

MINUTES

In Attendance: Matthew Toresen, Anna King, Keith Mitchell, Liz Carroll-Wheat, Will, Joanna Steer, Chris O'Dell, Lee Gilbert, Katie Billingham, Matt, Stephen Bennett, Barry Hansford

Apologies: Wayne Keown, Rob Smith, Cllr Matt Lynch

Notes: Sue Ousley

	Agenda Item	Action
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>See above</p>	
2	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true record.</p> <p>The issue regarding Deafconnect and the carnival is a complicated issue but AK has now resolved the issues.</p>	
3	<p>Consultations</p> <p>Cllr ML tendered apologies but AK tabled a questionnaire around improving the town parks. The following issues were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks are dirty • Too much litter • Abington Park toilets near play area are not up to standard and the men's are closed • There are no toilets on the Racecourse. However, now the Umbrella Fair have taken over the running of the Racecourse this issue will be investigated • Lighting – particularly on the Racecourse which gets a lot of use early in the evening as it is close to town and the college. • LED lighting and ranger patrols • All parks need to be prettier with more planting (rose garden needs tidying up) • Eastfield Park currently going through consultation 	
4	<p>Updates</p> <p>Peter Tatchell event – held on 23 August and approximately 50 people</p>	



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	<p>attended. It was a very good event with lots of questions.</p> <p>Some funds went to Bookfest and final funding will be used for the Coming Out day.</p> <p>Umbrella Fair - MT advised that they now own a marquee which can be hired out. The attendance was not as high as it would have been liked but an HIV testing unit attended on the Saturday and a sexual health clinic was there all weekend.</p> <p>Bookfest took place last weekend and was launched on Friday by Rose Collis, singer, author, artist etc. Numbers were disappointing on Saturday and Sunday but the authors enjoyed the event.</p> <p>LGBTQ Forum Logo Competition - Two entries have been received which is disappointing. SB will distribute flyers to encourage more entries but the closing date cannot be changed. It will now be opened up and the design brief re-circulated. He will also visit the college. Judging needs to be anonymous and the brief is to include the NBC logo, reflect LGBTQ and include something to do with Northampton.</p> <p>Hate Crime</p> <p>Rob Smith sent apologies but had reported that he had attended a forum in August which highlighted an increase in Islamophobia. It also highlighted a lot of attacks against Somalis but they don't report all incidents as there is a lack of trust of the police. Training is being developed along with new information sharing processes.</p> <p>The County Schools Challenge was held recently and Mrs Lancaster from the Sophie Lancaster foundation attended. The day addressed homophobic hate crime and was very well received.</p>	SB
5	<p>Discussion/Event Planning</p> <p>International Coming Out day - LCW advised she is helping to deliver the day on 11 October 2013, from 11.00am to 3.00pm at the museum. The day will have speakers (Triss Reid-Smith included), discussions, people telling inspirational stories and lots of other stalls and events. Natalie O'Donnell, from Spectrum Employee Network will also be in attendance. Stalls and workshops are still available if anyone else would like to participate.</p> <p>There will also be a vintage tea room, face and henna painting.</p> <p>Even if people aren't able to attend, they can still send information for displays. Contact LCW.</p>	



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	<p>The museum will also be holding their Strictly exhibition at the same time which will give a good backdrop for the event.</p> <p>MT updated on Norwich Pride who have published Out 140, tweets received that are interesting and relevant to the group</p> <p>Deafconnect Training</p> <p>Joanna Steer attended the meeting to emphasize the importance of deaf awareness training. A session has been arranged for 5 October in the Guildhall between 09.00 and 12.00. She gave a brief overview of some of the difficulties experienced by deaf people and the barriers to accessing services due to misinterpretation and levels of ability to read. Access to information on the internet is not in a suitable format and people experience issues in relation to health, and services. Joanne encouraged people to attend the training as this is an ever growing issue in society as a large percentage of the population have some sort of hearing problem. There are 15-20 places available.</p>	
6	<p>Planning the Work of the Forum for 2013/14</p> <p>Deafconnect training and coming out and consultation are items for future development.</p>	
7	<p>Community Information Exchange</p> <p>SB has set up a Facebook page which is currently doing well and he is trying to get even more sign up with all communities. Facebook.com/lgbtnorthampton.</p> <p>SB advised that LGBT in Bedfordshire are interested in connecting with Northants and other local counties. If the group are interested SB will pass details on.</p>	
8	<p>Items for Discussion at the Meeting</p> <p>There are no items at the present time other than feedback from this meeting</p>	
9	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>12 November 2013, 18.30, Holding Room, The Guildhall.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 19.16.</p>	



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