

Chairmans Report

November 2024

DISABILITY FORUM

*Terms of reference distributed setting out Objectives, Membership, Meetings, with Review completed as and when required. Agreed at meeting of the Suffolk Coastal Disability Forum together with Appendix One, Relationship with East Suffolk Council.

*Recent meeting held via zoom included

Electrical vehicles - in a survey, disabled people identified the following concerns

- lack of an accessible parking bay, height of machinery, complexity of charging machinery and booking/payment apps, mainly built on a plinth without a dropped kerb, weight of charging plug and cable, cost of purchasing a vehicle, concerns about charging on longer journeys.

*No change in leasing arrangements for Motability .

It was noted that there were particular difficulties in respect of wheelchair accessible vehicles where currently the floor is lowered to accommodate a wheelchair but this cannot be done on an electric vehicle due to location of battery.

*The general feeling is the market is concentrating on the masses and little thought is being given to disabled drivers and their particular issues.

*Disability Forum are willing to participate in any campaigns to help make a difference

FELIXSTOWE PENINSULA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Recent meeting included budget update and summary of spending 2024-25, Ease the Squeeze

Info cascaded to councillors before meeting

MEMORY LANE STEERING GROUP MEETING

Felixstowe group has 30 regular attendees and may have to open a waiting list. Trimley St Martin 25 regular attendees.

Volunteers - 9 at Felixstowe, 8 at Trimley. However additional volunteers for both groups would then cover sickness/ holidays.

Feedback forms - results showed attendees are very happy with how both groups are run. Well organised, not only good social aspect but also helpful information received that has been difficult to source elsewhere. Some attendees have forged new friends who also meet outside from Group.

Music very popular and more crafts requested.

Finance - A number of donations have been made to Group from choirs, quiz nights, Trimley St Martin PC, etc to help give a reasonably healthy balance just over £7000 but due to costs increasing this will dwindle.

Wendy has been looking at alternative venues with regard to Salvation Army hall hire fee increased from £25 to £75. Trimley is £27 per morning. Both groups meet fortnightly on Friday mornings

Voluntary donations are suggested from attendees and their carers rather than a set fee as some are on very low incomes and we have no wish to exclude anyone

Funding Wendy has approached ESC, Port, and other organisations but due to being a request from a Group already operating rather than an innovative project, support not given. This is despite Group offers health and wellbeing plus reduces social isolation for those with dementia and their carers.

Group looking into attendees doing a danceathon to help raise funds.

I suggested Trimley allotments Poors Trustees might be approached to perhaps fund the purchase of craft items to cover request for additional craft activities and possibly include new games and puzzles.

Quiz booked 25th February 2025 at Felixstowe and Walton Labour Club.

Request for Parish Councils to assist in promoting Memory Lane's Facebook page which has link to Go Fund Me (has raised approx £150 over the past year)

Next meeting February 2025

HOWLETT WAY/ HIGH ROAD JUNCTION

Concern expressed by some residents that due to bushes on roundabout and High Road visibility to negotiate by walkers/drivers is poor, in particular the Sausage Shop side of High Road.

FELIXSTOWE TRAVEL WATCH

Cllr D'arville and myself attended recent meeting. Cllr D'arville's report gives update on this. I also expressed continued concern by myself and residents of the regular idling of trains by Trimley bridge and subsequent pollution over a wide area. This is despite dual track wouldn't be a holding area.