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**Disability Forum Minutes**

**Tuesday 8th July 2025 10.00am – 12.00pm**

Held at Atherstone Memorial Hall

Long Street

Atherstone

CV9 1AX

**Present:** Junaid Hussain (EQuIP), Ahmed (EQuIP), Rachael Hall (NWBC), Eleanor Evans (NWBC), Sharon Dawson (NWBC), Mike Jewkes (Disability Officer for North Warwickshire), Maria Beale (Cohort 4) and members of the public.

**Apologies**: Deb Sharp (NWBC), Margaret Henley

| **Item** | **Notes** | **Action** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Welcome and Introductions**  Junaid Hussain from EQuIP introduced himself and Rachael Hall from North Warwickshire Borough Council to the attendees. The meeting was well attended, and it was nice to see some new faces.  New attendee Dean introduced himself and advised that he organises a walking football club in Nuneaton that is open to all. Rachael advised that she could share this info on the Disability Forum webpage. | **RH** |
| **2** | **NWBC Greenspace Officer Eleanor Evans**  Eleanor provided a presentation on how NWBC parks and green spaces are considering access and inclusivity.  Eleanor showed images of adjustments that had been made in parks across the borough including K-barriers, accessible seating areas, hard standing, paths, accessible play equipment such as swings and ramps.  Presentation to be shared to the group  Videos of parks showing their accessibility are available on the NWBC website – RH to share link with minutes.  A question was raised regarding overhanging trees on footpaths – EE explained that depending on the location these fall under WCC or private land but asked for all enquiries to be sent to EE. |  |
| **3** | **Plan for the year**  The focus of the meeting was to set the agenda for the rest of the years Disability Forum’s meetings. Suggestions for future guest speakers were discussed and suggested representatives from Housing, Benefits, Police, Public Transport and Rachel Taylor MP. RH and JH to invite guest speakers.  **Next meeting**  Tuesday 14th October 2025 10am-12pm  Junaid to invite speakers re dropped kerbs  **SEND**  January 2026 date/time and location tbc  Junaid to invite speakers re SEND | **RH/JH**  **JH**  **RH/JH** |
| **4** | **Open Discussion**   * Mike Jewkes raised an issue regarding parking of his mobility scooter * Sharon Dawson will investigate who is best to help resolve * Ladies from CoHort 4 raised an issue regarding people having to present at job centres when they have disabilities. Group requested a representative from DWP to attend a future meeting. * The group mentioned an issue with buses and ramps not been made easily available. Another issue was raised about bus stops not always being signed causing people to have to flag buses. The group requested a representative from public transport to attend a future meeting. * Another issue was raised around on street parking and scooters/wheelchairs struggling to pass safely. EQuIP to pick up. | **SD**  **JH/SD**  **RH/JH**  **JH** |
| **5** | **Update from EQuIP**  Junaid and Ahmed discussed the rise in hate crime and how this can impact people with disabilities. EQuIP can provide short presentations explaining what hate crime is and how to report it. | **JH** |
| **6** | AOB.  Group suggested Rachel Taylor MP to attend a future meeting | **RH/JH** |
| **7** | Date of next meeting **14th October 2025**  **RH and JH to promote**  JH to invite WCC to discuss dropped kerbs. | **RH/JH**  **JH** |

**Minutes**

Taken by Rachael Hall