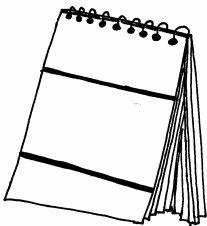


## Social Inclusion Working Group

*(Social inclusion means including everyone in society. The Social Inclusion Working Group has been set up to look 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: 19 November 2008**

**Members of the Council who were at the meeting (to be known as 'Members' in these minutes):**



**Janet Looker  
(in the Chair  
for this  
meeting)**



**Julie Gunnell**



**Jenny Brooks**



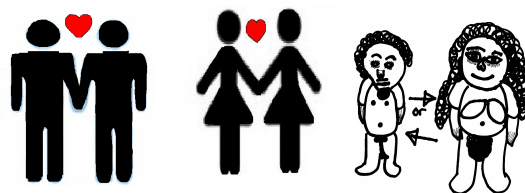
**Sue  
Sunderland**

**People who were at the meeting representing  
community groups:**

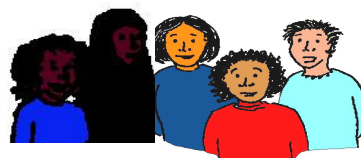
Sue Lister and Jack Archer  
from the Older People's  
Assembly



Peter Blackburn and Sarah Funnell from the LGBT Forum (LGBT stands for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender)



Daryoush Mazloum and Rita Sanderson of the BME (BME stands for Black Minority Ethnic) Citizens Forum



Jan Jauncey from York Interfaith



John Bettridge from York Voluntary Sector Mental Health Forum and David Brown from York Access Group were also present at the meeting.

## 1. Public Participation



Ruth Thompson spoke to the Group about the work of CANDI (Children and Inclusion). This was a voluntary organisation and its members sat on many different committees to take part in decision-making about services for disabled children. She asked if it would be possible for SIWG to make a donation of £500 to CANDI to pay parents to train professional people in York on disability equality - what it means to

children, how things could be improved and how it affected family life. Ruth was thanked for the information she had given and the Chair explained that the request for a grant would be considered later in the meeting.

## 2. Matters Arising from Minutes - Taxis



The Council's Head of Licensing and Regulatory, the Taxi Licensing Officer and representatives from the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Associations were present at the meeting to answer the Group's questions about taxis. The following points were made:

- The Council was hoping to set up an accreditation scheme for taxi drivers. They would have to meet certain standards to be accredited such as being trained to help people with disabilities. It would be helpful for representatives from SIWG to have an input into the scheme. The Group asked if it would be possible for them to see the scheme before it came into operation.

- Cards had been produced to help people find a taxi that had wheelchair access. The cards should be available from taxi drivers. The information was also handed out when travel tokens were issued and could be found on the Council's website.
- Hackney taxis are not allowed to charge extra for transporting a wheelchair.
- No charge can be made for carrying an assistance dog.

### 3. Forward Plan



The Group agreed the plan of the work that they would be carrying out over the next year.

### 4. Community Representation on the Group



There are two vacancies on SIWG for co-opted members representing people with disabilities. The Group suggested that there should be wider consultation before the vacancies were filled.

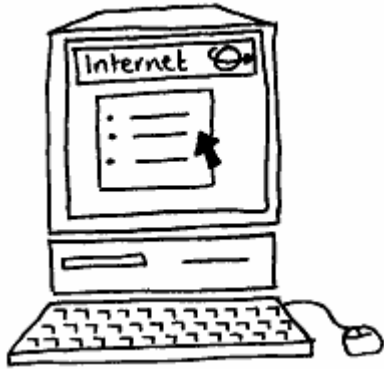
## 5. Community Reports and Feedback



York Interfaith and Churches Together in York had carried out a survey to find out about current work, perceptions and concerns of the main religions and belief groups in the city. A number of points raised by the survey would be taken forward, including raising awareness of joint projects, an annual faith conference and a joint environmental project.



YREN had been launched their Senior Citizens Ethnic Elders Social Group and had also hosted the York BME Citizens Open Forum. The theme of the Open Forum had been community safety.



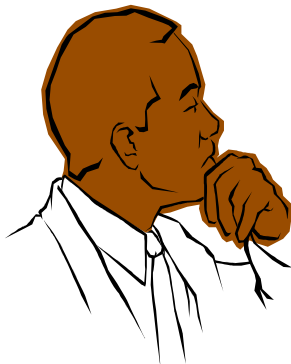
The group were updated on the work that LGBT were carrying out. A new website was being developed and should be ready by the end of the year. There was a growing demand for social events and another Pride event would take place in 2009.



## 50+ Festival 2008

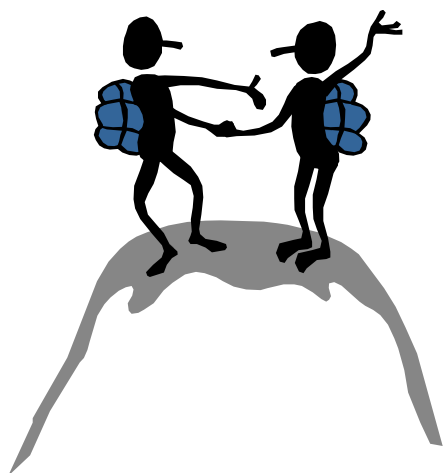
YOPA had carried out a survey. The findings had shown that having a receptive Council was very important to people.

The 50+ Festival had been very successful. People of all ages had taken part.



The Equality and Human Rights Commission had held a consultation event in York in November. The event was one of a series of twelve that were taking place nationally with the aim of encouraging people to have a

say in the three-year equality scheme which was being prepared by the E&HRC.



Young people from Applefields School had taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. They had taken part in an expedition and had coped extremely well.

A disability trampolining club was taking place on Monday evenings at All Saints School at 5.00 pm.

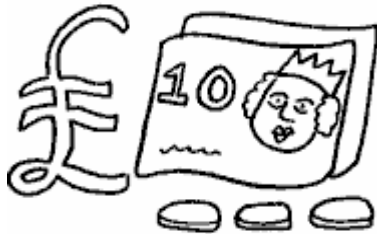
Young people had been involved in the consultation on the new Children and Young People's Plan.





Details were given of Transgender Awareness Workshops that were taking place in York. Further details could be found on [www.GenderShift.com](http://www.GenderShift.com)

## 6. Project Proposals for SIWG Budgets 2008/9



The Group were asked for their views as to how the SIWG budget for 2008/2009 should be spent.

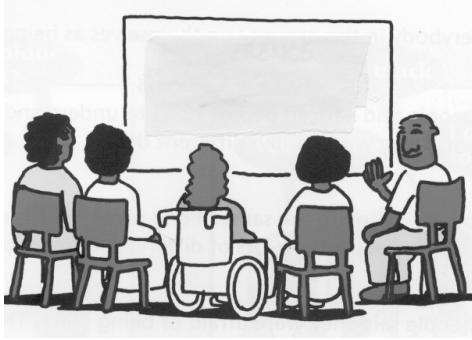
It was agreed that further consideration should be given to the following projects:



A grant of £500 to CANDI



Funding to enable the Young People's Service and YREN to work together to encourage more BME young people to access the Young People's Service.



A diversity exhibition - purchasing boards which could be used to display information about each group and which could be used at festivals and events.



A diversity day - a special day in York each year to celebrate diversity. This could include stalls, a diversity display, performances and activities.



The Group asked if it would also be possible for them to each receive an amount to cover the costs involved in them attending SIWG meetings.



It was decided to consider the budget proposals again at the next meeting when the costs of some of the projects had been confirmed.

## 7. Engaging with the Equality Strands



A paper had been circulated on "Engaging the Equality Communities in the Social Inclusion Working Group". Unfortunately there was not enough time left to discuss how people from the equality communities were engaged with SIWG at present and how this could be improved in the future. It was agreed that this was an important topic and therefore a special meeting of the Group should be arranged to discuss these issues.

The Group were informed of the work that the Equalities Team was carrying out in respect of gender engagement.