

## *Committee Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009*

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**Members:** Philip Stanton (PS) – Chair  
Andrew Morris (AM)  
Dave Brinson (DB)  
Derek Andrews (DA)  
George Chapman (GC)  
Lynne Pullen (LP)  
Mal French (MF)

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### **1. Welcome and apologies**

PS welcomed everyone to the first meeting of Eastbourne's LGBT Committee.

Apologies had been received from Dave Brinson.

### **2. Roles and responsibilities – is there a need for formal roles?**

The committee agreed that, with the exception of deputy chair, there was no current need for formal roles and that this situation would be revisited when the Forum becomes more established and activities increase. In the meantime roles and responsibilities would be delegated through the Chair.

The role of deputy chair was deferred to the end of the meeting.

### **3. Launch event ideas**

It was agreed that the launch should be stand alone and not piggy-back onto an existing event of another community group. Also, that it should take place late afternoon/early evening on a Saturday or Sunday in May avoiding the first bank holiday weekend.

An idea was put forward to invite charities and organisations that have an interest in the LGBT community, such as Terrence Higgins Trust, to have stands at the launch event. It was agreed that this would add interest and value. Also, for a questionnaire to be prepared and circulated at the event enquiring about issues and areas of concern etc. The committee would be able to use the information gathered to focus future work direction.

The event would also be the first opportunity to launch the name of the Forum.

### **4. Name of Forum**

The suggestions put forward were discussed. None of these were deemed suitable as some committee members preferred LGBT to remain in the Forum title and others wanted a 'name' with reference to LGBT in the strap line i.e. GIG, the LGBT Forum for Eastbourne. After some

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debate it was agreed that the Forum should have a name synonymous with Eastbourne and the strap line denoting it is the LGBT Forum for Eastbourne. To make this more inclusive it was decided to open up a competition to the wider forum with the winning entry receiving a bottle of champagne courtesy of the Hart public house. The final decision will be made at the next meeting.

**Action:**

PS to email Forum members with details of competition.

### **5. Dates and venues for future meetings**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place at the WRVS, York Road, on 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. A date for a forum meeting will be agreed at this time.

### **6. Topic/agenda items for future meetings**

Existing resources were looked at including the Rainbow Network website which was re-registered in November 2008. However, despite former network members attending previous Forum meetings, very little was known about how effective this website had been. Therefore, it was agreed that the newly formed Forum should have its own identity and not attach itself to anything in existence already. Links and associations can be made once the Forum is more established. PS mentioned that having a domain and basic website would cost around £12 per month. However, it was agreed that everything appeared to hinge around the Forum needing a name. Once a name is in place it will be easier to create the website, newsletters and leaflets, promote activity and meetings and attract funding etc.

### **7. Any other business**

GS raised an issue regarding elderly Gay people who collapse in their homes and who live alone, and the likelihood of the Forum being able to look at this from a 'befriending' approach. It was suggested that a telephone contact cascade could be put in place on a weekly basis to check on elderly people who live alone. This would ensure that should the worst happen the person would only be left for a number of days as opposed to weeks, which has happened in the past. MF expressed a keen interest in this piece of work and advised the Committee that the WRVS were working with EAVS at present looking at this very issue.

Age Concern used to have an older people's Gay forum 'over the rainbow' but it was felt that this no longer met. MF stated that WRVS were happy to host a male group or coffee afternoon etc. if the Age Concern group had ceased.

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**Action:**

GS agreed to contact Age Concern to see if they had any interest in being a part of a 'befriending' process and what their involvement might be. He will also find out if the 'over the rainbow' group were still meeting.

PS mentioned that ECCN had recently attended the Eastbourne Society to give a talk on the cultural diversity of Eastbourne. PS and GC had attended the talk and found it interesting and felt that the talk was well received by Society members.

Deputy Chair: PS asked committee members if anyone was willing to act as Deputy Chair and take meetings in his absence etc. Three volunteers came forward and it was agreed that Lynne Pullen would take up this role.

The meeting ended at 7pm.