

**Minutes of Hillingdon's Assembly for People with Disabilities
(Amended)
27 April 2023
Barnhill Community Centre, Ayles Road, Hayes, UB4 9HG
11.30am to 1.00pm**

1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Marion Finney, Regulation & Engagement Manager welcomed everyone to the assembly and apologised for the change in venue. The Middlesex Suite at the Civic Centre in Uxbridge is currently being refurbished so an alternative venue had to be found. It was acknowledged that it was not easy for some residents to travel to Hayes and suggestions for alternative venues are welcome. Consideration has been given to running 'hybrid' events so people can attend in person and online but this has not been possible so far.</p> <p>The correct channel to report issues is through the Contact Centre (01895 250111) or do it online 24/7 at www.hillingdon.gov.uk The Customer Engagement team number is on the invite letter (01895 277038) and key contact numbers are on the back pages of the Hillingdon People Magazine, which is delivered to residents.</p> <p>Marion introduced the speakers and thanked Aaron, the security guard for attending.</p>
2	<p>Presentation 1: Obesity</p> <p>Marion Tsikkos, from the NHS Confederation gave a presentation on the Health Lifestyle Action programme, which is a free, 12-week programme offered by the NHS in Hillingdon.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obesity stats in the UK• Benefits of weight loss and maintenance of weight loss• <p>Eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A BMI over 30 or (BMI of 27.5 with comorbidities (eg. high blood pressure, diabetes)• Be aged 16 or above

- Be a HILLINGDON resident
- Be committed and focused on adapting to a healthier lifestyle
- Be willing to commit to a 12-week programme
- Be available to attend all weekly meetings

How to sign up:

- GP referral
- Self-referral to theconfederationhillington.org.uk

3 **Presentation 2: Transport**

Ali Kashmiri, Principal Access Officer and Dr Alan Tilly, Team Leader of Transport Planning and Development, from Hillingdon Council gave a presentation on transport relating to people with disabilities.

Key points:

- All buses in London are now fully accessible.
- Around a third of tube stations and half of overground stations are fully accessible.
- Uxbridge, Hillingdon, Ickenham, West Drayton and Hayes & Harlington stations are step-free. Ruislip is only step-free London-bound
- Details of cab firms who will offer assistance to wheelchair users transferring to a vehicle seat and/or accommodate wheelchair users to travel in their wheelchairs.
- Travel Mentoring provided free of charge by TfL to disabled people to help gain confidence in using public transport.
- Dial-a-Ride
- Taxicard scheme.
- Hillingdon Community Transport service.
- Freedom passes for older people, disabled people and people with mental health issues available, with different rules/restrictions.
- ULEZ proposals (currently being challenged) include up to £5,000 to eligible disabled people to scrap a non-compliant vehicle or to make it compliant.
- ULEZ grant payments available for wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- Funding for Transport for London Local Implementation Plan.
- Funding for New Developments, Healthy Streets and Active Travel

Zones.

- A to B Accessible Transport Guide available.

4 Questions, answers, comments and discussion

Q: What does the 12-week weight loss programme entail?

A: Residents can choose face to face or online meetings. They will receive support from the group and facilitators. Users will be encouraged to look at their relationship with food and given tools to lose weight in the way that suits them best and find diet and exercise plans that people can start and enjoy for long term lifestyle change.

Q: Where can residents get weighed in their wheelchair?

A: There are accessible scales in the DASH Hub in the Pavilions Shopping Centre in Uxbridge. Highgrove Pool and Leisure Centre no longer have accessible scales.

Q: The transport presentation mentioned that many canal paths are being made accessible. Is there anywhere residents can find out full details of where?

A: The Canals and Rivers Trust website has more details - [Access for All | Disabled Walks | Canal & River Trust \(canalrivertrust.org.uk\)](https://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/Disabled-Walks)

Q: Many times the accessible lifts at stations are out of service so what are disabled people expected to do?

A: In these instances, it is best to speak to staff at the station and look at alternative routes.

Q: The Green Quarter estate in Southall has poor transport links. What can be done?

A: This is not within Hillingdon Borough. However comments can be passed on to TfL.

Comments:

The venue was difficult for some residents to get to.

Most of the services available are delivered in the south of the borough and

the north of the borough feels neglected. Dial-a-Ride was an example.

Free 'Please offer me a seat' cards and badges are available from TfL - <https://tfl.gov.uk/transport-accessibility/please-offer-me-a-seat>

Taxicard scheme – most times this is a black cab rather than a regular taxi cab, which is more expensive.

Disabled Freedom passes can be used to travel free or get a range of discounts across London. For more information on where passes can be used in the UK, visit <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/freedom-pass/using-pass/using-your-pass-outside-london>

Blue Badge holders and the Congestion Charge:

If you hold a valid Blue Badge in the European Economic Area, you're eligible to register for a 100% discount, even if you don't own a vehicle or drive. (If you have an organisation Blue Badge or are applying on behalf of another person, for example a child, visit - <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/cc-blue-badge-before-you-begin-proxy-30923>).

You can register up to two vehicles that you would normally use to travel within the Congestion Charge zone. This could be your own vehicle, or one you travel in.

You can apply for a discount online but you'll need to supply certain documents to show you're entitled to the discount.

Close of meeting

Afe Komolafe, Senior Engagement Officer, thanked residents, speakers, staff and stallholders for attending and encouraged feedback using the forms provided or by speaking to one of the council officers present.

Comments will be passed on to the relevant departments.

The next assembly date and venue to be confirmed.

Minutes and slides available online or on request.