



Chesterfield Equality and Diversity Forum - 17th June 2024

Present

Sarah Roy	Chair
Allison Potter	Chesterfield Borough Council
Matt Harrison	Thomas Pocklington Trust
Michele Young	
Samantha Wragg	Ashgate Hospice
Chay Kingswood	Ashgate Hospice
Ian Edmundson	Walking Football
Sadie Betts	Elm Foundation
Ian Hardy	
Jenny Hardy	
Cameron Steele	P3
Kathryn Topliss	
Kayleigh Topliss	
Clare McShane	NHS
Cllr. Judy Staton	CBC
Lauren Fretwell	CBC
Karen Lawson	NHS
Shruti Vispute	Links CVS
Summa Watson	DCC

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Sarah opened the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves. Apologies were received from Roz Smith, Jayne Priestley, Louise Marsh, Kim Walsh, Zoe Bendelow, Mick Crossley, Pete Rawlings, Mark Frith, Rachel Bunting, Jane Birkin, Rachel Smith, Steph Wiltshire, Kelly Johnson, Cllr. Shirley Niblock, Helen Rhodes, Annette Bentley, Heather Aitken</p>	
<p>2. Matt Harrison, Thomas Pocklington Trust – Sight Loss Council</p> <p>Matt is an Engagement Manager for the Thomas Pocklington Trust which funds the Sight Loss Councils. Matt gave some background. The council is in the process of recruiting 12 blind / partially sighted volunteers aged 18+ in the Derbyshire area. The aim of the council will be to address local and national issues and to make services as accessible as possible. Recruitment has been underway for a couple of months already and the council is due to launch in the next 2 – 3 weeks.</p> <p>A 'listening month' is held every 2 years with the aim to re-assess what is important to residents with sight loss – this helps to drive the charity's</p>	

	<p>objectives. The three priorities at the moment are Accessible Public Transport, Environment and Health.</p> <p>The next listening month will be in the autumn this year. Other areas which are considered on a regular basis include retail, arts and culture and the charity also works with local government, health service, museums, gyms etc.</p> <p>Pocklington Trust also provide Vision Awareness sessions for groups including sighted guiding, simulation glasses etc. They can also undertake premises audits and mystery shopping tasks too.</p> <p>If anyone would like any more information please contact matt.harrison@pocklington.org.uk</p>	
3.	<p>Thinking Place Long term plan for towns – Michael Rich</p> <p>Michael joined the meeting to share information about the Long Term Plan for Towns project. Chesterfield is one of 75 towns which will benefit from £20m funding over 10 years to encourage a long term approach to regenerating town centres. A consultation survey is currently being run to encourage residents to give their feedback and suggestions: https://bit.ly/3X6VELH</p> <p>Three key areas which are being considered as part of the project are Safety and Security, High Streets Heritage and Regeneration and Transport and connectivity. Funding will be 75% capital (i.e. one-off costs) and 25% revenue (i.e. ongoing running services / costs)</p> <p>Once the feedback has been collated it will then be presented to the project Board for further consideration.</p> <p>Suggestions / comments made by the forum, which Michael will forward onto the Board, were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The artists impression on the presentation show the bollards as being the same colour as the pavement. This would cause an issue for those with a sight disability. • Nottingham train station bollards have been implemented but haven't considered vision loss. • Is there scope for social / affordable housing in the town centre? • If there is increased accommodation in the town centre then there will need to be services and facilities close by, e.g. community hubs • If less retail will be needed in town centres over the next 10 years it would be good to introduce a whole range of housing options to the town centre rather than just apartments. • Need to continue to ensure good transport links and cycle routes into town • Could the visitor centre be re-opened if people are being attracted into town as a result of the project? • Consideration is needed regarding how to attract new businesses to open shops in the town centre. • There is a problem with the linkage from the town centre to the retail parks, routes can be long and unpleasant. Could a shuttle bus be considered? A ramp / steps down to The Range would be useful. Links between infrastructure is key. • Parking is very expensive in the town centre, could there be a free parking offer? • Waiting times for buses are often lengthy. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road crossings are not always consistent (e.g. sound / no sound, where the 'green man' is situated) • Tactile paving is not always consistent, e.g. area near to the Salvation Army shop. • Karen Lawson has some footage which shows people navigating around the town centre which she will share with Michael. • Could the Arts Trail be made more inclusive (e.g. use of braille , beacons) 	
4.	<p>2024-25 event planning discussion: Support for carers (working with Derbyshire Carers) Following the planning meeting earlier in the year, contact has been made with Heather Aitken from Derbyshire Carers who has kindly agreed to work with the Forum to plan a drop-in support for carers event which will take place in the early Autumn in the town centre. A number of groups have been suggested who could be invited to come along to provide information: Derbyshire Dementia Information and Advice Service, Live Life Better Derbyshire, Unemployed Workers Centre (benefit issues), Live Stronger for Longer, Health watch, Derbyshire Fire & Rescue, Chesterfield Care group Social Prescribing Age UK Age Concern</p> <p>If anyone has any other group suggestions or would like to be involved in the planning for the drop in day, please let Allison know.</p> <p>Deaf awareness / Sight loss awareness Deafinitely Women are able to provide a half day awareness raising session which would include some basic BSL sign language and deaf awareness training. Matt Harrison also confirmed that he would be happy to arrange a sight loss awareness session too. Further details will follow when dates have been agreed.</p> <p>HMD – ‘for a better future’ The theme for HMD is ‘for a better future’. A working group will be formed very soon to discuss what the HMD event in January 2025 will look like. It is expected that this will be an in-person event rather than online as in previous years. If anyone would like to be a part of the working group please let Allison know.</p> <p>International Women’s Day Planning is yet to start. Please let Allison know if you have any ideas.</p>	
5.	<p>Update from Climate Change Forum – Ian Edmundson Ian shared the council’s draft action plan and strategy for Climate Change, which can also be found on the CBC website here:</p>	

	<p>https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/health-and-environment/weather-and-climate-change/climate-change/</p> <p>The forum is always looking for new members to provide a wider range of views; if anyone is interested please let Allison know. The next Climate Change forum meeting is on the 16th July at 6pm in the Town Hall.</p>	
6.	<p>Minutes of last meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.</p>	
7.	<p>Organisation / group updates</p> <p>Michele: that there is a Sight Support information day at St Thomas Church on 24th June from 10.30am</p> <p>Ian: Ladies football takes place on a Thursday evening and is organised by the CFC Community Trust (Alyss Jackson) at a local school.</p> <p>Kathryn: Peaky Blinders are meeting on Wednesday at the Soresby Street Café</p> <p>Cameron: Can put anyone struggling with the cost of living in touch with a foodbank</p>	
8.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Polonia Chesterfield are holding a Polish Festival on 7th July from 12pm. For further details see: https://www.poloniachesterfield.co.uk/</p>	
9.	<p>Date of the next meeting and dates for future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon, 16th September, 2024, 1:00pm – Committee Room 5 • Tue, 19th November, 2024, 10:00am – Committee Room 3 • Mon, 13th January, 2025, 10:00am – Committee Room 5 <p>All meetings will take place at the Town Hall.</p>	