

Northampton Borough Council- Northampton Disabled People's Forum

Friday, 24 March 2017 at 10:30 am -12:30pm

The Holding Room, The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE.

Agenda

1. Welcomes, introductions and apologies
2. Minutes and Matters Arising
3. Andy Leighton - Blue Badge
4. VOICE
5. Mental Health -
6. Action Plan
7. Community Information Exchange
8. Items for Next and Future Meetings
9. Date of the Next Meeting

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

For more information about this meeting please contact:
Nisha Mejer community Support Officer



nmejer@northampton.gov.uk



Tel: 01604 837284



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



Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthamptonDisabledPeoplesForum?ref=hl>

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.



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Agenda Item 1

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

Forum Action Plan						
Chair:	Cllr. Larratt and Martin De Rosario		Responsible Forum:	Disabled People'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 disabled people who live or work in the Borough, research/discuss issues and decide on outcomes to achieve Promote and sustain effective communication between NBC and disabled people living or working in the Borough. Work towards equality of access by disabled people to services, including accessible formats, removing barriers, promoting dialogue and identifying specific requirements. Promoting partnership working by statutory and voluntary sector organisations, and Disabled People's groups and communities 					
Actions:						
Action	Owner	Activity (intelligence led)	Timescale	Cost	Measure	Last Updated
Improve attendance at forum, bringing different groups together to build upon the forum. Including service providers as well as service users.	Partnerships and Communities Team	Continue to promote forum through various networks and communications channels.	Ongoing	Nil	% increase at forum	March 15
Hate Crime Awareness Week	NBC/ Northampton Rights and Equality Council / VIN	Week of activity held including Inter Community Forum event for recruitment of Hate Crime Champions,	October 2016	Event held, no. of attendees	November 2016	November 2016
Disability Awareness Week	Partnerships and Communities Team	Awareness raising event, promoting services available. Event venue – Weston Favell Community Centre. Organisations who participated include; Olympus Care	3 rd December 2016	Nil	Event held and % no attendees	September 2016

		Employability Service, Changing Minds (NHFT), Northamptonshire Sport, Local Offer (NCC), Guide Dogs for the Blind, Northamptonshire Polio Fellowship, Door to Door Service.				
Disabled Facilities Grants	AAitken	Help promote the scheme to the community Support AAitken, Adaptations Manager, to raise awareness	Ongoing	Nil		September 2016
Hate Crime work	AMorgan/LJepson	Work with LJepson (Crane Project), to set up the forum as a Third Party Reporting Arena, where information can be captured to take to the Police or use part of the data collection to inform national bodies. Can also take 3rd hand information. Idea is to get people to talk.	Ongoing	Nil		September 2016

Northampton Borough Council - Northampton Disabled People's Forum

Friday, 10 February 2017 10:30 -12:30pm

1. WELCOMES, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Present: Cllr Phil Larratt (Co Chair NBC), Martin De Rosario (Co Chair NBC), Cllr J Davenport (NBC), B Barber (Individual BB), L Barber (Individual LB), V Rockall (NBC VR), J Dale (JD), A Leighton (Northampton Highways AL), D Simpson (NBC DS), Cllr R Ashraf (NBC CA), K Mills (NBC KM), Alastair Ulke (Northampton Chronicle & Echo AU), Beverley Mennell (Individual BM), Carl Weininger (British Polio Fellowship CW), Gillian Rice (British Polio Fellowship GR), Nisha Mejer (Individual NM), Luisa Jepson (Northampton Inter Faith Forum LJ).

Apologies: Jacqueline Forrest-Smith, Graeme Wilson, Michael Jackson, Alice Morgan

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes recorded and approved.

No matters arising.

3. VOICE

Will attend future meeting.

4. DISABLED PARKING

CP: over the years the ability to park on streets has become more difficult. Spaces are diminishing.

Spaces around the bus station. Bradshaw St and St Giles St have reduced.

There are issues around Mercers Row. Car parks are too far away for people with disability.

There is little or no enforcement for the Blue Badge system. The system is being abused.

BM: Disability is not always visible. Need officers to enforce as there is too much abuse.

AL: In terms of allocation of disabled spaces there has been a slight increase over the last 7 years. People with disability can park on yellow lines. We need to balance the need of the town and disabled parking. Open to ideas and views of the forum and feedback will be taken back to the team.

CW: Has been disabled since 1957. Society has become non-confrontational.

People are issued blue badges and not scrutinised enough and the criteria vary.

Too many blue badges issued and not enough spaces.

St Giles – cannot park there as there is too much obstruction. The bus bay has been put in the middle of the road.

AL: The design of St Giles has gone through safety audit and the delay is short.

PL: How do you deal with a dropped kerb that doesn't lead to anywhere? This becomes confusing.

AL: Will look into this.

BM: A huge amount of money has been spent on St Giles St. Matters such as these should have been looked at in more detail. This is public money and the expenditure was colossal. No thought has been put in for the disabled bays.

PL: It is better for wheelchair users at St Giles St. Spencer Parade needs to be reviewed next.

ACTION: AL to look at whether the street is wide enough to park on both sides of the road.

CW: Made a Freedom of Information request. There was no consultation from the Disabled Peoples Forum about disabled parking.

CL: There has been a clear lack of communication with this forum for the design of Saint Giles St.

Going forward, the forum will need full and inconclusive consultation. Where spaces are lost, would like to be replaced and want the abuse of the blue badge system addressed.

LB: People are getting older and cannot get on buses and therefore cannot travel into the town centre.

CL: Buses don't always go into town and people should consider taxis.

BM: It is important that NBC listens to the forum. They are servants to the people.

JD: Happy to talk about future projects with the forum. NBC funded St Giles St and NCC designed it. The organisations worked in partnership.

ACTION: AL to return to the next meeting to give feedback.

5. ACTION PLAN - LUISA JEPSON - NORTHAMPTON INTER FAITH FORUM HATE CRIME PROJECT

LJ works in partnership with Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council (NREC). LJ was part of the Hate Crime Unit for Northampton Police before it was disbanded.

Northampton has seen a decrease in reporting of Hate Crime and incidents.

MD and BM are Hate Crime champions and would like to use this forum to capture incidents and to create evidence to present to the Police.

VR: NBC has funded this project for a year and there is still a lot to do. Needs to go across the forums and support is needed.

BM: This is a good start and will need to be funded for more than a year.

It was decided that LJ can attend the forums quarterly.

CA: Will also speak to Stephen Mold.

6. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Graeme gave an update for Disabled Sports.

BM: This town lacks toilet facilities which is a basic human right. This needs to be addressed.

CL: There are new toilets in Abington St and Victoria St.

CD: There are not enough facilities for carers.

CW: There is a lack of signage for toilets. **ACTION:** NM to contact John Dale regarding this.

BM: Contact someone from Diabetes to attend Forum.

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

May 12th Guildhall 10:30am -12:30pm