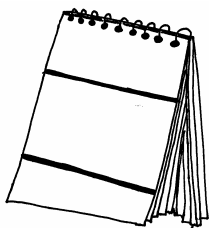


Social Inclusion Working Group

(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: 11 March 2009

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



**Christian
Vassie
(Chair)**

**Janet
Looker
(Vice Chair)**

**Keith
Aspden**

**Jenny
Brooks**

**Julie
Gunnell**

People who were at the meeting representing community groups:



Sue Lister and Larry Hotchkiss
(Older People's Assembly)

Peter Blackburn (LGBT)



Daryoush Mazloum
(Black Minority Ethnic Citizens Forum)

Jan Jauncey and Paul Wordsworth
(York Interfaith)

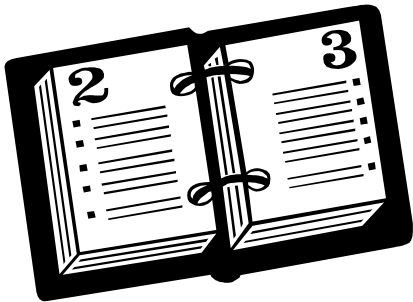
Nicola Bedford (Higher York), John Bettridge (Mental Health Forum), David Brown (Access Group) and Maureen Ryan (Valuing People Partnership) were also present.

1. Public Participation



Verna Campbell, Chair of Campaign Against Barriers at York Station (CABYS), spoke about the problems that could be caused if ticket barriers were put in place at York Station.

2. Chair's Report



It was decided that the SIWG Development Day would be held on Wednesday 20 May 2009.

The Group decided to record their thanks to Jack Archer and Lynn Jeffries for their work when they were members of SIWG.

3. City of York Council Democratic Services Equality Impact Assessment



The Group were asked for ideas about how the Democratic Services team of the City of York Council could improve its services.



The work of the team included sending out the papers for council meetings and making sure that the Lord Mayor and councillors were able to carry out their jobs well.

The Group suggested:



- The papers sent out by the Council should be in comic sans font and font size 14.
- It should be easy for people to get copies of papers in different languages, in large font size or easy-read.
- Council procedures should be easier to understand.
- The council's website should be improved.
- More should be done to encourage members of the equality strands to become councillors.





- The Lord Mayor could meet with representatives of the equality strands every year.
- There should be a place for prayer in the Mansion House and Guildhall.
- It was important that people could get easy access to the Mansion House - sort out the problems with the bell.
- It was very important that the toilet for disabled people in the Guildhall was improved.
- The Group should look at the questionnaire that members of the public were to be asked to fill in.



4. City of York Council Private Sector Housing Strategy Equality Impact Assessment



The Group were asked their views on the Equality Impact Assessment of the Private Sector Housing Strategy for 2008-13.

The Group said:



- More account should be taken of sexual orientation
- No mention had been made of racial tension
- Some residents thought that the Council was prying when it sent out the questionnaires

5. Community Issues

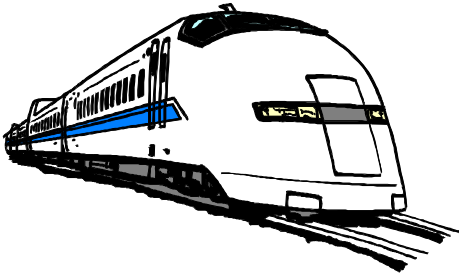


Sue Lister informed the Group that there was not enough time to arrange the SIWG Diversity Day for 2009. She asked if the money that had been set aside for the event (£1,500) could be used to get things ready for a Diversity Day in May 2010. The Group agreed to look at this again at their next meeting.



Jan Jauncey said that this would be her last SIWG meeting as Corry Hewitt would now be representing York Interfaith. The Chair thanked Jan for the work that she had done.

6. Consultation about Improvements to York Railway Station

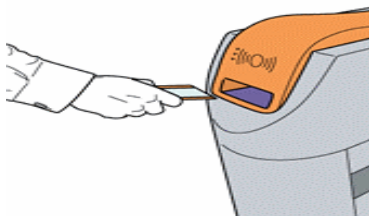


National Express gave details of the improvements that they wanted to make to York Station. They wanted to hear SIWG's views on the changes.

The Group said:



- It is very important for people to easily get to the station from the short stay car park. This car park is often used by elderly or disabled people.



- People with learning difficulties or those who do not speak English well, may find it hard to cope with the ticket machines and barriers.

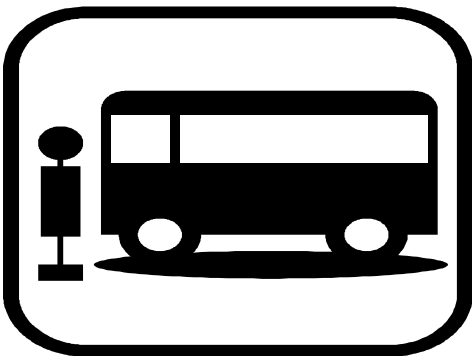


- Could changes be made to the way in which people are told when trains are delayed or platform changes are made? The use of an audio system is not helpful to people with hearing difficulties or for whom English is not their first language. Could the changes be shown visually as well?



- There should be a place on the station where people can pray.
- An Equality Impact Assessment should be carried out.

7. First York



The Group were worried about the problems that would be caused if there were cuts to the bus services.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to First York about this. First York would also be asked to attend a meeting of SIWG to discuss the bus services.