

Lambeth LGBT Forum Meeting

Tuesday 17th September 2005

PRESENT

Lee Hewitson
Tom Willets
Katie
Daisy
Ajamu
Chris D'Souza
Lee Winters
Tim Chambers
Min Rodriguez
John
Amy

APOLOGIES

Gary Whiting
Graham Alldus (Lambeth Met LGBT Liaison Officer)
Gerald Gohler
Marcia Boglemayne (Lambeth Libraries)
Mark Edginton
Fraser Serle

Minutes from the August meeting were agreed as accurate.

Actions arising from the last minutes:

- Amy to follow up with Cllr. Peter Truesdale to establish the outcome from the response to the letter of commitment from Carole Litchmore's Equalities Department.
- With regards to the Forum website, Amy is to establish whether the VGFB would like to maintain the 'bars and clubs' section of our website. If they do not, we will remove that section as it is time intensive to maintain.
- Emails to the forum from the website are automatically forwarded to Amy's inbox. In the case of her absence she will forward the web access details to another Forum member so that emails can be reviewed.
- Amy to email the Black History Month Press release to the weekly publications: Pink Paper, QX, Boys and Time Out. (What about G3 – not weekly but to be considered?)
- Amy to attach to these minutes the letter that was written on the Forum's behalf to Ella Cope, the editor of Lambeth Life, and also the letter to the Council regarding the 'Queen's Jewels' venue cancellation.

GUEST SPEAKER: Lee Hewitson, PAYP Manager (Education Department), Lambeth Council

- Lee highlighted that he has been given the task of allocating funds from his budget for LGBT History Month in February 2006. This was partly in response to the feedback that the LGBT Forum provided the Council with in the letter that we sent earlier this year.
- Funds have been made available through Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP), which sits within Education. The amount allocated is £10,000 a year for the next three years. It is expected that other departments, such as Libraries and Arts, could also make additional contributions.

- Key issues:
- It is important that a steering group, comprising of both internal and external stakeholders, is established. It is about the Council working with communities as opposed to simply giving them money to organise events themselves.
- LGBT History Month should have an internal staff focus as well as an external resident focus. This may comprise of putting promotional material of events on the intranet and inviting staff to events. It was felt that this event could also serve as an awareness raising opportunity for staff, which would ultimately impact on customers.
- We need to keep it simple.
- The month needs to reflect the diversity which exists within the Lambeth LGBT population.
- The key theme for the month could be 'LGBT History and Visibility'.
- We could email/advertise to inform the wider LGBT population of our intentions and ask for people/agencies to get involved.

ACTION: Amy to contact Unison and the Council's LGBT Forum.

- Possible events:
- Queens Jewels Exhibition (possibility at the Black Cultural Archives).
- A photographic exhibition displaying the work of different LGBT photographers in Lambeth.
- LGBT Films at the Ritzy.
- High visibility within Lambeth Life, including the front cover of the October edition.
- Buildings of historic interest tour.
- A plaque ceremony acknowledging Noel Cowards place of residence in Lambeth and the fact that he was gay.
- Health First and PCT to run a health promotion activity for LGBT people.
- High visibility awareness raising campaign targeting the mainstream population – not just LGBT people – raising awareness of LGBT hate crime and issues.
- Develop an educational resource from the events scheduled in Lambeth LGBT history month. It is important that our history is not lost and such a resource would allow us to promote our history outside of February.
- All libraries to participate and provide booklists and new LGBT books.

ACTION: Ajamu to contact Thomas to gauge whether he would like to be involved with LGBT History Month.

ACTION: Rukus and Amy to follow up whether the 'Queens Jewels' is available and whether it could be displayed at the Black Cultural Archives.

ACTION: Amy to liaise with Ella Cope re: LGBT History Month and visibility in Lambeth Life.

- Organisations which could be involved:
- Rukus Federation
- Lambeth Archives
- Ritzy
- Age Concern

- NRG (LGBT youth group based in the Borough)
- Oval House
- Vauxhall Gay Business Forum
- Unions
- Council Staff Forum/ Equalities Unit
- THT
- UK Coalition
- GMFA

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Amy highlighted her disappointment at the failing of the Council to make sure that the Carnegie Library, venue for the 'Queens Jewels' exhibition, was going to be renovated in time for Black History Month. Consequently, due to the short notice she has had to cancel the event. Amy is writing a letter voicing her disappointment with Lambeth Council and for information the letter is attached to the minutes.

RECRUITMENT AND MEDIA STRATEGY MEETING

Amy highlighted the need for an additional meeting to discuss how we could promote the LGBT Forum to ensure that as many people as possible know about the open discussion meetings. It was agreed that suggested meeting dates could be 6:30pm Thursday 29 September or Thursday 6 October @ the Farside on Stockwell Rd.

Action: Forum members to indicate which day/s are suitable.

WANDSWORTH EVENT AND THE LINKING UP LONDON CONFERENCE

Amy and Danny have offered to attend both events and make a presentation. The events are an opportunity to promote LGBT forums and share our challenges and successes that we have had in developing the forum.

It is hoped that Forum members are available to attend the Linking up London Conference, which is specifically for those involved with London LGBT Forums. Danny and Tom have confirmed their attendance.

Action: Forum members to confirm with Amy of their intentions to attend the conference by October meeting.

LAMBETH COUNCIL SELLING OF VAUXHALL TAVERN

Danny raised the issue of the Vauxhall Tavern being sold by Lambeth Council in a manner which he thought was very underhand and devious. The main issues that Danny and other forum members identified were:

- The Vauxhall Tavern is of significant cultural importance to the Lambeth and London LGBT population. Where, where was the consultation that the Council should have undertaken with the LGBT community?
- Was correct process followed? If we belonged to a faith group who had been using that building would the situation be handled in the same way – with no or little consultation?
- When the property was put on the market had it been taken into consideration that Vauxhall is a hub for both LGBT business and the LGBT community? It is crucial to the ongoing

- success and regeneration of Vauxhall so that its image remains one of being LGBT-friendly.
- These businesses bring in considerable revenue for the Council and have invested significant resources into developing the area with the Council and other key agencies. The Council needs to acknowledge these contributions by supporting the LGBT businesses interests where possible.

ACTION: Min to identify the key positions in the Council to send the letter to. Amy and Danny to distribute.

NEXT MEETING

When and where: Wednesday 19th October 2005, room 8, Brixton Town Hall

Topic: Civil Partnership Act

Guest speaker: Doreen McKenzie Registry Office, Lambeth Council.