



Romsey Disabled People Partnership Newsletter

May 2021

Issue 1

Raising awareness of the challenges and issues disabled people and their families face in Romsey

Covid and the way forward

It has been a difficult year for all of us but disabled people have been some of the hardest hit. According to a survey by Scope 35% of disabled people say their finances have become worse since the start of the pandemic, whilst 1 in 4 feel forgotten by the government.

As things slowly return to the 'new normal' the Romsey Disabled People Partnership is keen to hear from you on what your main priorities are for the future of the group. What would you like to see happen in Romsey that would make a real difference to your life? We'd love to have your views. We meet the first Monday of each month, currently on Zoom, our next meeting is on Monday 7th June at 2.30pm – contact details below.



SAVE THE DATE : If Zoom isn't your thing we are planning a social get together in July where we can catch up and get to know each other a bit more. The provisional date is Wednesday 7th July at 12.30pm for a picnic on the playing field at The Romsey Rapids Complex. Further details to follow.

How it all started

The Romsey Disabled Peoples Partnership was born out of a meeting at the Crosfield Hall where over eighty residents and local organisations came together with a view of improving things for disabled people and their carers. One of RDPP's first opportunities to contribute their views was at the Citizens Forum and consultations relating to the proposed redevelopment of the south of Romsey. One of the groups main aims has been to encourage consultation early on in the planning process rather than trying to retro fit at a later time.



Blue badge parking

With the closure of The Hundred because of Covid a number of our members who are Blue Badge holders were having difficulties accessing local shops. Counsellor John Parker, who sits on the group, managed to get clarification from the Parking Services team at Hampshire County Council. Blue Badge holders are still permitted to park in the Corn Market, Romsey – the space between Barclays bank and Bradbeers on days when there isn't the market on.



Consultation

One of the RDPP's aims is to be a consultative body where local organisations and businesses can get the opinions of disabled people. As the local community gradually becomes aware of our existence we have taken part in various consultations as a group. These have included the Local Transport Plan for Hampshire and giving our views on the Active Travel Fund and the changes to The Hundred/Market Place and Portersbridge Street. In both cases we tried to get across how the closure of The Hundred had affected people with mobility impairments.



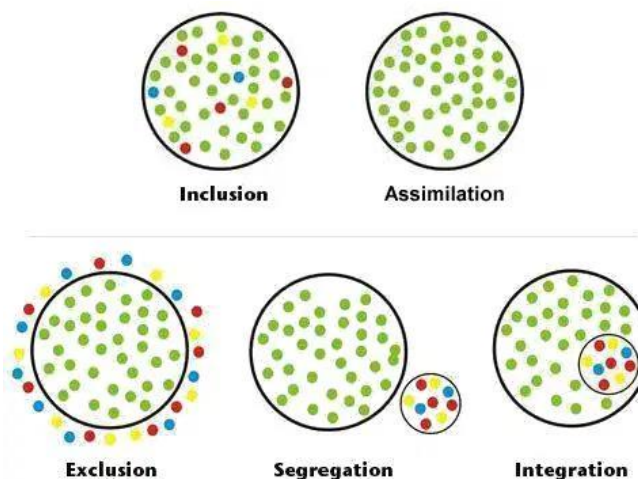
In February we were joined by Lisa Mortimer, Romsey Town Centre Manager, who told us about plans to create an online marketplace for local businesses. She is keen to work with us with the aim of improving accessibility and disability awareness for local shops.

In April, Jamie Hill, from Test Valley Borough Council came to consult with us re Romsey Future which sets out the long term vision for Romsey. As a group we were able to put across our main priorities so that the needs of disabled people are considered in the delivery of future projects, policies and strategies.

*Join us to help make
the Romsey you want*

Disability Awareness

When the Romsey Disabled Peoples Partnership was set up one of the objectives was to signpost local businesses and organisations to disability training and awareness. In order to achieve this the RDPP is applying for funding so that it can offer disability awareness to local people. The long term goal is to run a rolling programme so that new staff can access half a days training as part of their induction. Places Leisure have already expressed an interest and we will work with Romsey Town Centre Manger and Test Valley Borough Council to further promote.



Accessible Swimming

Romsey Disabled Peoples Partnership have worked with Romsey Rapids, Places Leisure and are pleased to announce that accessible swimming sessions for disabled people will commence on Thursday 10th June 14.30-1515. The price will be £2.50 per person with carers having free entry. There will be access to the main pool, teaching pool and leisure pool, but not the flume or rapids channel. Please pre-book by phone (01794 835550), in person or online by joining Places Leisure free “Places Membership” – on your first visit you will be provided with a card and access to the online booking function.



Moving Forward

There are many other ways we could improve the lives of disabled people in Romsey, but to do that we need your help. We are a friendly and welcoming group and would love to hear your views on what improvements could be made to the area to make it an even better place to live. Why not join our next meeting or come along to our picnic in July – see above – and meet us.



Upcoming meeting dates

7th June 2021 at 2.30pm – Zoom

5th July 2021 at 2.30pm – Venue tbc

7th July 2021 at 12.30pm – Picnic, Romsey Rapids field

2nd August 2021 at 2.30pm – Venue tbc

Get in touch at :
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