

Northampton Pensioners' Forum

on Thursday, 17 September 2015 at 2:00 pm until not later than 4:00 pm

in The Jeffrey Room, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE.

Agenda

1. **Welcomes, introductions and apologies**
2. **Minutes and Matters Arising**
3. **Northamptonshire Highways - Andrew Leighton**
4. **Changing Minds (NHFT) - Lee Johnson**
5. **Action Plans**
6. **Community News Exchange**
7. **Suggestions for Items for Future Meetings or Forum Activities**
8. **Any Other Business**
9. **Date and venues of future Forum Meetings**

Thursday 12th November 2 – 4pm. The Holding Room, The Guildhall

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

For more information about this meeting please contact:
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More information about the Forum generally is at: www.northampton.gov.uk/forums



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

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.



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.

It is the responsibility of the Chair to encourage and enable input from forum members, to ensure all voices are heard.

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** Be 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

Northampton Borough Council - Northampton Pensioners' Forum

Thursday, 16 July 2015

Present: Cllr Oldham (Councillor Co-Chair, NBC), R Rumsey (Community Co-Chair), Madeline Boys (Independent), J Forrest Smith (Independent), M Hill (Pensioners Voice), V Male (Tollers), K Frost (Dementia Lead, Olympus Care Services), T Mallard (NFRA & ERA), A Timson (Spring Boroughs Residents Association), J Rawlings (Quakers), G Roberts (Northamptonshire Carers), PS G Taylor (Northamptonshire Police), D.J Hewitt (Independent). Alice Morgan (NBC), N Mejer (NBC)*

*Took minutes

1. WELCOMES, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Brian Nichols, Christiana Owusu-Akuffo and Gill Shadbolt (Care and Repair).

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising:

The Housing Office for Leicester Street has been contacted and hoping for a resolution on Leicester Street. JFS has stated that some land has not been cleared and it is difficult for a disabled man to put his scooter in a shed due to this.

JR mentioned that a sign in Abington Street is confusing. It should be put on the actual road. RR stated that Highways department is responsible for this.

ACTION: AM to invite Andy Leighton from the Highways Dept to attend a future meeting.

Health & Wellbeing Strategy – Peter Lynch had given an update – there will be consultation on the strategy in September.

3. DEMENTIA SERVICES

VERONICA MALE - CHAIR OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE

Veronica Male, Chair of Northamptonshire Dementia Action Alliance gave a presentation. The main aims of the organisation are to make communities more dementia friendly, and to raise awareness of dementia and would like NBC to be involved.

Presentation attached. **ACTION:** AM to send out presentation.

MB stated that she would like to know more and highlighted that she felt there is a lack of support for dementia sufferers in Northampton.

Cllr Oldham asked if the County Council adequately cover the care people get especially at home. VM suggested that improvements still need to be made. Little information on the website and information is out of date. The importance of independence for sufferers was emphasised and there is still little support for this.

JR asked how people are assessed and how well they are cared for. VM stated that they would contact family members and look out for warning signs e.g. – unexplained bruises, weight loss etc. DH highlighted the lack of care in the Care industry and the population of the elderly is growing which will make the situation worse.

Cllr Oldham asked what would happen if there is no one to look after sufferers. There is a danger when people live alone and some people do not want help. MB suggested that Age Concern were very good at helping sufferers but found that the council did not help.

KIRSTY FROST - DEMENTIA LEAD, OLYMPUS CARE SERVICES

KF explained her role and how Olympus Care Services raises awareness of dementia and help sufferers and carers. They also give specialist care.

KF and VM explained that other organisations and individuals can sign up to become Dementia Friends at: <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/>. As a Dementia Friend, you are asked to commit to an action to put Dementia Friends training into action. KF talked about the Dementia Friends action plan Olympus Care. There is a need to look at buildings that sufferers use and to make them more dementia friendly. The organisation would like to recruit more volunteers too.

MB highlighted that people do not always use computers, so cannot access the website. KF advised that you can contact via telephone - **01245 454319**.

GWYN ROBERTS - NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CARERS

Gwyn gave an overview of the services provided by Northamptonshire Carers, which is funded mainly through County Council contracts. The organisation provides support and advice to Carers and Young Carers and links with other organisations to provide services, such as the Dementia Care Advice Service in partnership with Northamptonshire Alzheimer's Society.

A leaflet was circulated which explained the work of Northamptonshire Carers further. More details can be found here: <http://www.northamptonshire-carers.org/> or contact **01933 677837**

NORTHANTS POLICE - PS GREG TAYLOR

PS Greg Taylor from Northamptonshire Police visited the forum to discuss any issues of concern.

Forum attendees asked for an overview of any scams that older people in Northampton should be made aware of. GT gave an overview of 'The Paddington Scam', whereby Fraudsters are ringing members of the public asking for bank details. PS Taylor stated that the public should never give out their bank details to anyone over the phone. Moreover AT kindly notified the forum of a book called "The Little Book of Big Scams". AT read out an article from the newspaper, which outlines security questions you can ask on the phone to deter any potential fraudsters. **Please find the article attached.**

GT also made the forum aware of a thief who is stealing handbags from shoppers in Weston Flavell Shopping Centre, and urged attendees to be alert to this.

Forum attendees raised the question of cycling sign enforcement, as discussed in previous meetings. Cllr Oldham questioned the legality of cycling signs. RR stated that in the past, he has been advised that the ban on bicycles cycling on some paths is a bylaw and they have to be enforced. GT explained that the enforcement of this bylaw can prove difficult as the police have to prioritise their work and this may not be deemed to be a high importance call. However, GT advised the forum that there are days of enforcement that take place to try and tackle the issue, especially around Abington Street. This was followed by a discussion about hot spots in the town where cyclists ride on the paths where they should not be, and the dangers this can cause. AT added that the Spencer Bridge Road is a dangerous road for cyclists, so they cannot be blamed for riding on the pathways - more cycle tracks are needed.

MH emphasised that there are dangerous spots in Duston for pedestrians and there is an issue with lighting. Cllr Oldham suggested it would be helpful for PS Taylor to recommend extra lighting in the area.

4. ACTION PLAN UPDATE

WW1 Intergenerational Project – The Youth Forum are meeting on 12th August. This is the suggested date for a memory gathering session for the WW1 project. NM will be in contact with forum attendees with this date.

AM asked for ideas for future activities the forum would like to organise – for discussion at the next meeting.

5. COMMUNITY NEWS EXCHANGE

AT asked about the development of houses on land that had been previously earmarked for green space, and questioned the decision making process for this. Cllr Oldham explained that there are grey areas but explained the general NBC and NCC Planning process.

MH asked what was going to happen on the old bus station site. Cllr Oldham advised that this would be used for retail development.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DH congratulated NBC for the creation of the wild flower strip towards the Barnes Meadow Way roundabout. DH did comment however that there is a huge amount of ragwort weed outside of Abington St which needs to be cleared.

MB enquired about St Edmunds Hospital and asked what was going to happen with the building. It was advised that plans for the site are being progressed.

7. DATE AND VENUES OF FUTURE FORUM MEETINGS

Date of the next meeting 17 September 2 – 4pm, The Jeffrey Room.

The meeting concluded at 4:00 pm

Forum Action Plan						
Chair:	Cllr. Oldham and Roger Rumsey		Responsible Forum:	Pensioner's Forum		
Outcomes identified within the Corporate Plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowered local communities with a greater capacity to become involved in community life Promote integration and cohesion Appropriate support provided to those in most need Services are fair, accessible and responsive to individual needs residents and customers feel informed and engaged in service quality and design Future developments informed by the views of local people Delivery of events to celebrate and enjoy the Town's heritage and culture 					
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify issues of importance to pensioners who live in the Borough, research/discuss issues and decide on outcomes to achieve Promote and sustain effective communication between NBC and pensioners living in the Borough. Promoting partnership working by statutory and voluntary sector organisations, and Pensioner's groups and communities 					
Actions:						
Action	Owner	Activity (intelligence led)	Timescale	Cost	Measure	Last Updated
Intergenerational project- WW1	AM	<p>Oral history project which will develop the skills of both young people and pensioners around research and learning and will encourage intergenerational integration. The project involves working with key partner Northampton Museum.</p> <p>Pair up youth and pensioners forum members, for a 'memory gathering' session; the young person will record the family history and stories that the older person has to share.</p> <p>Records to be archived and published onto the museum website, and Flickr site.</p> <p>Update: Youth training delivered.</p>	July 2015	Nil	Sessions held, records archived and web content published.	March 15
Improve attendance at forum, bringing different groups together to build upon the forum. Include service providers as well as service users.	Officers – VR & AM	Continue to publicise the forum through different communication streams and networks.	Ongoing	Nil	% increase at forum	March 15

