

# Northampton LGBT and Q People's Forum

on Tuesday, 24 September 2019 at 6:30 pm until not later than 8:30 pm  
in Holding room.

## Agenda

- 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**
- 2. Minutes and matters arising**
- 3. Northants Police Positive Action**  
Matthew Toresen
- 4. Northampton Pride update**
- 5. LGBTQ Forum Xmas social**  
Venue tbc
- 6. Community Information Exchange**
- 7. Any Other Business**  
Diversity in local LGBTQ spaces
- 8. Items for Future Meetings**
- 9. Date Of Next Meeting**  
Tuesday 10 December -Christmas social meeting  
2020 meetings tbc

Map and directions at: [www.northampton.gov.uk/guildhall](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/guildhall)

For more information about this meeting please contact:  
Aimee Luck - Community Safety & Engagement Officer.



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Tel: 01604 837079



More information about the Forum generally is at: [www.northampton.gov.uk/forums](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/forums)



Facebook page: [www.northampton.gov.uk/lgbtqpf](http://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.

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## Northampton Borough Council

### Northampton LGBT and Q People's Forum

Tuesday, 21 May 2019

#### Officers at the meeting

#### 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

**Attendees:** Leo, Zach (Qspace), Phil, Aleks, Rebecca, Iulia, Alison, John, Samuel (UNISON), Jane, Solomon, Victoria (NPH), Sami, Ben (UNISON), Sonja, Sharon, Benny, Alison (VIN), William.

Some attendees chose not to write their names on the sign in sheet.

**Apologies:** Cllr King, Matt (QSpace), Liz (Qfilm), Cat (Qfilm).

Matthew welcomed everyone to the LGBTQ Forum and gave an overview of the forum's purpose and structure for the many new people attending. The forum is chaired by Cllr Anna King and Community co-chair, Matthew Toresen and meets bi-monthly alternating between a formal meeting at the Guildhall and a social meeting at a town centre pub venue.

#### 2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

**Outstanding action noted- Forum awaiting update from Sgt Rod Williams (Northants Police) re. crime reporting gender options.**

**Action: Aimee to circulate video and podcast links received from Will**

Link to short documentary film with gay activist Chris Dilworth  
<https://youtu.be/UhXGEubz3po>

Link to The first episode of Frequeerency Spectrum podcast,  
<https://youtu.be/osNRHSEe3-c>

Minutes agreed.

#### 3. 40TH ANNIVERSARY APPEAL FOR INFORMATION

The forum welcomed DCI Ally White to the meeting to talk about the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Sean McGann on 17 April 1979:

15 yr old Sean McGann went missing from Midsummer Meadows at around 6pm. At the time, Midsummer Meadows toilets were known to be used by the 'cruising community'. Sean's body was found in an alleyway 2 miles away. He had not been robbed or assaulted but was found strangled. His body was not hidden and police suspected an element of regret.

DCI White explained that the Police at the time were heavy handed and prejudiced which was also reflected in the media reporting but that attitudes today have come a long way. DCI White informed the forum that some funding recently became available to conduct a full forensic review of the case. Forensics have come a long way and DNA has now been found from a letter with information on the death received by Police in 1991.

The Forum were reminded that men who might have been witnesses would have

also been committing a crime and could have had a lot to lose by giving information at the time.

Police are asking the community if you know anyone who might have been using the toilets at the time please come forward with information. All information will be treated sensitively. This is possibly the last chance to receive any information.

**Q:** People who already gave statements at the time, their memory will be worse now, are they being asked to come forward again?

**A:** Their original statements will remain on record, but also allegiances change, people have died and it might be easier to talk now, years later.

The park had a reputation and a transient community. Additionally, a fair and football match were taking place on the day of Sean's death, which would have brought people from other areas into the town.

**Action: DCI Ally to share links, Aimee to attach to minutes for LGBTQ Forum.**

**Q:** What will happen to witness statements after this if not solved.

**A:** They will continue to be stored.

Matt is sharing information with older gay communities.

#### **4. PRIDE REVIEW AND FUTURE PLANNING**

The forum attendees were very positive about the Pride event that took place in the Market Square on Saturday. Aimee has received some great feedback by email and there has been a lot of good press online and on social media about the event. Some were disappointed that there was no parade but a good step in the right direction. Suggestion that it seems to be the right time for Northampton Pride, particularly with University moving to the town.

Promotion:

Not everyone uses social media/Facebook so would be good to have more promotion in the town and elsewhere too. Good promotion from NBC social media and roadside boards, and via the Meet up group. Posters seen in Daventry gender clinic. Poster was not circulated early enough to get out to people.

Some performers received negative comments by young teenagers when leaving the market area. Koola were a brilliant end to day.

We want an event that is inclusive and open to all. Kettering did a pride last year with lots of families. Wellingborough Pride 3<sup>rd</sup> August- Glamoris hall.

Suggestion to get in touch with Girl Guides who now support Prides.

Mixed comments about what worked well and future preferences around alcohol, family-friendly event and location. It was felt that the location on the market square meant increased footfall. Unitarian meeting house suggested as a quiet space to go

if people need it for any future events in town centre. To be discussed by steering group in future.

Future Pride steering group:

Alison (VIN) spoke to the group about her role at VIN as a development officer, supporting people who want to form community groups, and helping established groups to explore funding options.

Alison suggests an unincorporated association for the LGBTQ Pride steering group. This is a straightforward process where the group meets and individuals decide on committee members, and set rules (constitution) that the group agrees. The group needs to set up a bank account and is then in a position to apply for funding. There is an option to become a registered charity group later, which opens more doors to funding. Small charities do not pay taxes. If the group registered with HMRC gift aid would also be an option.

Would need to set some aims and look at costs. NCF, NBC and small awards for all lottery pot are all options.

LGBTQ Consortium also offers funding for Prides, and was previously discussed as an opportunity the forum would like to explore.

We have had a lot of interest from businesses and organisations that are interested in sponsoring Pride 2020. Aimee will explore further once the steering group is established and begin discussions.

Discussion took place around sustainability and considering the environment when planning future Pride events. The group feel it is important to not allow other organisations (sponsors) to take control, consider ethical side and would want to look at their policies around LGBT. Steering group to make decisions and include this into constitution.

Fundraising in the community is important in the local community to build the energy. Creates energy and interest but makes least money for time/input- the community involvement is what is important.

Utilise people's skills who are not necessarily able to make meetings.

If anyone is interested in being part of the constituted Pride committee (core group) please contact [forums@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:forums@northampton.gov.uk) or [aluck@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:aluck@northampton.gov.uk)

## **5. ACTION PLAN**

Carnival, Saturday 8 June: Everyone is invited to get involved in the forums float.

Please contact [forums@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:forums@northampton.gov.uk) to get involved and receive further information.

## **6. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

QSpace Recently launched Q corner in the East Hunsbury library, second Saturday every month. Anyone needing a safe space, somewhere LGBTQ can access. Looking for volunteers to support QSpace which has been expanding quickly.

Foundation Stones Project is a new charity, designed to support homeless community in Northampton. Vision for new shelter by Christmas. Great support by New Mayor and NBC leader Cllr Nunn. Aimed at single females, people in a relationship, and LGBTQ community members- those who find it difficult to access current shelter. The project has charitable status and has reached Round 4 of Big Lottery Fund. Council trying to support with finding premises. More information can be found at [www.thefoundationstonesproject.com](http://www.thefoundationstonesproject.com)

Unison- Focus on employment discrimination in workplace. Would like to recruit more people to trade union and form a self organised lgbtq group within this as a collective to address issues. Not all campaign issues are directly related to LGBT e.g better funded services, healthcare. Happy to work with and support other groups to run LGBT history month activities and campaigns.

School nurses at NHS very keen to get involved in Pride next year. NHFT have a number of LGBTQ services; would be great to have representatives from the different services sharing a space in future. Would like to include gender clinic in future events- confidential/quiet space would be welcomed. Lowdown facility is so close and could have opened up for offer a space for confidential services, to explore in future.

Bruce would like to go back to Uni to discuss setting up a UON Pride society, which would be able to raise some funding and support the steering group.

Wellingborough Pride on Saturday 3 August [wellingboroughpride2019@gmail.com](mailto:wellingboroughpride2019@gmail.com) . If people want a stall it costs £5.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Northampton Socialist Film club: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July pm.  
Screening of 'Pride' with a Q&A with Mike Jackson the National Secretary of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners at Kinsley Working Mens Club.

## **ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 25 July, social meeting. Venue tbc.

Tuesday 24 September, 6.30pm The Guildhall

The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified

Forum Action Plan						
<b>Chair:</b>	Cllr Anna King and Matthew Toresen		<b>Responsible Forum:</b>	LGBTQ Forum		
<b>Outcomes identified within the Corporate Plan:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empowered local communities with a greater capacity to become involved in community life</li> <li>Promote integration and cohesion</li> <li>Appropriate support provided to those in most need</li> <li>Services are fair, accessible and responsive to individual needs residents and customers feel informed and engaged in service quality and design</li> <li>Future developments informed by the views of local people</li> <li>Delivery of events to celebrate and enjoy the Town's heritage and culture</li> </ul>					
<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bringing together statutory and voluntary organisations, LGBTQ groups and residents</li> <li>Promoting and encouraging equality for LGBTQ residents</li> <li>Promoting partnership working by statutory and voluntary sector organisations and LGBTQ groups and communities</li> <li>Identifying gaps in provision for LGBTQ residents and communities</li> </ul>					
<b>Actions:</b>	Updates in red					
Action	Owner	Activity (intelligence led)	Timescale	Cost	Measure	Last Updated
IDAHOBiT	Aimee	Civic Ceremony Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May, at Guildhall courtyard. Refreshments and UNISON in the Courtroom following minute of noise and speeches from the Mayor, Leader of the Council and Matthew Toresen. <b>Event was well attended and promoted Northampton Pride taking place the next day.</b>	17 May 2019		Number of attendees, number of organisations committed	September 2019
Pride	Cllr King/ Matthew	Pride event held on the Market Square on Saturday 18 May from 12pm to 5pm. After parties arranged from 5pm at the Boston and from 7pm at the Old Bank. A range of performers programmed for the stage as well as street acts and stalls.  <b>The event was extremely well attended and received a wide and positive coverage. Feedback taken at the following Forum meeting and meeting arranged for a separate Pride working group to steer and drive plans for 2020 event.</b>	18 May 2019		Number of attendees	September 2019
Carnival	Cllr King	Cllr King has arranged a float with Carnival organiser, Morcea Walker. All NBC community forums invited to be involved.	8 June 2019		Forum members involved on the day	September 2019

		Members of the LGBTQ Forum attended and joined the forums float to promote NBC's community forums.				
Book Fest	Cat	Currently in process of setting up. LGBTQ Forum to support.	September 2019			January 2019
World AIDs Day	Aimee	Civic event to be arranged for Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December.	December 2019			January 2019
Tackling Hate Crime	Aimee	Continue to promote Straight Allies campaign at events.  Concerns raised about pubs and other night time venues not having the training to deal with homophobic incidents. Training has been arranged for pubwatch venues to be delivered by hate crime coordinator, Yemi.	Ongoing  April 2019		Project established-ongoing promotion.  Number of venues receiving training.	February 2019