

Pensioners' Forum News

Issue 8
June – August
2010

Introduction

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Pensioners' newsletter. The purpose of this is to update you with news about the activities of the Forum, local services and opportunities. We hope that it will be of interest to everyone, although some of the content is specifically aimed at older people. Included are details from our June meeting, a new older people's health forum and our new Facebook group!

Introducing Northampton Older People's Health Forum

At the June meeting of Northampton Pensioners' Forum (NPF) we agreed to support creation of a new forum about health and well-being. Over the summer, some members of the NPF, 50+ Network and Pensioners Voice progressed work with the NHS to get the new Forum up and running – starting with an event to launch the new health forum and recognise the International Day for Older People.

The new forum is called Northampton Older People's Health Forum. It will meet 4 times a year at Northampton's Guildhall to provide people with the opportunity to discuss issues affecting older people, make new friends and learn more about local services. It is in addition to the Northampton Pensioners Forum.

Information has gone out to every household via the Together Northamptonshire magazine, local radio want to do interviews and posters have been sent out. As more older people now use the internet, Facebook groups have been created – and young people have volunteered to help teach older people Facebook and the internet. The Facebook group's address is www.northampton.gov.uk/nophf and it provides frequent news about health as well as information about meetings.

The first two meetings are: 29 September 2010 11am to 3pm and 1 December 2010 (World AIDS Day Ceremony 12.30pm) 1pm – 3pm at Northampton Guildhall.

Northampton Older People's Health Forum first meeting at Northampton Guildhall: 29 September 2010 11am to 3pm



Northampton Older People's Health Forum

The Older Persons Health Forum is an opportunity for you to discuss local issues that matter to Older People.

This first event includes:

- Talk on Dementia Care
- Talk from Northampton General Hospital
- Fun and lively activities with Mr 'Garfield' Motivator
- Tea, Coffee, Biscuits and a variety of stands

The Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE
Wednesday 29 September 2010

11am - 3pm

Visit www.northampton.gov.uk/theguildhall
for directions and accessibility



To express an interest in attending the event or for further information please contact Michelle Tansley at NHS Northamptonshire on 01604 651745 or email consultations@northants.nhs.uk

The event includes free health checks, graffiti workshops and armchair aerobics. Speakers on Dementia Care and Northampton General Hospital.

To book your place tel: 01604 6516745 or email: consultations@northants.nhs.uk



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

News from the Pensioners' Forum meeting on 10th June 2010

Update on Byelaws for Good Rule and Government



Debbie MacColl from Northampton Borough Council Community Safety team provided an update on work to modernise byelaws in Northampton town centre. Some of the Byelaws were outdated and obsolete, such as restriction on walking a bull through the town centre. The Council wanted to update the laws to deal with current situations. Feedback was sought from the Forum members.

Several proposals related to the prohibition of skateboarding in a number of places within Northampton Town centre including in car parks. This was because some skateboarding had happened in dangerous places such as car park ramps – CCTV showed that skateboarders narrowly missed being hit by cars. It was felt the byelaw would help deter people from taking such risks to enjoy skateboarding.

Other proposed byelaws included:

- Skateboarding in such a manner as to cause danger or give reasonable grounds for annoyance to other persons using the footway or carriageway to be prohibited.
- Fairground attractions causing obstructions to traffic to be prohibited
- Dangerous games near to highways to be prohibited
- Touting in such a way to cause obstruction or annoyance to be prohibited.
- Urinating or defecating in the street or public places to be prohibited
- Interference with road warning equipment to be prohibited
- Interference with life saving equipment to be prohibited

Penalties for the offences could result in prosecution or a maximum fine of £250.

Cllr Garlick emphasised the necessity to work together with the skateboarding community and communicate with youths to find out if they had any suggestions about resolving the problem.

One forum member requested that the 'bigger picture' be looked at with regards to the introduction of the proposed new byelaws. He suggested that some members of society have little or no regard for the byelaws and questioned who would be able to enforce it.

Cllr Garlick responded by insisting that all laws were sometimes difficult to enforce, but some of the new byelaws could be dealt with relatively easily by the introduction of on the spot fines with a fixed penalty notice.

There were suggestions that while support be given to the proposed Byelaws, the provision of a skate park for the skateboarding community be considered, as many of the areas they are currently skating in are dangerous to both themselves and to others.

Forum members were given a consultation questionnaire from the Community Safety Department, which set out questions regarding the draft byelaws.

A skate park for Northampton: update

Over the summer work (funded by Northampton Youth Forum via the Money 4 Youth scheme) has continued between NBC Sports Development Officers and skateboarders with a view to the creation of a top quality skate park for Northampton.

Discussions have included about the types of skateboarding and equipment sought. There are plans for skateboarders, councillors and council officers to visit skate parks of the sort wanted to help shape plans for a facility for Northampton.

Changes to Refuse Collection and Waste Management Services: update



Members of the Forum requested an update about the tendering process that was currently underway with regards to the refuse collection and waste management.

Cllr Garlick informed the forum that bidding had not yet been completed and that the bidding process was an information exchange between companies and the Council – no figures having yet been involved.

He also explained that officers had identified savings that could be made and the contractors and service would not change unless significant financial gains could be had.

Cllr Garlick suggested that an officer from the Waste Management team be invited to the Forum to explain the tendering process so that clarification on several matters could be delivered at the next meeting.

Heritage Open Days 9 to 12 September 2010

The annual free opening of over 30 places in Northampton is happening this month. Leaflets about what's open when, can be obtained from many places including libraries and Northampton Guildhall.

Online information can be found:

- on NBC web pages:

www.northampton.gov.uk/heritageopendays

- on Facebook:

www.northampton.gov.uk/hods

Some members of the Forum expressed an interest in helping. An intergenerational team will be helping with welcoming visitors and taking guided tours at the Guildhall 10am – 4pm on 11 Sept and 1pm – 5pm on Sun 12 Sept 2010.

John Gardner Memorial: Update

Roger Rumsey confirmed that sometime ago the Forum had requested a memorial for John Gardner. The Chief Executive of Northampton Borough Council who had confirmed that the hope was to have one memorial and that the matter was in the hands of Northamptonshire County Council. Councillor Hollis updated the Forum by informing them that Lieutenants were now dealing with this issue.

In Memoriam: Pamela Crane

Forum members held a minute's silence in memory of Pamela Crane who had passed away recently. Pamela was a regular member of the Pensioner's Forum, an active member of Duston Parish Council and the NBC Neighbourhood Partnerships. Pamela was a catalyst behind the very popular Duston Day in the Park which brought the community together for a superb day out. Pamela and her dog Pepper took good care of everyone visiting from VIPs to little children. Pamela's commitments to the local community were even more remarkable given her role as a mother, supporting her family through a long and very difficult battle with cancer. Pamela will be sadly missed.

Other news

New guidance notes to make it easier to organize fetes and street parties

The new government has produced some easy, good practice guidance which is due to be published in a leaflet from September 2010 that should be made available online and from town halls. It is hoped that this will help make it simpler to plan local events, reduce time and cost of organising them and remove worries about having appropriate licences etc.

The new form which can be used to help plan local events can be downloaded from the Department for Communities and Local Government web pages:
www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/streetpartyguide

Any Other Business: discussed at June 2010 Forum meeting

Fountain in the Market Square

There was a brief discussion about the recently installed water fountain on the edge of the Market Square. Some forum members suggested that the money spent on this could have gone to better use, said that they had witnessed it not working and felt it was not value for money. Other forum members said they liked the water feature and the fact that it had been used by many people - and young people in particular. They felt it worked well in elevating the aesthetics of the area.

Use of temporary staff by Northampton Borough Council

The recent report taken to Cabinet from recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regards to the Councils expenditure on temporary staff was discussed.

Cllr Garlick accepted that the spending costs on temporary employees and consultants was reported as being very high in the Northampton Chronicle & Echo

Cllr Garlick confirmed that there had been high levels of spending in the past few years, it was pointed out that this was due to the severe problems the Borough Council had found itself in a number of years ago and that the employment of temporary staff had helped elevate the status of the Council in recent times which had resulted in the Borough Council being nominated as one of the most improved Councils who had gone a drastic transformation.

In order to have further understanding of the Costs of Consultation, it was decided that the Overview and Scrutiny report would be sent out to the Members of the Forum with the Pensioners Forum Newsletter.

Forum attendance in June 2010 included:

Roger Rumsey (Co-Chair), Cllr Jane Hollis (Co-Chair) Cllr David Garlick (NBC), Maggie Lonergan(NCC), Mary Percival, Brian Nicols, Mike Hill, Harry and Hazel Tuttle (Pensioner's Voice), DJ Hewitt, J Rawkings, Roy Darwin, Debbie MacColl (NBC), M Brown, J Forrest-Smith, Jean Anderton, Doreen Minney, Anne Mackay, Madeline Boys, Lindsey Ambrose

Apologies were received from John Wright, Mary Dyer-Atkins, Geoff Simms, Katherine Parker and Rob Goodman

Would you like to join the Forum?

Membership enables you to receive information by email or post about meetings, consultations, events from time to time so you can be actively involved with the Council and dialogue about services. To join please contact Lindsey Ambrose or Emma Garrett

lambrose@northampton.gov.uk or
egarrett@northampton.gov.uk

Or tel: 01604 837837 or write to us at: NBC, The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE

Pensioners' Forum meetings

Open to all. Our next meetings are from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Northampton Guildhall on:

- ✿ 16th September 2010
- ✿ 4th November 2010

Pensioners Forum on Facebook

This new group enables you to receive and share news, opportunities to have a say on issues etc any time. Facebook is free to use if you have internet access. You just need to log in to Facebook and it will help you set up a basic page about you, which you can make private.

"Northampton Pensioners Forum" Facebook page can be found at www.northampton.gov.uk/pensionersforumonfacebook