

MINUTES – ACCESS GROUP MEETING
County Hall, Haverfordwest
10th September 2015 at 2.00pm

1. At the meeting:

B Thomas Cleaver	E Rich	R Codd	A Peter
A Hunt	M Phillips	M Baron	R Codd
M Pope	B Cleevely	S Merrit	J De Wilton
K Chandler	P Renfro		

2. Could not attend the meeting:

H Langen, J McNamara, L Cartwright, T Mills, Cllr S Hancock, C Cavill, A Thomas, M Jakeway, F Heaseman

3. Welcome.

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

4. Minutes of the meeting on 9th July 2015.

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

5. Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum Project

Paul Renfro told us about a project that the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum is starting with funding from Natural Recourse Wales.

The Recreational Audit for Disabled Access – (RADA) project aims to increase and improve the chances of disabled people being able to take part in activities like coasteering and canoeing etc. It is hoped that by talking to disabled people and the companies which do these

activities a way can be found to make it easier for disabled people to take part. Paul will also be trying to find out if there would be any extra cost for companies to help disabled people to do these things. The project will be spread over 3 years and will be split into 3 parts.

Year 1 – Finding out what access barriers there are to sport and exercise for disabled people of all ages.

Year 2 – Look at the information from Year 1 and find possible ways to make access better.

Year 3 – Give an idea of the cost and suggest possible ways of getting better access for disabled people to sporting and exercise (recreational) activities.

Karen asked if the survey would be available in easy read format so that PPF could be involved. Paul said that it would be.

Marilyn asked for an example of the sort of things Paul would be looking at. Paul said it would be things like removing gates or stiles, kayaking for disabled people and transport to get to the place and back again.

Alan asked if the people providing the activities would be involved in the survey as well as disabled people. Paul said that at this stage it was really just for disabled people.

Mark said that we are working on a website to advertise what is available for disabled tourists in Pembrokeshire and that we would like to work with Paul on this.

6. Matters Arising (things people wanted to talk about from the minutes of the last meeting).

a. Annette asked Alan if the visit to Bluestone had been arranged yet. Alan said that it will be arranged by the next meeting in October.

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

a. We now have £6282.00 in the bank.

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

a. Alan has written a letter on behalf of the Group to Pembrokeshire Housing about their plans to install a platform lift from the top floor to the one below. The lift is meant to help residents get in and out of the building if the existing lift breaks down again. We wanted Pembrokeshire Housing to think about having a lift with battery backup so that the lift could be used in an emergency.

b. A letter was sent to Sunnyvale Caravan park near Saundersfoot on behalf of a visitor who has had problems accessing the swimming pool there. Sunnyvale has written back to us saying that they have made access improvements where they can but they don't

think that wheelchair access to the pool is possible. They have plans for a new apartment at one of their other parks which will be accessible to disabled people. Alan wrote back to them asking if they would like the Group to carry out an access audit at Sunnyvale.

c. Disability Wales has sent us nomination forms if we want to suggest any of our members to join the board. It was agreed to nominate Alan Thomas.

d. An email has been received from Rachel Gibby to let us know about a project which we could learn from. It is about a 125,000 Euro, European Commission Grant which VisitEngland have been given for their Access for All project. This might be work looking at to pay for our tourism website work.

e. Rachel also emailed about another interesting project called Business in the Community: Wales Action Week which is to be held between 16 – 20 November. The project is to raise the understanding and awareness of things which older people have to deal with.

f. An email has been received from Kevin Pett from Carmarthenshire County Council who has heard about our plans for an accessible tourism website. He thinks

that members of the Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition would be interested in joining forces on this. Alan is to contact the access officer at Carmarthenshire to see if we could all meet.

g. Email from Jim Bowen at Clynyfw to let us know about a tourism based celebration he is organising next year. It will be held at Clynyfw to celebrate Disabled Access Day 2016 on 12 March 2016. He would like us to get involved in any way whatsoever. Members thought that we could take a beach wheelchair along.

h. A letter has been received from a Mr Mitchell asking us to support him in trying to get better access during Tenby Pedestrianisation and Cafe Culture. It was agreed to write back and tell him that the Access Officer would deal with it. Alan Has met the gentleman and says that the Council is planning to make some adjustments to both schemes to help make them more accessible. Annette suggested that the cafes put their tables and chairs in the road during Cafe Culture when the roads are pedestrianised to keep the pavements clear.

9. Pembrokeshire People First (PPF) Report.

The PPF Campaigns Group continues to look at

- Making letters easier to read.

- Transport
- The confusion around charging for day services
- Worry about benefit changes
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At our next meeting in September we will be:

- Taking about MPs' pay
- Looking at getting more feedback from our members
- The budget and how it affects us
- Making a manifesto that parties can sign up to before the National Assembly Elections

Would like to present the manifesto to the Access group later and ask you to sign up to it as well.

We are also very worried about the possible axing of the Human Rights Act and will campaign on this. We would ask the Access Group to discuss this.

Finally, we want to ask the Access Group to focus on bus timetables. These are extremely difficult for our members to read.

10. International Day of Disabled People.

a. Mark suggested on behalf of the Direct Payments sub-group that we hold a direct payments conference on the International Day of Disabled People. It was thought that

it would be difficult to arrange by December with all the other things we are doing so it was decided not to formally celebrate the day as we have before but to try and organise a direct payments conference early next year.

11. Centre for Independent Living (CIL).

a. This item has been put on hold until we know whether we have been successful in getting funding for the Citizen Led Co-operative early next year. The sub-group has met with someone from Ceredigion Access Group and it may be possible to work with them on the CIL project. The Citizen Led Co-operative will replace this agenda item until early next year.

b. Mark told us about the sub-group meeting at PLANED with Becky Newsome and Rhiannon Hicks from Disability Wales.

Becky is dealing with the Citizen Directed Co-operative Cymru Project (CDCC) to deliver Direct Payments and Rhiannon is dealing with the Planning Together project which is helping disability groups to form a Centre for Independent Living (CIL).

We have been successful in getting to stage 2 of the CDCC project and the sub-group will be attending a number of meetings between now and Christmas to

hopefully get us to the final stage. The winner of the final stage will get funding and help to set up the CDCC. Between now and Christmas the sub-group has to go to two workshops with Wales Co-operative Centre and six meetings with Becky Newsome.

A representative from Ceredigion Access Group was also at the meeting and they are also interested in setting up a CIL so it is hoped we can work together on this.

Karen asked if members of PPF who get Direct Payments could meet with Mark to see if we can work together.

12. Beach Wheelchairs.

a. The new beach wheelchair has now been bought and delivered to Anthony Richards at National Parks. It will be taken to the Wavecrest Cafe at Angle who have agreed to hire it out for us.

A photo shoot will be arranged to thank South Hook LNG, Milford Haven Port Authority and Bluestone who have all helped to fund the beach wheelchair.

We are still waiting for information about a different type of beach wheelchair which Alan told us about at the last meeting. This should be cheaper and allow someone to use their own wheelchair to get on to the beach. If this turns out to be successful we will spend the rest of the beach wheelchair money on two of these. Otherwise we will buy one of the old type.

Margaret asked if the slipway at Angle could be improved because it is quite narrow and steep.

13. Chairman's Report

a. There was no report this month.

14. Access Officer's Report

a. The Department for Transport guidance on tactile paving is being looked at. Alan said he would bring a copy to the next meeting for us to talk about.

b. Folly Farm now has a Changing Places toilet which they say can be used by anyone visiting the County.

c. Danfo who now run the Councils public toilets have asked the Group where would be a good place for them to put a Changing Places Toilet. After some discussion it was thought that the proposed new library on the Riverside in Haverfordwest would be the most central. The Avenue Centre in Tenby allows visitors to use its toilets and hoists if the need to.

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

a. Margaret told us that she and Maisie are members of Quality Assurance Assessors Group at De Clare Court who try to improve services at Pembrokeshire Housing. They have recently received an award in Cardiff for their project which gave the board at Pembrokeshire Housing

24 recommendations for improvements. The board has accepted 20 of the recommendations straight away and the other 4 will all be done in the future. Everyone congratulated Margaret and the rest of her group for their success.

Meeting finished: 4:00pm.

Next meeting: 8th October 2015 at 2pm, County Hall.

REMINDER

Our AGM will be on November 12th.