



Disabled People's Forum

A meeting of the Disabled People's Forum will be held at the The Jeffrey Room - The Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Thursday 6 April 2023 at 2.30 pm

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Agenda

1.	Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies
2.	Code of Conduct (Pages 3 - 4)
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 8)
4.	Connecting Social Activities & Respite Care Support Ray Hales, JH & Oarpel Community Support
5.	PHAB Julie Smith

6.	Community Information Exchange
7.	Items for Future Meetings
8.	Date of Next Meeting Thursday 8 th June, 6pm, Jeffrey Room, The Guildhall or on Teams

Information about this Agenda

If you have any queries about this agenda please contact Emma Parry, Housing and Communities via the following:

Tel: 01327 302418

Email: emma.parry@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Street
Northampton
NN1 1DE

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 West Northants 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 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 West Northants 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, Community Safety and Engagement Manager at vicki.rockall@westnorthants.gov.uk or on 01604 837074



Disabled People's Forum

Minutes of a meeting of the Disabled People's Forum held at The Jeffrey Room - The Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Thursday 2 February 2023 at 6.00 pm.

Present: Emma Parry, Deb Burns, Debbie MacColl, Jatish Shah, Eleri Neale, Paul Thompson, Rachel Flaxman, John Rawlins, Catherine Barker, Nick Wilson, Cllr Duffy, Graeme Wilson, Carl Weininger, Dottie Davies, Ryan Griffiths

1. Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies

Emma Parry welcome all to the meeting both online and in the room. Emma passed on apologies from Martin and Alan and advised she would be chairing the meeting. Emma thanked Debbie MacColl for attending her first meeting and very grateful for the support and handover of the forum.

Apologies were also received from Beverley Mennell and Kit Nicholas.

2. Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct issued with the agenda. All asked to observe and follow.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a correct record. Minutes sent prior to the meeting. Minutes approved. Question raised by Catherine Baker – could we explain CIL and statement *Parish Councils receive 25% of CIL for developments in their area*. DM advised CIL stood for Community Infrastructure Levy

[Community Infrastructure Levy \(CIL\) | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk)

Action: Emma Parry to get further information to share to Catherine Barker

4. Introduction to Money & Pensions

Paul Rhodes had not managed to attend the meeting. **Action: EP to make contact to join the next meeting.**

5. Community Information Exchange

Shared by Graeme Wilson: - Para Swimming development event I'm organising in partnership with Andy Sharp from Northampton Swimming Club.

[Opportunity for Disabled People to Get Involved in Swimming - Blog \(northamptonshiresport.org\)](https://northamptonshiresport.org)

Rachel shared link for Fernie Fields – Sports4fitness. Disability Fun day 25th June 2023.

[Kids Football | Sport4fitness Cic | Moulton \(sport4fitness-cic.co.uk\)](#)

Debbie MacColl shared information about Park Walks Northampton and setting up a walking group to support Dementia. 60 timed events. Pete Middleton supporting. Further details to follow. April / May time.

Ryan Griffiths (NCF) shared Grant information. ryan@ncf.uk.com

Cecil Pettit was one of the founding members of Ability Northants, a charity dedicated to enriching the lives of people living with disabilities. Following his passing in 2000, a legacy fund was established to carry on Cecil Pettit's good work. This fund is managed and facilitated by Northamptonshire Community Foundation, with the aim to fund projects supporting people living with disabilities.

Examples of some of the types of projects this fund could support include:

- Support or advocacy groups
- Helping people living with disabilities by providing accessible educational or training activities
- Health and well-being projects to reduce social isolation

The maximum funding award is £3,000. In order to apply please complete an **expression of interest form** by **Friday 24th February 2023** and email to Ryan Griffiths: ryan@ncf.uk.com

Carl raised about costings for use of pools and how expensive it is for groups to hire various centres etc. Nick Wilson shared VR Therapies as a contact. Ryan Griffiths confirmed that groups could apply for funding but would need to be a constituted group.

19th - 25th June Learning Disability Week.

Members keen to get involved in more events.

Carl shared event On Target Shooting Range event – Sport ability Paralysis 8th March 2023. Brackmills. **Action:** Carl to send further information.

6. IDPWD Evaluation

[International Day People with Disabilities - YouTube](#) (link for those who had not seen the event)

All who had seen the event enjoyed the content and the shared spaces however noted that attendance was not high. Discussed that people were not aware of the event. See above noted about promotion and attendance.

Great host: Kian Saville

Keen to increase attendance – members shared that the virtual event had increased attendance but feel it would be good to have a face-to-face event.

IDPWD event in the summer discussed briefly. (Disability week)

Action: Review next meeting. Planning for IDPWD 2023

7. Items for Future Meetings

- a. Introduction to Money & Pensions (unable to join this meeting, request to be asked to attend the next meeting).
- b. WNC Contact Manager – reporting process
- c. Leisure Centre Survey – invite providers to come to the next meeting.
- d. IDPWD 2023 planning. Face to Face / Virtual

8. Any Other Business

- a. Placement Issues

Dottie Davies asked who she could speak about placement issues and reporting – lots of issues scooters, wheelchairs, potholes, roads, and pavements. What can I do and where can I report? Dottie supports lots of members on different forums. Aware of a lot of websites and contacts but issues are not being responded to. Suggestions given of Street Doctor and Daventry IAG (Independent Advisor Group). Eleri advised the IAG critical friend of the Police.

[Independent Advisory Groups | Northamptonshire Police \(northants.police.uk\)](https://www.northants.police.uk)

Cllr Duffy advised to contact local Cllr who could take up any issues. **Action: Agreed for local contact centre Manager to be asked to the next forum**

- b. Disability forum membership
[Disabled People's Forum | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk)

Discussed this forum and advised that GP Practices were not aware of the Disability Forum – would be good to promote. The forum has also been promoted to Parish and Town Councils. **Action: Please promote and advise of other groups / contacts we can share information to. Action: DM to share information of the forum to the Parish Council Forum to share awareness.**

Discussion on membership to the Forum – all keen to engage young people. Members advised lots of people, both younger and older do not like to admit their disability. Need to ensure inclusive of everyone and feel safe and heard.

Nick Wilson offered to share videos he has made – promote to all. **Action: Emma Parry and Nick Wilson to meet to discuss further.**

Eleri Neale gave further information re PHAB - PHAB CLUB meet FRIDAY 7-9PM at 11, Sheraton Close, NN3 2NL

[Phab | Phab creates opportunities for disabled and non-disabled people of all ages to make more of life together | phab](#)

Need to share information to GPs. Deb Burns advised she is meeting with a GP about adding out newsletter to their website. Will update following the meeting. Newsletter is available for all to subscribe to.

To subscribe to our Newsletter please [click here](#)

c. Leisure Centre Survey

DM shared the responses prior to the meeting. Graeme Wilson advised he had shared further and asked for additional feedback.

Key feedback – I don't feel confident / Lack of information about inclusive activities

Discussed in detail and shared real-life experiences. Concerns have been heard and we need to encourage all to use more. Members agreed to ask providers to attend a meeting to discuss further and improve attendance / support. **Action: Agenda item**

d. Other items

Discussed community transport. DACT / Door to Door / Ability Bus. Disparity for disabled people in rural area.

Contacts below for all:

- Ability Bus 01327 607123 [Bus Service - Local Free Travel with ABILITY Northants cic \(abilitycic.org.uk\)](#)
- DACT: [DACT](#)
- Door to Door [to Door Service | Voluntary Impact Northampton](#)

e. A Frame Barriers

Dottie Davis asked about A Frame Barriers and blocking entrances / footpath access. Catherine Barker advised to contact Local Access Forum. **Action:**

Catherine and Dottie to liaise outside of the meeting.

[Northamptonshire Local Access Forum | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](#)

Thanks given to Debbie MacColl for all her work and support to the forum. Fantastic work and events. Endorsed by members. Debbie confirmed she was still staying within the council but handing over the forum to Emma Parry, she was hopeful paths would still cross.

Emma Parry thanks all for attending. Meeting closed.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 6 April 2023 at 2.30pm in Northampton's Guildhall and on Teams