

Leisure, Events & Environment Committee – 7 November 2023

Agenda Item LEE1803/23

Neurodiversity Celebration Week Event

Introduction

To discuss the Council staging an event during Neurodiversity Celebration Week.

Discussion

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is taking place from the 18th to the 24th of March 2024. Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. <https://www.neurodiversityweek.com/>

15% - 20% of the UK population are neurodivergent, which equates to over 2000 of the approximately 13500 residents of Croxley. Statistics show that neurodiverse people are more likely to be unemployed than neurotypical people, despite research showing that neurodiverse teams are more productive than neurotypical ones and make fewer errors. Neurodiverse people face challenges, in part due to society being set up to suit the needs of neurotypicals. Neurodiversity is often framed as an abnormality, but although it is important to acknowledge the challenges faced because of it, the strengths and advantages of a neurodivergent approach should not be downplayed.

Many people use neurodiversity as an umbrella term to describe alternative thinking styles such as Dyslexia, DCD (Dyspraxia), Dyscalculia, Autism and ADHD. But regardless of labels, neurodiversity is about recognising those who think differently and helping people to understand the value such difference can bring to our society.

We propose holding a new event to mark Neurodiversity Celebration Week. Whatever the format of the event, it will be open to all, and the principal aims will be to bring people in the community together and to increase awareness and understanding of neurodiversity.

Recommendation

- That the Council stages an event for Neurodiversity Celebration Week in March 2024.
- That the Council allocates £500 for the event.

Cllr Julia Bichard
November 2023