

MINUTES – ACCESS GROUP MEETING

County Hall, Haverfordwest

9th July 2015 at 2.00pm

1. At the meeting:

B Thomas Cleaver	E Rich	R Codd	A Peter
F Heasman	A Hunt	C Cavill	M Phillips
A Thomas	M Baron	M Jakeway	
A Moore (Dewis)			

2. Could not attend the meeting:

H Langen, J McNamara, L Cartwright, T Mills, M Baron, M Pope, B Cleevely, Cllr S Hancock, Pembs People First.

3. Welcome.

Beryl welcomed everyone to the meeting in Henry's absence.

4. Minutes of 14th May 2015.

- a. It was agreed that the minutes were a true record.

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

- a. Alan Hunt contacted the Director for Transport, Environment & Housing and the Head of Parking Services about carers being able to park outside the homes of their customers. They said that certain people can park legally on yellow lines etc if they are on duty including doctors, nurses on call and vets but carers are not allowed. The Director has said that carers can now also

park as long as they leave a sign in the car window but they still might get a parking ticket. This would be cancelled though if they appeal (ask to be let off) as long as they get their employer to write to say they were working at the time. The Head of Parking services said that some carers were parking on yellow lines to do their own shopping though and that this might spoil it for everyone. Eva Rich said that a Country Cars driver helped a passenger out of the car and when he got back he had a parking ticket.

b. Alan Thomas asked whether the planned visit to Bluestone went ahead. Alan Hunt said that problems with transport had meant that the visit had not happened yet but that Bluestone had just asked if they could help with transport. Alan Hunt will try and arrange something by the next meeting.

c. Alan Hunt wrote to Barclays Bank and Lloyds Bank in St David's about disabled access. Lloyds haven't written back yet but Barclays has. They said that one reason they weren't able to put a ramp in at the front was because it was a listed building and the planners wouldn't let them. Alan emailed the planners who said that Barclays would have to apply for planning permission and listed building permission but that a

ramp would probably be accepted. Alan has written back to Barclays to see if we can help them.

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

a. The treasurer was not at the meeting but Alan Hunt said that the Council will be giving the Group £4967 for a new beach wheelchair with money from Bluestone. We will also be getting £28 gift aid from back from the tax man for donations made for beach wheelchairs on the website.

7. Correspondence (Any letters or emails received since the last meeting).

a. E-mail received from Annette about a Pavement Parking Bill which has been introduced to Parliament. The bill would make it illegal in England and Wales to park on the pavement except for a few streets where it is allowed.

b. Information received from Paul Renfro about a project that the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum is starting with funding from Natural Recourse Wales. It is a three year plan which aims to:

Year 1 - Identify barriers from 'cradle to grave' for disabled access to recreation via the POCG and Sport Disability Wales (SDW).

Year 2 - Assess and evaluate potential solutions for improving access through POCG members.

Year 3 - Provide an economic evaluation through costing and reporting on the possible solutions for providing better access to recreation by disabled users.

It was decided to invite Paul to the September meeting.

c. E-mail from Citizens Advice Bureau about Pension Wise which is a free Government service. They offer guidance to people who are approaching or are over 50 years of age and who would like information on accessing their Defined Contribution pensions. They can help people:

- > Understand what to think about when considering the options, such as plans to continue working, personal and financial circumstances, and leaving money to someone after death.
- > Understand the different options for accessing pension pot(s), and the potential advantages and disadvantages of each.
- > Understand the tax implications of each choice.

d. Information received from Liz Cartwright about a Welsh Government Green Paper called: Our Health, Our Health Service.

They are looking for people's ideas on how they can improve quality and control in the NHS.

The consultation can be found online at:

<http://gov.wales/consultations/healthsocialcare/service/?lang=en>
and it ends on 20/11/2015

8. Changes to the library services in Pembrokeshire.

Mike Cavanagh and Laura Evans attended to consult on the proposed changes to the library services in Pembrokeshire. Mike's PowerPoint presentation and Laura's notes from the meeting are attached for info.

1. The Council has a duty to provide a library service.
2. There are 12 libraries in Pembrokeshire.
3. The mobile library service was cut to one van last year.
4. Half of the library budget is ring fenced for schools.
5. It is hoped to have a new library where the Riverside Market is in about two years time.
6. Mark asked

9. Dewis Advocacy Service.

Alison Moore from Dewis in Milford Haven told us about their advocacy service. They have three volunteers who

help people with a problem which they can't sort out by themselves.

They can help people sort out all sorts of things, for instance sorting out day care charges or helping people who can't cope on their own.

People can find out about Dewis Advocacy by word of mouth or from information at the doctor's surgery or from Pembrokeshire People First or PAVS. Alison has been making visits to all of these as well as to libraries and Women's Institute meetings etc.

Dewis is at Cedar Court which is opposite the library in Milford Haven.

Mark asked if Dewis was going to expand into Pembrokeshire with direct payments but Alison said she didn't know and that we would need to ask Chief Executive Officer, Steve Harris.

Mark said he lived in Carmarthenshire but Alison said that the Dewis Advocacy Service is only offered in Pembrokeshire.

Eva told Alison about a service which Guide Dogs does to help people to socialise before they have a guide dog of their own.

Annette asked if there was a time limit on how long a person can get help. Alison said that there was no time limit and that people can get help as long as they need it.

Frank asked if Dewis had many referrals and Alison said they had a priority list eg adult or child or bereavement. Alison finished by asking if there are any special problems or gaps in Pembrokeshire. Rex said it was hard and expensive to get to places if you needed a taxi to get you there.

Frank said that he lives in an apartment block in Cardigan and that an advocacy service is needed in Ceredigion as well.

Beryl thanked Alison for coming to the meeting and telling us about Dewis Advocacy.

10. Pembrokeshire People First (PPF) Report.

- a. No report this month.

11. International Day of Disabled People.

- a. No update this month.

12. Centre for Independent Living (CIL).

- a. The CIL sub committee met before this meeting and Mark reported as follows:

- It is hoped to apply for funding from Citizen Directed Co-operatives Cymru (CDCC) to help set up a CIL.

- Mark is setting up a sub-committee meeting with Rebecca Newsom who is the co-ordinator for the project to find out more about what is involved.
- We hope that the tourism database can be the start point for a CIL.

13. Beach Wheelchairs.

a. The Access Officer reported that he has met 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. The location is very good and the café is fully wheelchair accessible including toilets.

b. A new wheelchair has been ordered and a joint launch will be arranged with South Hook LNG, Milford Haven Port Authority, Bluestone, National Park, Pembrokeshire County Council and the Access Group.

c. A new device is to be evaluated which will allow people to access the beach using their own wheelchair. It is called Nomad and is intended to also carry motorised wheelchairs. The device will cost much less than the beach wheelchairs we have now. The makers of the

device will be in touch when they have a sample ready for us to look at.

14. Chairman's Report

- a. There was no report this month.

15. Access Officer's Report

- a. There was no Access Officer's Report this month.

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

- a. There was no other business this month.

Meeting finished: 4:20pm.

Next meeting: 10th September 2015 at 2pm, County Hall.