



Rugby Disability Forum

Meeting Minutes – 21st April 2026

Present: Karen Surgue, Elissa Vale, Caroline Mukasa, Neil Sandison, Sheela Hammond (Online), Angela Thompson, Gina Dallison, Annelies Schonk, Chetna Mistry

In Attendance: Junaid Hussain (EQUIP), Ahmed Ghumra (EQUIP), Jai Mistry (EQUIP), Rebecca Ewers (RBC), Megan Kelly (RBC)

1. Welcome and Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves to the group

2. Minutes of last meeting

Chair outlined actions and outcomes from last meeting as listed in the minutes.

Terms of reference have been updated due to feedback from last meeting, full details addressed in agenda item 3.

Links to contact Warwickshire County Council sent out via email

Rob Foster's (Property Repairs, RBC) notes were sent out with the minutes of the last meeting

Occupational Therapy from Warwickshire County Council invited to attend the forum

Councillors to organise group to report and audit road issues to communicate with WCC

3. Terms of reference

Changes made to scope of forum based on feedback

Change of core membership

Conflict of interest has been updated

Update to include gaining consent for sharing photos of people attending the forum on social media.

Action: Updated Terms of Reference emailed out with minutes – respond with any feedback within 1 week. If no feedback is received, then we consider the Terms of Reference to be approved.

4. Forum Name



Discussion of the need to change the name of the forum, as the previous Rugby Disability Forum of the same name still has active social media sites. This previous forum is no longer active, but the current forum needs to differentiate itself from the previous one and ensure that people are not mistakenly trying to contact a group that no longer exists and to prevent confusion.

The attendees discussed a variety of name options and eventually settled on:

Rugby Disability Voice: Championing visible and non-visible challenges

Action: any members not in attendance to inform us if there are any reasons why they oppose the name change. If no objections are received, Equip and RBC will change the name.

5. Events Accessibility – Megan Kelly megan.kelly@rugby.gov.uk

Megan introduced herself, and her role as Town Centre Events and Marketing Officer. She has held a role for 9 months and talked about recent changes to the Town Centre bid that means that RBC will be running more of the town centre events than in previous years. She asked for feedback on the accessibility of events in the town centre and wanted to start an ongoing conversation around this.

Stall placement – sometimes wheelchair users cannot access stalls as there are no dropped curbs nearby, or they are blocked. Or the gap between the curb and the stall is not large enough for a wheelchair. Suggestions were made about temporary ramps being used where dropped curbs are blocked. Lack of space to navigate around stalls placed by the church was also raised as an issue.

Marketing – physical banners were cited as a common way people find out about events. Also, free magazines such as Rugby Register and Fresh magazine.

Disabled Parking – the lack of disabled parking spaces during events was raised, particularly having spaces at more than one location, as some people cannot walk very far and may require the ability to drive from one end of town to the other and park there to access all areas of the event.

Locations – looking at locations beyond Caldecott Park, diversifying locations of events to reach other communities, include all Boroughs in events

Love Rugby Festival – 20th June – 5th July, many events held across 2 weeks, such as 5km run, RAGM family fun day. Grants available to run events. More information available on the website: [Love Rugby Festival 2026 - Rugby Borough Council](#)



Action: Megan Kelly to contact [Rugby Sport for the Disabled Association](#) about being involved in Love Rugby

Action: Angela Thompson to write grant application of behalf of Rugby Disability Voice, email any ideas to her angela.thompson@rugby.gov.uk

6. Occupational Therapy

Have been contacted by Equip but unfortunately were unable to attend today. Will try and get them to a future meeting.

7. AOB

Changing Places – RAGM have plans to include one in their building as part of their redesign, Angela Thompson informed us that she has secured funding for this project. Rugby Train Station has been contacted and confirmed that they will look into installing Changing Places at the station. Additionally, Equip have been in contact with management and procurement at Elliots Field to discuss Changing Places.

There was also an update on improvements to accessibility at the Town Hall.

Action: Rebecca to re-invite Sally Godden from RAGM to show designs

Raised that disabled parking spaces being parked in with no blue badge, particularly on private spaces, such as outside the Coop.

Action: Junaid and Rebecca to discuss what action the forum may take in response to this

Report of a member having a trip accident due to poor road surface

Action: member to report this information to contact at County Council

The website below also includes links to our safety inspection manual which advises how defects are assessed and prioritised in line with DfT guidance (risk-based approach) and also provides useful information relating to the network hierarchy. Please see link below to the highway service standards page on our website. There is a link to the safety inspection manual at the very bottom of the page.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/highwayservicestandards>



Informed about a consultation on translation services for University Hospital taking place, wanting to engage with users of British Sign Language (BSL)

Action: To contribute to consultation around provision, whether as a patient or member of staff, please complete this survey - [Translation Services Survey - External and Internal – Fill in form](#) and share the survey externally and internally.

If you or somebody you know require this in a different language or in-person, please respond with the language or support you need so we can help to facilitate.

The deadline for consultation, is **Friday 1st May 2026.**

8. Future Meeting Dates

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on either 6th, 8th or 9th July 2026.