

MINUTES – ACCESS GROUP MEETING

County Hall, Haverfordwest

14th January 2016 at 2.00pm

1. At the meeting:

E Rich	R Codd	A Hunt
A Thomas	B Cleevely	A Peter
F Heasman	B Thomas Cleaver	Cllr S Hancock
M Pope	M Copeman	M Baron
M Jakeway		

2. Could not attend the meeting:

H Langen, M Phillips, T Mills, Pembrokeshire People First,
L Cartwright, Pembrokeshire People First

3. Welcome.

Beryl took the chair as Henry was unable to attend. Alan has spoken to Henry on the phone. Henry is making good progress and hopes to be able to attend the next meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting on 10th December 2015.

- a. It was agreed that the minutes were a true record.
- b. Correspondence will be dealt with later in the meeting to make sure there is time for other agenda items.

5. Disability Wales Community Voice Project

- a. Michelle Copeman from PAVS told us about the Community Voice Project. Due to recent funding cuts Disability Wales is no longer able to take part in this project so PAVS has asked whether Pembrokeshire Access Group would take it on.
- b. The project has about 18 months left to run and there is Big Lottery funding of around £50,000 left to use.
- c. The project is expected to develop a forum to make it easier for disabled people to talk to those who are responsible for commissioning (ordering) the services which affect disabled people.
- d. The project would allow the Group pay for a conference and website to try and get more disabled people involved.
- e. We could ask Pembrokeshire People First to help us if we need to give any training.
- f. Beryl asked for a show of hands and everyone agreed that we should take the project on.
- g. We will have to look at the Group's constitution and maybe change it if necessary.
- h. A sub group was set up and they will meet as soon as possible with Michelle to take the project forward.
- i. Sub group members are: Annette Peter, Beryl Thomas-Cleaver, Maisie Jakeway, Margaret Baron, Rex Codd, Alan Thomas, Mark Philips, Henry Langen and Alan Hunt.

- j. Alan Hunt is to agree a meeting date with Michelle and let the rest of the Sub group know.

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

- a. The group has £5,242.15 in the bank.
- b. Rex's expenses receipt handed to treasurer.
- c. A cheque for £450 was received from Milford Haven Port Authority to buy 2 manual wheelchairs to go with the new beach wheelchairs.
- d. A cheque was written at the meeting for Adventure Mobility as a deposit for two new Nomad beach wheelchairs. It was noticed that the address to send the cheque to was different from Adventure Mobility's offices. Alan Hunt is to clarify this before posting the cheque and the order.
- e. Alan Hunt is to find out if the Council's access budget could be used to buy future beach wheelchairs.

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

- a. No matters arising were recorded.

8. Service Level Agreement with the council (how we get paid for things we do for the council).

- a.** Alan Hunt read through the draft Service Level Agreement he had prepared. One or two small changes were made and the Group agreed that the draft should be sent to the Council's Finance Section for them to look at.
- b.** Cllr. Hancock asked if the request for finance would be based on the Group's spending last year. Alan Hunt said that last year was not typical in terms of travel expenses so the amount requested would be higher.
- c.** Alan Hunt said that we would need to pay for audited accounts (the accounts will have to be inspected by an accountant) as part of the agreement.
- d.** Cllr. Hancock said that other groups such as the Pembrokeshire Youth Assembly and the 50+ Forum had a service agreement with the Council to pay for consultation expenses etc.
- e.** A figure of £3,500 was suggested as a reasonable amount to ask for. Alan Hunt said it would be better to negotiate with the Finance Section and that the amount would probably be in line with what the other groups were getting.
- f.** Access Group members asked Alan to make sure that the Finance Section took account of (thought about) the extra expenses that disabled people had to pay for travel

etc which other groups do not have to pay. Eg using a taxi because buses aren't available.

9. Pembrokeshire People First Report.

- a.** There was no report this month.

10. New Library in Haverfordwest.

- a.** The Group looked at plans of the new library which is proposed at Haverfordwest Riverside.
- b.** There are problems with getting to the main entrance because of the steepness of the existing slopes.
- c.** The majority of the meeting thought that the Riverside location presented difficulties for access for disabled people and that therefore the location is inappropriate.
- d.** Access for disabled people is worse than the present top of town location in terms of travel distances from car parking spaces to the main entrances.
- e.** There is limited parking available close to the ramps and this is usually fully occupied by shoppers. Access for all customers would in reality therefore involve a very long 'walk' from the Multi Storey or Riverside car parks. This will make access particularly difficult for wheelchair users, people who are blind or vision impaired and older people.
- f.** It was thought that a passenger lift available to all customers without any restriction to be essential. But

this must be coupled with more spaces for blue badge holders.

- g.** There was a mixed view regarding the existing gradients and proposals for modifications involving 'sub-standard' new gradients. Some thought that any new ramps must be fully compliant with the requirements of building regulations, others thought that the existing ramps were already being used by customers visiting the market without complaint so could be deemed adequate. All members present agreed that a freely accessible passenger lift was essential and that the suggestion it should be restricted only to radar key holders was totally inappropriate.

h. Toilets:

It was noted that the proposed unisex 'disabled' wc near the library entrance has an inward opening door which impinges on the usable turning space. This does not comply with building regulations and was not acceptable in a new library.

- i.** The proposal for a baby change facility in this wc is not allowed by building regulations and must be removed. A wheelchair accessible, stand alone facility is preferred or a (wheelchair accessible) facility in both the Ladies and Gents on the lower floor could be considered.
- j.** There was also concern that the proposed staff facilities will not be accessible to some disabled employees.

k. At one point it was suggested that the architects seemed to be trying to avoid / fudge access for disabled people. Alan Hunt explained that this was not the case and that the architects are working hard to meet all the needs/requirements of disabled people within a challenging site. This was accepted.

11. Beach Wheelchairs.

- a.** See Treasure's Report above.
- b.** There will be another chance to publicise the new beach wheelchair at Angle nearer Easter when the chair is delivered to the cafe by the National Park.

12. Chairman's Report

- a.** There was no report this month.

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

- a.** Alan Hunt has received an email from the Council's Tourism Centre in Tenby. They used to have British Red Cross wheelchairs there for people to hire but the Red Cross has stopped doing this now. Alan is going to see if he can find a budget to get some wheelchairs for the Tourism Centre.
- b.** Annette said we should have a video of the beach wheelchairs at the conference.

- c. Frank reminded the Group about Disabled Access Day and that Clynfyw is celebrating this with an event. Alan Hunt will find out when the event is and try to arrange for a beach wheelchair to be there. Frank said he would be going to the event and could tell people all about the beach wheelchairs.

The meeting finished at 4:15 PM.

Next meeting: 11th February 2016 at 2pm, County Hall.