMUNITY EVENTS 2014

DATE	NAME OF EVENT	DATE	NAME OF EVENT	DATE	NAME OF EVENT	DATE	NAME OF EVENT
7th May 11:00-13:00	Northampton Women's Forum <i>Jeffrey Room, Guildhall</i>	8th <u>July</u> 18:30-20:30	Northampton LGBTQ Forum <i>Holding Room, Guildhall</i>				
16th May TBC	International Day Against Homophobia <i>TBC</i>	22nd July 17:30-19:30	Northampton Disabled People's Forum <i>TBA</i>				
20th May 18:30-20:30	Northampton LGBTQ Forum Holding Room, Guildhall	30th July 18:30-20:30	Northampton Diverse Communities Forum Holding Room, Guildhall				
27th May 17:30-19:30	Northampton Disabled People's Forum <i>TBA</i>	12th <u>August</u>	International Youth Day Youth Forum Activity TBA				
28th May	Northampton Youth Forum The Guildhall	16th/17th August	The Umbrella Fair Northampton LGBTQ Forum Tent The Racecourse				
4th <u>June</u> 18:30-20:30	Northampton Diverse Communities Forum <i>Holding Room, Guildhall</i>						
5th June 14:00-16:00	Northampton Pensioner's Forum Jeffrey Room, Guildhall						
14th June	Northampton Carnival Supported by Forum TBA						