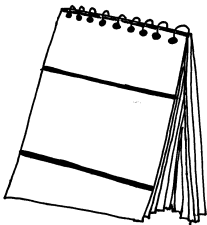


## Equality Advisory Group

*(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: 15 February 2011**

## Members of the Council who were at the meeting



**Nigel Ayre**  
(Chair)

**Sonja Crisp**  
(Vice-Chair)

**Keith Aspden**

**Jenny Brooks**

**Julie Gunnell**

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



David Brown (York Access Group)

Marije Davidson (York Independent Living Network)

Sue Lister (York Older People's Assembly)

Daryoush Mazloum (York Racial Equality Network)

Claire Newhouse (Higher York)

Simon Rodgers (LGBT Forum)

Diane Roworth (York Independent Living Network)

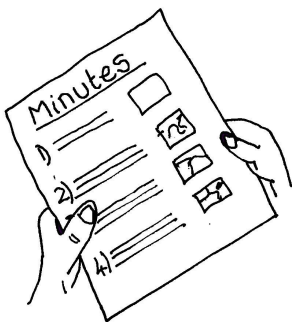
Maureen Ryan (Valuing People Partnership)

Carolyn Suckling (York Access Group)

Fiona Walker (Valuing People Partnership)

Paul Wordsworth (Churches Together in York)

### 1. Minutes



The Group agreed that the minutes of the meetings of 11 November 2010 were correct.



Clear Language



Easy Read



Website



Large Print



Braille



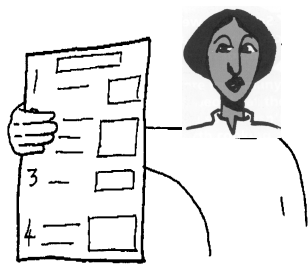
Audio

A member of the group had said that the papers for the meeting were hard to understand. The Chair asked if other people shared this problem. The Group said that the easy read minutes were useful. Usually the information was fine but it was difficult if tables were used to present information. Officers were happy to help if any member of the Group had problems.

## 2. Actions since last meeting



Details were given of the actions taken following the last meeting:

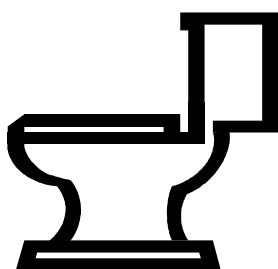


### **Equalities Form**

The Group agreed some more changes to the Equalities Monitoring Form. The Council would be asked to approve the changes.

The Group said that more needed to be done to make information from the council easier to understand.

### **Accessible Toilets**



A council officer was at the meeting to discuss the Group's concerns about the alarms in the accessible toilets. The Group asked if the alarms could be linked to the Warden Call Service so that help could be sent if needed. If this was not possible, signs should be placed outside the toilets to let the public know what to do if the alarm went off.

The council would be asked to consider the Group's ideas.



### **Green Badge Scheme**

A council officer explained how the Green Badge Scheme worked. The Group said that the scheme was very useful. They heard about the problems in trying to make sure that the scheme was not misused.

The Group's views would be taken into account as part of the council's review of the footstreets scheme.

### **Consultation**



The Group said that the council could improve the way it tried to find out people's views. There should be a list that officers could look at so they knew which groups to contact about particular issues. Members of the public should also be able to take part in consultation on the council's website.



### **Design of new Council Building**

The Group was told more about the design of the new council building. They were told that the building would be fully accessible. There would be three lifts, accessible toilets and a Changing Places facility.



The Group made the following points:

- The building must be accessible for people with all types of disability, including those with visual or hearing impairments, as well as people who had mobility problems.
- Good signage was needed.
- It was important that staff were well-trained.
- The building had to be easy to get to.



The builders wanted to hear the views of access groups and other members of the community. The Group agreed that the contractors should be invited to attend the next Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Fair.

## 2. Community Issues

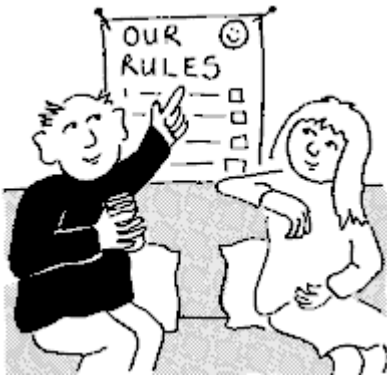


Community representatives updated the Group on the following issues:



### Hate Crime

The Group were invited to attend a workshop on Hate Crime. The focus would be on disability hate crime but other types of hate crime would also be included.



### Membership of EAG

Some members of the Group were worried about the decision that had been taken at the last meeting about community representatives. They were concerned that there might not be a good gender balance if groups no longer had to nominate a male and a female representative.

The Group agreed that community groups should be able to nominate who they wished. However the membership of the Group would be kept under review.



The Group also agreed that the EAG should listen to the views of carers. Evie agreed to contact the Carers' Centre to see if they wanted to receive copies of agendas. They would also have the opportunity to bring issues to the Group.



### **International Women's Week**

The Group received information about events that were planned for International Women's Week that was taking place from 5 to 12 March 2011.



### **York Older Peoples' Assembly**

The Group heard about an Auction of Promises that was taking place at an event arranged by York Older People's Assembly.



### **City of Sanctuary**

The Group heard about the aim for York to become a City of Sanctuary. This would mean that the city was recognised as a place where people felt safe and were included. The Group really supported this aim. They would hear more about it at future meetings.

## **3. EAG Poverty Awareness Raising Project**



The Group put forward more ideas as to how people could be made more aware of problems caused by poverty. They agreed to set up a working party to look at how the money could be used.

## **4. Library Square Proposals**



### **Library Square Proposals**

The Group was told about the plans to change Library Square. The plans were intended to improve the way the area looked, provide easier access and make the area safer.



The Group heard about plans to remove the current disabled parking bays and replace them with one improved bay. There would be more disabled parking in Blake Street and Lendall Street.



The Group said that one disabled parking bay was not enough. They were pleased that the area would be improved but said that there needed to be more disabled parking bays close to the Explore Centre. They also told officers about other things that needed to be taken into account, including pavement design.

## 5. Pedestrian Safety in Shared Areas



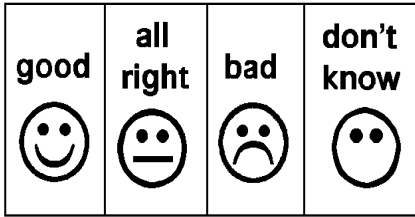
### **Pedestrian Safety in Shared Areas**

Officers came to talk to the Group about pedestrian safety in shared areas. They explained that there were two areas of shared use - Crichton Avenue and Beckfield Lane. The sharing of space between pedestrians and cyclists was only done as a last resort.

**Crichton Avenue**

The Crichton Avenue scheme was being tried out for six months. A decision would be taken after mid-July as to whether it would continue. The Group could send their views to [cycling.city@york.gov.uk](mailto:cycling.city@york.gov.uk)

The Group said that some pedestrians did not feel safe when they were sharing space with cyclists. Shared areas also encouraged cyclists to use footpaths in areas that were not shared spaces. People who were walking must be the priority.



The Group heard about the review of footstreets that was taking place. They asked for a workshop about this to be included in the EIA Fair. They also wanted a questionnaire to be prepared so that they could find out the views of other members of the groups they represented.

## 6. Other Items



There was no time left to talk about the following agenda items:

- EAG meeting with City of York Council Management Team
- Report on EAG meeting about the council budget