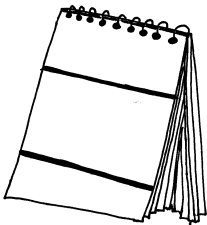


Equality Advisory Group

(This group looks at how all different communities in York can be given the same chances to take part in life and be included)



MINUTES



Date of meeting: 18 July 2011

Members of the Council who were at the meeting



**Sonja Crisp
(Chair)**

**Tony
Richardson
(Vice-Chair)**

Keith Aspden

Neil Barnes

Lynn Jeffries

People who were at the meeting representing community groups and as expert witnesses:



David Brown (York Access Group)

John Burgess (York Mental Health Forum)

Marije Davidson (York Independent Living Network)

Christopher Edmondson (York Independent Living Network)

Sue Lister (York Older People's Assembly)

Daryoush Mazloum (York Racial Equality Network)

Sarah Nicholson (Youth Council)

Simon Rodgers (LGBT Forum)

Carolyn Suckling (York Access Group)

Fiona Walker (Valuing People Partnership)

Paul Wordsworth (Churches Together in York)

George Wright (Humanist)

1. Welcome



The Chair welcomed new members. Introductions were carried out.

2. Minutes



The Group went through the minutes of the meeting of 15 February 2011.

3. Public Participation



A member of the public had asked to speak at the meeting. He talked about the following issues to do with equality:

- All ward committee meetings should be held in accessible venues so that anyone can attend.
- A-boards cause problems around the city.
- When the council provides financial support to groups and organisations it should make sure that they are inclusive. Information they provide should be easy to read. Events should be held in accessible venues.

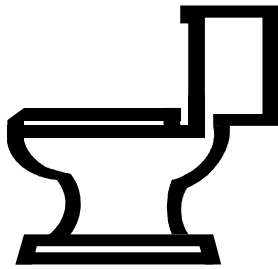


Carolyn Suckling said that she was concerned about the way the new taxi card system had been introduced. The Group asked if more taxi companies could be included in the scheme. The Group asked for more information at the next meeting.

4. Actions since last meeting



Details were given of the action taken after the last meeting:



Accessible Toilets

The problems regarding the alarms had not been sorted out. It had been agreed that if signs were put up, this would not solve the problems. A report on toilet facilities in York was being prepared. The Group said that they wanted their views to be included.



Access Issues in New Council Building

The building company had attended the EIA Fair in March. They explained more about access issues in the new building.



Poverty Awareness Raising Project

A working group had not yet been set up. An update would be given at the next meeting.



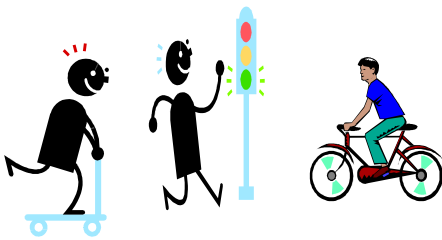
Library Square Proposals

The Chair had spoken to officers to stress how important it was that disabled parking spaces were in place in Blake Street and Lendal.



Carers Forum

People from the Carers Forum had been invited to come to the EAG Development Day. More information about how carers could be represented on EAG would be given at the next meeting.



Pedestrian Safety in Shared Areas

More needed to be done about this. York Older People's Assembly wanted their views to be heard as part of the footstreets review. Their members were very concerned about pedestrian safety.

5. Community Issues

Community representatives updated the Group on the following issues:



Public Right of Way

A member of the group said that the right of way between Outgang Lane and Bad Bargain Lane had been blocked. He had also been told that the traveller site in the area would be sold. The Chair said that she had found out that the site was not going to be sold. She would find out more about the blocked right of way.



Car Parking

One of the group said that cars were parking on paved areas. This made it difficult for pedestrians. The Chair said that she would look into this if she was given more details.



Union Terrace Car Park

The group was concerned that the council might sell Union Terrace Car Park. They were concerned about the loss of disabled parking spaces. It was also important for visitors to be able to return to coaches during the day. There was going to be a council meeting about the possible sale.



York Older People's Assembly

The group heard about issues of interest to York Older People's Assembly. This included "Building an Age Friendly York" and a women's focus group.



Young Carers

The group was told about a new card scheme for young carers. It was being tried out in some York secondary schools.



Dementia Working Group

Work was taking place to see how the national dementia strategy could be put in place in York.



Open House

YREN invited members to attend their Open House event on 3 August 2011.



North Yorkshire Police

A member of the group said that North Yorkshire Police would no longer have a Diversity Unit. The group was worried about this. A letter would be sent to the Police to find out more.

6. Equality Advisory Group Development Day 2011



The Group received a report about the Equality Advisory Group Development Day. The event would take place on 11 October 2011.

7. Local Government Diversity Peer Challenge



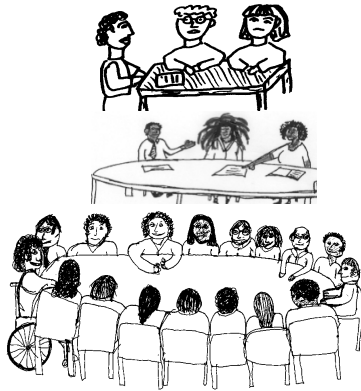
The Group received a report about the Council's Equality Framework for Local Government Diversity Peer Challenge. This would take place on 26 and 27 July. The Group heard about how the Council was getting ready for the assessment.

8. Community Stadium



There was a presentation about the community stadium. The Group heard about different ways it could be used. They gave ideas about what they would like the stadium to offer.

9. Round Table Discussions



The Group heard that City of York Council wanted to hear the views of equality groups in York on a range of issues. These meetings would be called "round tables".

The first topic would be hate crime. Members of the Group were asked to suggest future topics. They said that it was important that support was in place to make sure people could take part.

10. Fairness Commission



The Group heard that a Fairness Commission had been set up. This was an independent group that would look at issues to do with equality and fairness in York.

Details were given of how people could take part and have their views heard.

The Group said that the meetings needed to be accessible. They said it would be good if the Commission met with the Youth Council and attended a 50+ event.