

Meeting **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES GROUP**

Time/Day/Date: 6.30pm on Wednesday, 30 May 2012

Location: Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville

Officer to contact: Chhaya McDonald (01530 454702)

Local Member Clare Hammond (01530 454529)

Support Officer:

## **A G E N D A**

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<b>1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN</b>	
<b>2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>	
<p>Whilst this is an informal working party, under the Code of Conduct members are reminded that interests should be declared and in declaring an interest you should make clear the nature of that interest and whether it is 'personal' or 'prejudicial'.</p>	
<b>4. MINUTES</b>	
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<b>5. MATTERS NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA</b>	
<b>6. UPDATE ON APRIL 2012 DISABILITY AWARENESS EVENT AND PLANNING FOR NEXT EVENT IN ASHBY</b>	
<p>The Equality and Diversity Manager will update the group on the disability awareness event.</p>	
<b>7. WORK OF CARE-ON-LINE</b>	
<p>Ian Retson from Leicestershire County Council will give an update on the work and support provided by Care-on-Line</p>	
<b>8. WORK OF HANDSTAND</b>	
<p>Verbal update from Alan Gamble, Handstand</p>	
<b>9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
<b>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
<p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 25 July 2012 at 6.30pm</p>	

Circulation:

Councillor G A Allman  
Councillor P Clayfield  
Councillor L Massey  
Councillor V Richichi  
Councillor J Ruff  
Councillor M Specht

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES GROUP held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on Wednesday, 7 MARCH 2012

Present: Councillor V Richichi (Chairman) (In the Chair)

Councillors: G Allman, P Clayfield, J Ruff and M Specht.

Council Officers: Viv Eaton, Chhaya McDonald and Clark Robinson

In attendance: Jhon Bateman (National Children's Bureau), Jane Bromley (Valuing People Team), Catherine Flanagan, Billy Parry (Handstand) and Janet Parry (Handstand).

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Steve Bateman, Mrs Cunningham, Tracy Foulds Jenny Lacey, Russell Lacey, Councillor L Massey and Mrs Randall.

## 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

## 3. MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2012 be approved.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

### Shop Mobility

Chhaya explained that she was still looking into possible funding. Unfortunately we have not had much success as it was now nearing the end of the financial year. Chhaya will keep looking and will bring this back to the Group.

## 5. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Clark Robinson gave an update on access to Council controlled parks and open spaces and highlighted the following:-

- The majority of the parks they service are in the Coalville area.
- Other parks outside this area are serviced by the Parish Council.
- They also provide a horticultural service for the Housing Department.
- Work towards the Green Footprints Challenge
- Currently working in partnership with the "Choices for Life" in providing play equipment in Coalville Park for people with learning disabilities. This was working very well.
- Inclusive play – allows people with disabilities to be active with their able bodied friends. It doesn't make any compromises with the challenge and makes children use the equipment in their own way. This will offer freedom.
- Access for adults – very little response from the community that said that they had difficulty in accessing our parks. Happy to receive feedback in the area.

Following a question regarding providing "Choices for Life" equipment at Moira Furnace, Clark explained that the Furnace was run by the Furnace Trust and unfortunately the Council do not maintain this site. He added that he would contact the Furnace Trust

about this request.

A question was asked about the locations of places within the district where there are access for disabled children. Clark explained that there were 3 sites, one at the Urban Forest site (near to the Civic amenities site), Millfield Ground, Hugglescote and the Greenhill estate. These all have the basket swing. Looking at introducing a "Dish roundabout".

Clark explained that the Council were exploring the possibility of creating a Fitness Trail (outside green type gym) with free access for children and adults. This could be situated in Coalville Park or the Hermitage recreation grounds. Looking at additional external funding.

Following a question regarding the maintenance of the equipment, Clark explained that as a District Council we do weekly inspections and on sites where there are Rangers then these inspections would be done daily. The Council also carries out quarterly inspections, with annual inspections carried out by our insurers using external engineers.

Councillor Richichi referred to the installation of new equipment and asked whether safety or risk checks are carried out. Clark stated that the Council would normally use the manufacturer.

Councillor Richichi asked if the Council was responsible for any accidents that happen on play equipment?

Clark stated that if the Council was negligent then we would be responsible. He gave some examples. He added that we have disclaimers on our Skateboard equipment. Bylaws have been put on all of the Council's sites, eg dog control orders.

Chhaya asked how does the Council decide on what type of play equipment is installed and where would it be located?

Clark explained that they always consult with the neighbourhood that they are considering and mainly look at Play Hubs. They work with the children and the community jointly and develop what people want.

Councillor Clayfield asked how does the Council publicise the inclusive play sites

Clark explained that sites are normally for local use so we don't usually promote to the larger area, although it could be something that we could do more of. All sites are listed on the Council's website.

Councillor Clayfield asked if the Council liaise with Parish Councils on play areas.

Clark stated that new and small Parish Councils seek our advice.

In terms of vehicular access there are car parks that are marked out with parking bays for disabled at Hermitage & Hood Park Leisure Centres and Lakeside, Whitiwick. We have disabled parking bays down at the lake at Lakeside. There are disabled toilets at Coalville and Whitwick parks which are only open when attendants are there. This decision was made due to vandalism. Choices for Life use the Depot's disabled facilities.

Following a question, Clark explained that only disabled toilets in Coalville Park and the Depot are robotic key operated.

Jhon asked was there a reason way there are no marked parking bays in Coalville Park and wouldn't it be better to have these marked as the disabled need a wider space?

Clark explained that there were no markings for the park as it had no restricted parking.

A question was raised about the possibility of having marked parking bays for ambulances at sheltered schemes.

Clark said that this should be raised with the local tenants group or Housing Department.

Following a question regarding access to play areas for children with disabled parents, Clark stated that the Council always provide seating and open ended section on picnic tables. All gates are a meter wide for disabled access.

The Chairman thanked Clark Robinson for his presentation.

## **6. UPDATE ON DISABILITY AWARENESS EVENT – APRIL 2012**

Chhaya provided the group with an update. She had received feedback on the possible Friday or Saturday dates and the majority preferred Friday, 20 April 2012. Responses had been received from Handstand, Vista, Vulnerable People's Team, etc. She had enquired about using one of the empty shop units in the Belvoir centre.

Chhaya asked for help from members of the Group regarding the invites and publicity of this event. Catherine and Jhon volunteered to help.

Councillor Clayfield said that she had contacts with Hermitage FM and asked for someone from the Group to come along to promote the event.

Councillor Ruff added that she could organise a similar slot on Radio Leicester.

Jane asked for clarity on what was expected of the groups that were involved in this event.

Chhaya explained that it would be a "drop in" event to raise awareness for people who don't have a disability. The idea is for them to experience being disabled and help to promote services and equipment.

Following discussions it was agreed that this Disability Awareness Event would be held on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

Chhaya added that we could run a similar event on a Saturday later in the year.

## **7. WORK OF HANDSTAND**

Nothing to report.

## **8. CHOICE UNLIMITED EVENT**

Chhaya had received an invite to a "Choice Unlimited Event" on 5 April 2012 at the Leicester Tigers Ground between 10am and 7pm. It is a free event and Chhaya said that she would be attending the morning session. Councillor Clayfield was interested in attending and would accompany Chhaya.

Janet and Billy Parry had also received an invitation and would be going in the afternoon.

Chhaya encourage members of the Group to attend.

Snibston would be holding a similar event.

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LDP Board – Chhaya explained that she had received a letter regarding a new programme which is being funded by money left in a parent's Will of a son with learning disabilities. **(Chhaya could you put in a bit more detail of what this is about please)** If anyone wanted a copy of this information please contact Chhaya.

Olympic Torch - Chhaya announce that Jhon had been nominated by his school to carry the Olympic Torch.

The Group congratulated Jhon on this achievement.

Street Cleansing – Chhaya informed the Group that Paul Coates, Team Manager over Street Cleansing would be attending the next meeting to discuss issues raised at the previous meeting.

International Women's Day – Chhaya announced that it was International Women's Day on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012. This is a celebration for women who are able bodied and disabled.

New leaflets – Jane informed the group new Easy Write / Easy Read and Being Safe on mobile phone/computer leaflets had been produced. If anyone would like copies of these leaflets to distribute please let her know.

Feedback - Jane gave feedback for the young people that had attended her first meeting of this group. They said the meeting was very relaxed and they were pleased that the Group was now using the red and yellow cards. They did state that they found it really difficult to read the minutes. Jane suggested easier to read minutes.

## 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed

The meeting closed at 7.56pm.