

Northampton Borough Council

Northampton LGBTQ People and Allies Forum

Tuesday, 7 July 2020

Officers at the meeting

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Attendees: Matt (co-chair), Aimee, Debs, Phil, Ben, Zoe, Will, Cat, Simon. Anna (co-chair) hoped to attend but currently still in Planning meeting, hoping to join soon once finished.

Apologies: Hannah, Benny.

Matthew – welcomed everyone to our first virtual meeting and introductions were made.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Previous minutes had been circulated, some of the action points had not been completed due to Covid however all action points will be followed up and reported at the next meeting.

For information the Knife Angel has been moved to May 2021.

All agreed that were a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Aimee apologised for omitting Diversity and Inclusion as a standing agenda item, this has now been added under AOB, moving forward this will be a standing item.

3. NORTHAMPTON PRIDE VIRTUAL EVENT

- 3 stories included as part of the project, Aimee has been in discussion with The Grosvenor Centre, locations to be confirmed.
- Number of videos submitted for virtual pride – being put together by Screen Northants and will be streamed.
- Liaising with DJs United who have offered to host a live streamed after party.

Action: if you would like to put forward anything for the festival page, this can be video, photos, slides, images. Please send to Aimee as soon as possible, deadline **16th July 2020**. Matthew suggested some creative works to be shared

Action: All agreed to promote the event, Aimee to ask Comms to send links – these will be shared by Aimee. Noted that other virtual Pride events have been difficult to find, need to ensure links are easy to access.

Matt asked for a special thanks to Aimee and her team for all their hard work in arranging this event to be recorded in the minutes from the Chairs.

4. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE

QStory

- Meeting next week to discuss Black History Month, looking at an on-line event running for 3 months led by Tre Ventour. Question asked if anybody had any ideas for the Black History Month to contact Cat, this is a good chance for us to link together. Aimee asked if they were in contact with Jamie Wells, colleague from the Diversity Forum.
Action: Debs to advise when the next Diversity Forum is and invite members. Update: Meeting 23rd July, 11am, Zoom details will be shared.
- Anthropology project – workshop has been running on-line (have received some Social Enterprise Funding). Last workshop is next week - after Covid plan to do a physical launch – linked with Literature Festival.
- Looking at setting up a regular writing group monthly with guest authors. Will initially run virtually, if you would like to join, please contact Cat on northamptonqueerlitfest@gmail.com

LGBTQ Meet Ups

- LGBT social group on line
 - Virtual quizzes
 - Theatre nights (linked to National Theatre)
 - Netflix parties
 - Cahoots quizzes
- Planning physical but distant meet-ups – information will be advertised and on social media.

Q-Film

- Starting to do drive-in files, linked with Delapre Abbey, not sure how this will work logistically but will share the programme.

QWord

- Book Group was previously cancelled due to location and numbers, looking at relaunching next year. Forum suggested now might be a good time to launch on-line. **Action:** Zoe to contact Phil outside of the forum to discuss further and help support, choir that she is part of had had more contact being on-line due to people being able to access from their own homes.
- Phil explained the book club: each member takes turn to choose the book

to read each month and meet to discuss at the end of each month.

QSpace

- QSpace have been making and posting out physical well-being packs, all handwritten. Members emailed their name and address and a pack was sent out, 85 requests.
- Zoe feedback that she had received 2 and were well received – thank you.

Northampton Outlaws

- Training started again, small groups of 6, 5 plus 1 coach. Sessions running on a Tuesday and a Sunday. Total of 24 attendees per session split into groups. No contact at, generally a fitness boot camp. Training is limited but really good to see people.
- New committee have been elected and very pro-active.
- Looking at playing matches November, worse case January / February 2021.
- On-line Zoom quizzes
- On-line Poker nights, £5 cap, running every fortnight on a Wednesday.
- Running extra training sessions on a Sunday (4pm – 5pm) – physical exercise, LGBTQ exclusive fitness camp. Hopefully running in 3-4 weeks, FOC. **Action:** Simon to share details with the forum.
- Working with other groups to support the Black Lives Matter movement.
- History Talks, working with The Saints Foundation.
- European Cup of Gay Rugby – April / May 2021 in Birmingham. Planning on taking 100 players (75 men, 25 women).

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Diversity & Inclusion

- Confirmed will be a standing item on agenda
- Diversity forum is open to all, Matt explained that he was on the forum, mainly a race and faith forum but agreed would be good to attend, engagement. (Action above Debs to send details).
- Zoe asked about a social event – network for all forums to meet – **Action:** Aimee to investigate further and discuss with Chairs.

b. Northampton Pride Event – covered above – will be a You Tube link but will ensure accessible to all.

c. Phil shared he had shared his story on Twitter about coming out, positive feedback, inspired others, help bringing all together.

d. Will asked if a response was going to be made re the reply from MP Michael Ellis. All disappointed with the response. Zoe confirmed she

had written a personal letter as well, again the response was the same (cut & paste). Agreed we need to get a conversation going, prevention is better than cure.

- **Action:** Aimee asked all forum members to send their individual comments via the Forums email for the follow up letter, discuss with Anna. Please send by **Tuesday 14th July**.
- Forum agreed they would like to share the original letter to all MPs. Zoe suggested NBC should clarify its position on trans rights and the GRA reforms. **Action:** Aimee to discuss with Anna.

Brief discussion on Zoom calls and to understand that some members may not be able to share comments due to being on-line, for example, being at home and other family members in a room close by, discussed using Zoom chat for other members to share any comments. Raised as general awareness.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15 September 2020 – 7.00 – 8.30 pm.

Matt thanked all for attending.

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm