

bulletin

HAFAD

september 2008

Disability Forum News August 2008 - Jane Wilmot Chair Disability Forum

Westfield London shopping centre at Shepherds Bush:

The Disability Forum, Action Trust for Blind People, Guide Dogs for Blind Association and Consultative Forum for Older People all strongly opposed plans for cyclists and pedestrians to share the same pedestrian space.

Future of the Disability Forum:

no further news

Forthcoming Forum meetings:



Held on Tuesday evenings at 6pm at HAFAD (contact HAFAD for directions)

2 September:

printed council information in alternative formats; proposals on future of the Disability Forum

16 September:

council programme for making it easier to get on and off at bus stops

14 October:

improving access to housing for disabled people

For more information contact Jane Wilmot on jane.wilmot@virgin.net or Sylvia Robinson, Head of Better Government on 020 8753 5169 or sylvia.robinson@lbhf.gov.uk



Mark Gallagher www.access2info.org.uk

Food for free!!!

The first 50 people to fill in our online survey will be entered into a draw. The winner will receive £50 in Marks and Spencer's vouchers. Tell us what we're doing well, what to improve and what information you would like to see. The draw will be held at the end of August.

Who has the information?

We think you do. HAFAD is looking for local people to help us make sure that access2info has the information that disabled people need. Could you write reviews for accessible restaurants or send us pictures of inaccessible shops? Could you write a blog about your social life or experience of social care? If you want to write a story, an opinion piece or share your experiences call mark on 020 7471 8514

Nightmare access stories: You have them...we want them.

We want to name and shame the worst offenders in the borough. Send us your stories and pictures to help bring about access for all. HAFAD's Youth Inclusion and progression worker Angela shares her own nightmare access story with us. View and comment on it at the hot topics page of www.access2info.org.uk.

Normand Park reopens in an accessible format! - LBHF

The spectacularly transformed Normand Park is now open to the public. This comes from a £3 million investment from Hammersmith and Fulham Council neighbourhood regeneration programme, North Fulham New Deal for Communities (NDC) and Arts Council England. The improvements are part of a programme of investment in key parks by the council.



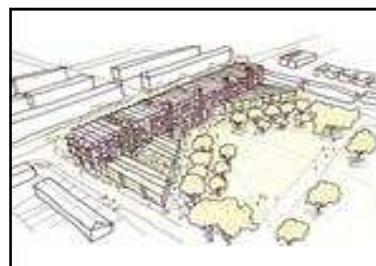
The new and improved Normand Park

The HAFAD Planning group advised on accessibility for several new features including: a new tree lined walk around the bowling green; a community garden; and a striking broadwalk running through the park. Normand Park is one of the many parks in the borough worth a visit.

Green light for health centre in Hammersmith and Fulham—LBHF

Plans to bring a brand new state-of-the-art health centre were given the go-ahead by Hammersmith and Fulham Council in July.

The multi-million pound centre will be built in Bloemfontein Road in the White City. The site includes the former Janet Adegoke Centre on Bloemfontein Road and part of Wormholt Park. It will house a range of services under one roof including GPs, dentists, a pharmacy, podiatry, day surgery, district nurses and health visitors. There will also be mental health, radiology, and speech and language services.



The Future health centre

The building will also have offices for social services, an IT café and community hub. 179 apartments will be built, with 40 per cent falling under the banner of affordable homes. Twenty of these flats will be for wheelchair users.

New scheme to assist people with the digital switchover for 2012— Disability Now

As the UK switchover to digital TV in 2012 gets closer, a scheme has been launched to assist people on low incomes get the right equipment at a good price.

The scheme provides people on pension credit, income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance with a free set-top box, free installation and advice on how to get started. People outside those categories can have the help package for £40 if they are over 75; blind or partially sighted; claiming disability living allowance, attendance or constant attendance allowance.



Are you ready for digital?

Look out for the information leaflets in your area or visit www.digitaluk.co.uk.

China beats the United Kingdom...but not at sport— Disability Now

China is set to ratify the UN Convention on Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities as it prepares to host the Beijing Paralympics Olympics.



Beijing—The forbidden City

In June, the National People's Congress passed a bill submitted by the state Council. The cabinet approved China's ratification of the convention. The UK has yet to join the 29 countries that have so far ratifies the convention.

Disablism—does it exist? Not according to the Oxford English Dictionary—Disability Now

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, you can be a victim of sexism, or racism, but not of disablism.

Apparently, the word is not important enough to merit inclusion among the more than half a million words in the "accepted authority on the evolution of the English Language over the last millennium".

The OED tells us that "disablism" is on its list of words for consideration but can't give any firm promises until the evidence has been properly assessed. Ironically the word "disablist" entered the OED 15 years ago.

It is about time OED realised that denying that the word is used is also a denial of disablism itself. Ironic really.

HAFAD Trustee wins an award - Alison Benjamin The Guardian



The award winning Tara Flood

Congratulations to Tara Flood, a trustee of HAFAD and the Chief Executive of the Alliance for Inclusive Education (Allfie). She recently won the social inclusion campaign award from the Sheila McKechnie Foundation for Allfie's *We Know Inclusion Works* campaign. The main objective of the campaign is to create a united and influential voice to highlight the importance of including disabled children in mainstream schools.

The campaign scored a notable victory 18 months ago when the then education minister, Lord [Andrew] Adonis, reaffirmed the government's commitment to inclusion in education. Tara couldn't get a meeting with the department, so she organised a march "Suddenly, when they knew we were coming, it was much easier to get a meeting" she said, adding that "The campaign button can never be switched off, I'm slapped in the face about the reality of disablism on a daily basis."

The next step is getting the government to ratify fully the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. A current stumbling block is article 24. The government wants to have the right to be able to place a child in a special school where it is considered to be in the child's best interests. Article 24 would commit it to giving all disabled children an inclusive education a safeguard in a hostile political climate.

Crossrail in the Borough?

- The Editor



An article in a recent Evening Standard trumpeted the funding for Crossrail claiming that finally the new line would go

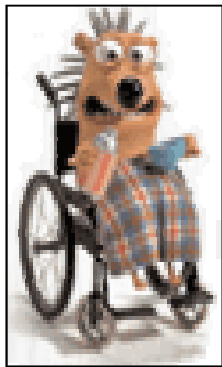
ahead linking the West and East of London whilst stopping at some useful central London stations en route. Great, I thought, an accessible way for me to get in to town. Then I looked at the map of the proposed route. There is a large gap between Acton and Paddington with no station on it that passes right through the top of our borough. Typical. An accessible transport link and I have to go miles to use it.

Obviously the Council saw the same gap as Stephen Greenhalgh the Leader of the Council has said that *"...if we can persuade the Department for Transport and Transport for London to build a Crossrail station here we can....release*

the untapped potential of this part of the borough and make it a very attractive site for new homes, shops and businesses."

We should make as much noise as possible to support this aim of the Council as a direct accessible link to other parts

of London with accessible platforms and stations would be of great benefit to all



New Disability Forum Co-ordinator

- The Editor

The Bulletin is very happy to congratulate one of its reporters, Zube Kibria, who has been appointed to the position of



Zube Kibria

Disability Forum coordinator. Zube has recently taken up the post and we hope to have a few words from her in the next Bulletin. We'd like to hear how she is getting on and what her ideas for the Forum are.



Excel London 17-18 September 2008— Don't forget!

New Market – New Show The show is a lifestyle event showcasing living aids, assistive technology, mobility aids, lifestyle, home and leisure products to inspire and improve lives will create a stimulating environment for both trade and consumer visitors to interact with and purchase from exhibitors. For info see www.nolimitsshow.co.uk

Hammersmith & Fulham Local Involvement Network (LINK)

Do you want a say in local health and social care?

Community networks are being set up across the borough to look at promoting and enhancing health and social care services for everyone.

If you would like to come along to free talks and seminars before getting involved, please contact:

Interim Host contact

Fiona Sarno or Sylvia Robinson

Better Government - LINK

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