

Disability Forum – Notes of meeting held on 3 December 2018.

Glynis introduced the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Glynis explained that Sutton Vision were going to talk about their service and had brought several gadgets with them to share with the Forum.

Michael, the Asset Manager, would then talk about access issues in and around our sites before we celebrated the international “Celebrating people with disabilities” day.

Sutton vision

Jacqui and Vanessa attended from Sutton Vision and provided an overview of what their service does and spoke about the low vision clinic and the support and assistance they can provide. (See copy of their leaflet enclosed with these notes).

Vanessa spoke about the 5 most common eye conditions, explained briefly what they are and showed some pictures of what people’s sight is like if they suffer from these conditions.

Jacqui showed the group several useful gadgets for people with sight impairments - the talking alarm clock and talking baked beans tin seemed quite popular!

Vanessa spoke about the low vision clinic and the specialist support and advice they can offer to people who are classed as having “low vision”. Vanessa explained that individuals are classed as having low vision when they can no longer be assisted by opticians to improve their sight.

Vanessa also reminded the Forum that eye check-ups are free for the over 65s.

Access in and around our sites

Michael Kilkelly, Sutton Housing Society’s Asset Manager, discussed the following with the Forum:

- The stock condition survey had “access” as a specific issue to consider in and around our sites.
- Front entrance doors and footpaths up to the main entrances is a concern. Michael gave the example of Harding House – has a ramp with a step at the top!
- Michael advised that Dorothy Pettingell House and Old Brewery House have both had new automated entrance doors commissioned; it is hoped that the works would be completed around mid-February 2019. It is anticipated that work at Trickett House entrance would start mid-March 2019.
- Michael spoke about paths and garden areas with paving slabs proving particularly challenging in respect of trip hazards; he would like to consider continuous paths in the future.
- Michael also spoke about lighting and how this is inadequate in some areas. Would like us to move to “intelligent” lighting which is motion reactive and LED.

Next meeting:

Glynis suggested that we hold the next Disability Forum in March 2019 and that the key topic be the 2019/20 planned works programme as this would cover several issues that directly relates to access in and around the sites.

Glynis also asked for residents to advise if they would like to have another guest speaker; it was suggested that hearing loss be considered.

Following the formal meeting, the Disability Forum enjoyed an afternoon tea, a music quiz and a few rounds of music bingo.