

NewsLink

News, views and information from Peterborough Disability Forum

September 2018

Blue Badge Scheme gets major overhaul



The Department for Transport has confirmed that, from 2019, people with “hidden disabilities” will be granted blue badge parking permits enabling them to park closer to their destination.

In what marks the biggest overhaul of the current system in 40 years, government plans mean that those with less obvious conditions – such as mental health problems or autism – will have the same right to park in disabled bays as those with physical disabilities.

The move comes following an eight-week consultation in January which had more than 6,000 responses and highlighted the fact that people with mental health problems often struggle with the same travel issues as the physically disabled. But, what exactly is a “hidden disability” and how will the new changes impact the lives of people with them?

What are “hidden disabilities”?

An umbrella term that captures a whole spectrum of conditions, “hidden disabilities” can range from mental health issues such as depression to physical disabilities which don’t necessarily require the use of wheelchairs or crutches, including lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, Invisible Disabilities UK reports.

Some of the most common “hidden disabilities” include: Depression, Anxiety, Bipolar, Agoraphobia, Autism, ADHD, Chronic pain

Who can apply for a blue badge?

In addition to those with physical disabilities, the blue badge will now be extended to people who cannot make a journey without “a risk of serious harm to health or safety”, including children.

Those who also find journeys cause “considerable physical distress” or have difficulty with “both the physical act and the experience of walking” can also apply.

PCC gets a new City Centre Manager



Congratulations to David Isham who has been appointed as City Centre Manager for Peterborough City Council.

David will be a guest at the next Disability Forum which starts at 10am on Thursday 30th August. What's happening with City Centre Blue Badge enforcement, unsafe pavements and the proposed Bourges Boulevard ramp will be amongst the questions people would like answering.

Shopmobility and Peterborough Yacht Club



The Peterborough Yacht Club is holding a Charity Day on Saturday 8th September on behalf of Shopmobility. The Yacht Club have chosen Shopmobility as this year's beneficiary of the Clubs Annual Charity Day. The day entails taking the general public on River trips, supplying them with a two course buffet lunch, entertainment, stalls, raffle and games. £8 adults, £4 children. Contact Chrissie for more information. 01733 313133 or 07760387377

Focus groups get off to a flying start



On Monday 6th August, Julie Fernandez and Bryan Tyler were guests of Janet Cooke and 30 members of the Crocus Café at the Salvation Army Citadel.

Bryan talked about the history and work of local charity Disability Peterborough-which includes Shopmobility, Inspire Peterborough and the Disability Forum. Julie discussed the gaps in services for disabled people and their carers in Peterborough and how Disability Peterborough is trying to "plug those gaps". For more information about the Focus groups and how you can get involved? bryan@inspirepeterborough.com

Well done Zak Wattiez-Triathlon Triumph

Congratulations to local businessman Zak Wattiez. Zak, Director of Echo Web Solutions in Lynchwood, took part in the AJ Bell London Triathlon recently and completed the course in just 3 hours 19 minutes.



Zak, who was raising funds for Disability Peterborough said "it was great fun but my legs were like jelly the next day!"

Have your say on wheelchair provision in Peterborough

Disability Peterborough and Family Voice Peterborough are working together to gather views (both positive and not so positive) of local wheelchair services. We would really appreciate your input in to this participation opportunity. Please take the survey if you are a wheelchair user or you care for a child/ young person/adult who use a wheelchair. Your voices are vital in helping us gather evidence to demonstrate how people are currently experiencing the service.



To take the survey use the following link

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DPFVPWheelchairSurvey2018>

London North East Rail appoints new Access and Inclusion boss



Congratulations to Charlie Woodhead. Charlie has been appointed as the new Access and Inclusion manager of LNER.

Charlie will be working closely with Jodie Slater, Peterborough Station Manager and talking to local groups and organisations about access, accessibility and traveller experience on trains.

NCS Peterborough-Learning by design



A group of 13 local young people (Inc: Matt and Lewis pictured) are taking part in a National Citizen Service (NCS) course to raise money for Inspire Peterborough and their social action project. They called themselves 'NCS-Peterborough Wave 1- Learn by Design' and they organised the following activities:

- Helping to run Inclusive Skating, Boccia and Walks on Wednesday
 - Sports activities and fundraising at Ferry Meadows
 - Awareness raising in the Town Centre and a leaflet drop around the Stanground and Fletton area which included a free gym pass!
- They are aiming to raise a total of £500! The group have roughly £200 already raised – an amazing effort so far! But that does mean they are still £300 from their target. To help reach that goal, they have set up a Just Giving page. If you are feeling generous and want to support them, please click the link below and donate as much as you wish!

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ncsfundraising-4>

Barry's monthly moan

I am being greedy this month and airing my annoyance and frustrations at two organisations who really should know better! Firstly:

Peterborough City Council and its new HQ over at Fletton Quays. To be fair it looks fabulous and after forty years of neglect it's nice to see that part of the city centre being put to good use, but one question, how are pedestrians with disabilities or mobility problems supposed to get there?



I have wheelchaired myself around the newly built PCC building and with the on-site car park together with the Oundle Road parking facility, motorists look well catered for.

However, what about non-drivers, those with disabilities and the less ambulatory? Where is the plan to enable those people to get to Fletton Quays? According to one staff member I talked to, there isn't one, nothing! The nearest bus stops are outside T.K.Maxx one way and the Peacock pub the other and that's it, and both of those stops are hundreds of metres away. Seems to me the planners, designers and commissioners have forgotten (again) that there are more than 35000 Peterborough residents with a disability or long term health problem. They don't all drive!

Barry gets a bashing from a bus!

Talking about buses! I must preface the second part of this month's



moan by stating that I think most bus drivers are brilliant and don't get the respect they deserve for doing a difficult and often thankless job. However, on occasion, the drivers and bus companies get it wrong and do little to put things right. They need to take a little bit more responsibility for their more vulnerable passengers.

Since Bourges Boulevard turned into part building site, part long stay car park, I and my trusty wheelchair have started to get the bus into town, I very rarely get offered the use of the ramp but I a strong lad and can normally manoeuvre myself on to the vehicle unaided, but one day recently I almost ended up under the bus I was trying to board. I was at the stop, the bus arrived. Again, no offer of the ramp for me to use. I took hold of the side of the doors to pull myself in and then-the door of the bus came away in my hand. I fell forwards and almost did myself some damage. The driver was most apologetic and in all honesty, I don't blame him, but bus companies need to do more to help disabled passengers to get on and off their vehicles safely.

Packed Disability Forum Agenda



The next Disability Forum meeting is on Thursday 30th August from 10-12pm at Centre 68, 68b Westgate, Peterborough PE1 1RG. Among the guest speakers-Jo McHattie-Healthwatch, Georgette Louis-MENCAP, David Isham-new City Centre manager, Louise Ravenscroft-Family Voice-Wheelchair Survey, Carol Wakelin-Queensgate, Sandie Burns and Julie Fernandez from Disability Peterborough.

D-Day-75th Anniversary tour



On 27th May 2019, Cllr John Fox and Bryan Tyler from the Armed Forces Partnership Board and David Wait, Manager of Serpentine Green will be taking a coach load of WW2 veterans to Normandy to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. D-Day veterans are now in their 90s and can be accompanied by a carer or family member. Family members of veterans who fell during the Normandy campaign can also apply. The trip is for four days with 3 nights' accommodation in Caen and includes visits to Sword Beach, Merville Battery, Pegasus Bridge and Museum, Ranville and Bayeux Commonwealth War Cemeteries as well as a tour of the Omaha Beach American War Memorial and St Mere Eglise. For more information, contact: bryan@inspirepeterborough.com

Talking Disability Radio Show



Don't forget to tune in to the Talking Disability Radio Show on Friday 31st August. Lots of special guests, news, views, information and some jolly good music- Show starts at 10am on PCR FM.

Another Waity's Massive Challenge accomplished



Following a cancellation due to the weather conditions, David Wait and Bryan Tyler eventually took to the skies for their sponsored skydive at Sibson Airfield recently. David, Manager of Seropentine Green Shopping Centre is undertaking a series of terrifying activities around the world to raise funds for local charity, Disability Peterborough. David said "it was one of the challenges I was most worried about, but once we were out of the aeroplane and the adreneline kicked in-that was it, I had the time of my life. A great experience."

Amilly Fitness

Inclusive health and wellbeing centre



£2 per session



Mondays and Wednesdays

OPEN:
10am – 4.30pm



Inspire Peterborough have teamed up with Oak Activities to run an inclusive fitness centre for adults with a long term health condition, special need, physical, mental, sensory or learning disability.

Chair based exercise classes and open gym sessions

Booking essential via www.bookwhen.com/amilly-fitness or for group bookings please call 01733 330 815

Amilly House, 88 South Street, Stanground PE2 8EZ

Contact Inspire Peterborough for more information

www.inspirepeterborough.com | [/amilly-fitness](https://www.facebook.com/amilly-fitness)
T: 01733 330 815 | E: contact@inspirepeterborough.com

Disability Peterborough Project/Registered Charity Number: 1089250



And finally.....Some useful numbers

Age UK 01733 564185

Care and Repair 01733 863895

CareZone 01733 575083

Carers Trust Peterborough 01733 645234

City Care Clinic 01733 293800

Child Benefit 0845 302 1444

Department of Work and Pensions (new claims) 0800 055 6688

Disability Peterborough (DIAL) 01733 265551

Fire and Rescue Service 0800 917 9994

Headway Cambridgeshire 01223 576550

Housing Options 01733 864064

Inland Revenue – Tax Credits 0845 300 3900

Inspire Peterborough 01733 330815

Peterborough Association for the Blind 01733 344 844

Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme 0844 4994120

Peterborough Direct 01733 747474

Peterborough City Hospital 01733 678000

Peterborough Pensioners Association 01733 270528

Peterborough Police 101

Samaritans 08457 909090

Shopmobility 01733 313133

St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool 01733 453583

YMCA GYM 01733 313 085