

MINUTES – ACCESS GROUP MEETING

County Hall, Haverfordwest

14th May 2015 at 2.00pm

1. At the meeting:

H Langen,	E Rich,	B Cleevely,	R Codd,
A Peter	F Heasman	A Hunt	C Cavill
M Phillips	M Pope	A Thomas	J De Wilton
S Merrit	Gethin (PPF)		

2. Could not attend the meeting:

B Thomas-Cleaver, J McNamara, L Cartwright, T Mills, M Baron, M Jakeway.

3. Welcome.

Henry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Minutes of 9th April 2015

- a. After discussion concerning the Centre for Independent Living, it was agreed that the minutes were correct.

5. Matters Arising (things people wanted to talk about from the last meeting).

- a. There was a query regarding item 10, beach wheelchairs / Facebook page, but there was no one at the meeting who could remember the details.

6. Treasurers Report (the person in charge of the group money).

- a. The money in the bank is £2395.78.
- b. The Charity Checkout donations button for beach wheelchairs on the website is costing us more than we get back through donations. It was decided to cancel this but the Access Officer will contact Charity Checkout to see if they can reduce the price.
- c. Mark Phillips said he would try to find other ways of getting donations.
- d. The Inland Revenue (tax man) has said the we can now get gift aid from any donations made for beach wheelchairs.
- e. The Access Officer has contacted Pembrokeshire County Council to see if they will give the Group a regular grant to help with running costs. They said they would look at it but need a copy of the accounts. Access Officer is to arrange this.
- f. South Hook LNG has donated £3000 towards buying a new beach wheelchair.
- g. The refreshments from County Hall Canteen for the April meeting will cost £14.72 plus VAT. It was agreed that we will continue to bring our own refreshments for future meetings.

7. Correspondence (Any information received since the last meeting).

- a. The Chairman has received a letter from a resident in St James St., Narberth about the problem her carer has in parking outside her house. The carers are worried that they might get booked and sometimes have to leave early which means that the resident might not get all the care they need. The resident is so worried about them getting parking fines that she is thinking about having a lower care package and only having cold meals instead of the hot meals which are now delivered. The Access Officer was asked to write to the Council's Parking Department and the Director of Transportation, Housing and Environment to see if anything could be done.
- b. Email from Sunday Express Magazine asking if we wanted to advertise at a reduced price.
- c. A questionnaire was received from Disability Wales (DW) about how their funding from Welsh Government is changing. The Group filled out the questionnaire online during the meeting.
- d. Sarah Worby from the Council Marketing team also asked us to fill in a questionnaire for an Equality and human rights survey which we did at the meeting.
- e. Confirmation received from Disability Wales that they would pay for a taxi for Rex Codd to attend a meeting at Planed in Narberth next week.

f. An E mail has been received from Norman Sylvester complaining about banks in St David's, Lloyds has no disabled access and Barclays had no facility for opening an account. It was agreed to write to both banks

g. An advertisement for a Dance workshop on Poppit Sands has been received. This has been organised by Art Care/Gofal Celf on 22 May. They say that the beach is wheelchair accessible but this is not strictly true. The Access Officer will respond pointing this out.

h. Debbie Rainbow from Bluestone is asking for advice from the Access Group on some access improvements they are planning to some of their lodges. A meeting will be arranged there between the Access Officer, a wheelchair user and a guide dog user as soon as possible.

8. Independent Living Centre.

A quote has been received for a website of just over £1000 but this does not include maintenance. The sub-committee will look for a grant (PAVS will help). Mark Phillips offered to help on the sub-committee. A meeting will be arranged soon to discuss the business plan etc. This will also involve Michelle Copeland and DW will be advising.

9. Pembrokeshire People First (PPF) Report.

Jeremy de Wilton read out the report as follows:

Pembrokeshire People First has been very busy this month.

We held an event about employment and volunteering, an issue that is very important to our members.

We also held our Hustings where candidates from both Pembrokeshire constituencies answered questions important to our members. You can see it on our YouTube channel.

We are still keen to work with Disability Wales to deliver training with them in Pembrokeshire.

Three of our members have been attending the Enabling Wales training, including me and Stuart.

We are in the process of changing our branding to Pembrokeshire People First Centre for independent living as this is what we do.

Our campaigns group continues to focus on benefits, transport and other key issues. We are very concerned about charging for services. The PIP assessments and equality. One member is very concerned about bus timetables being difficult to read. Is this an issue for the Access Group?

Karen and Lucy (a trustee) are joint co-chairs of the new Voices for Equality forum in Pembrokeshire, and are

keen to make it a group that achieves things rather than just talking about them.

Finally, we have got through to the final of the Aviva Community fund competition with a mystery shopper project about mini cabs and vulnerable people. We would like to work with the Access Group if we are successful.

Can you vote for us please? the link is

<https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/Project/view/404>

- alan, could you circulate this please? thanks.

10. international Day of Disabled People

a. No update this month.

11. Beach Wheelchairs

a. The Access Officer reported that he is meeting with Anthony Richards from National Park to discuss with the café at Angle the possibility of having a wheelchair there. This would be purchased from the money donated by South Hook LNG.

b. The Access Officer has received correspondence from Rod Pugh who is in the process of developing a wheel chair carrier for use on beaches. The cost is estimated at around £800. We will await further details of this.

12. Chairman's Report

a. There was no formal report as most items had already been reported but the Chairman did report on an incident he had been involved in when a blue badge holder refused to move his car which was parked across a flush kerb in Narberth. The driver would not let Henry cross and thought the blue badge allowed him to park wherever he wanted.

13. Access Officer's Report

a. Correspondence had been received regarding the improvements to the clubhouse at a caravan site in Ludchurch, which did not include the provision of a disabled toilet.

The Access officer will investigate.

b. Correspondence had been received about the lack of disabled facilities at the Belgrave Hotel in Tenby and the unhelpful attitude of the staff. A letter will be sent from the Access Group.

c. The Access Officer reported on a planning application for Castle Square which includes a tent (with no sides) and low backless benches, which would prove a great hazard particularly to the visually impaired. A discussion followed and it was agreed that this development would be unacceptable.

14. Any other business (any other things that need to be talked about).

a. Various future events were mentioned, RNIB members day at Haverfordwest Rugby Club.

RNID, Action on hearing loss at Narberth on 29th May,

First Cymru event in which disabled people changed places with the bus drivers.

b. Flying Boat centre at Pembroke Dock are building a mock up of the cockpit and have asked the Access Officer for advice on disabled access.

c. Correspondence had been received about the lack of an accessible toilet at the Vine pub in Johnson and the unhelpful attitude of the staff. The group would write a letter to them.

Meeting finished: 3:40pm.

Next meeting: 11th June 2015 at 2pm, County Hall.