

Lambeth LGBT Forum Meeting 18 July

Present

Rose Donovan
Min Rodriguez
Billie Ferrie
Jeffrey Doorn
Jo Taylor
Tim Mathias
Pav Akhtar (Lambeth Councillor)
Amy Donovan (Lambeth LGBT Anti-Hate Crime Coordinator)
Anton Johnson (Trade Union Council rep)
Graham Alldus (LGBT Met. Liaison Officer)

Apologies

Chris D'Souza (Lambeth Council Community Safety Team Manager)
Robert Brown
Tom Willets
David Phillips
Gary Whiting
Carl Mills
Tom Haworth
Tracey Carter

Guest: Matt McKillick, Website designer

At this meeting the Forum reviewed the website with the designer. A number of excellent suggestions were made to improve the site, both in appearance and content. The key changes were aimed at making the site easier to navigate, more interesting and welcoming, informative and ultimately, increase the amount of traffic being directed to the site.

The suggestions have been forwarded to the designer who will advise us when he has made the changes.

Meeting Minutes

- 1. Welcome and apologies**
- 2. Minutes from the last meeting**
- 3. Walk for Life (30 July)**
- 4. Black Pride**

- 5. Homophobic complaint**
- 6. Police report**
- 7. Any other business**
- 8. Next meeting**

1. Welcome and apologies are above.
2. Minutes agreed as accurate.
3. AD mentioned that her and MR are taking part in the Walk for Life and that they would appreciate it if as many LGBT Forum members as possible could also take part. To join simply go to the website www.walkforlife.co.uk and register, when they ask if you would like to join a team, say yes and go for the Lambeth LGBT Forum. The day will finish at the Hyde Park where we'll have a picnic. Partners, children, friends and pets all welcome.
4. UK Black Pride is being held Saturday 19 August at UK Black Pride (UKBP) hosts its first annual Black Pride Festival on Saturday August 19, 2006 at Shoeburyness, Southend-On-Sea.

UK Black Pride was created out of the need to build awareness of and pride in the diversity of the Black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community as well as to create a safe space for the BME community to celebrate their achievements and take pride in who they are. A bus from Vauxhall is going which costs £20.

If people think that the forum should have a stall at the Pride, please advise so I can arrange transportation for us.

5. Homophobic complaint. DF's friend was homophobically harassed by Lambeth contractor.

Key concerns were:

- LGBT incidences are not monitored by the Council
- It took five weeks for the council to reply
- The complainant was accused of harassment (victimisation)
- Events fabricated by the contractor
- The company stated that it was grounds for gross misconduct but because of fabricated events said that they were not going to pursue

DF is not happy with the response from the Council and intends to progress the complaint to level two, which will have a senior manager

assess the situation. DF to keep the forum updated. GA to review the correspondence as there appears to be a discrepancy between what the accused said to the Police and what he said to the Council.

This situation has highlighted a number of concerns that forum members have raised regularly, including:

- The need for LGBT incidences to be monitored by the Council and its contractors
- The need for neutral case workers for investigations.
- No dialogue between departments to communicate issues of importance

6. Police Report

GA reported that of late he has received reports which are predominantly neighbour disputes; however, there has been a spate of attacks over the last few months when people are leaving venues. Additionally, drug-related incidences at Vauxhall remain prominent.

Figures for this year

<i>Month (2006)</i>	<i>Number of reports</i>
January	8
February	3
March	7
April	7
May	14
June	12
July	6

7. Any other business

RD mentioned that she has been invited to the International Muslim Women's event this month.

7. Next meeting: Forum spring clean

At the next meeting the Forum will be continuing our review of the forum. Please take some time to consider how the forum has been functioning and what you would like to see changed to improve it. You may like to consider, the time, location, discussions, chairing, structure, activities, speakers, promotion etc.

Next meeting:

7-9pm, 23 August 2006. Lambeth Town Hall