

MINUTES – ACCESS GROUP MEETING

County Hall, Haverfordwest

11th February 2016 at 2.00pm

1. At the meeting:

B Thomas Cleaver

A Hunt

R Codd

F Heasman

E Rich

Bryani Kelly Pembs Youth Assembly

Rachel Gibby Older Persons Strategy Co-ordinator & Good Neighbour

S Merrit Pembrokeshire People First

J De Wilton Pembrokeshire People First

K Chandler Pembrokeshire People First

A Gardiner PLANED

L Cartwright PLANED

2. Could not attend the meeting:

H Langen, M Phillips, T Mills, A Thomas, B Cleevely, A Peter,
Cllr S Hancock, M Pope, M Baron, A Richards, Keeley Hudd

3. Welcome.

Beryl stood in for Henry again, and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Alan Hunt said that Henry had hoped to attend the meeting and will hopefully attend the next meeting.

4. Pembrokeshire Youth Assembly.

- a. The chair of the Pembrokeshire Youth Assembly, Bryani Kelly, attended the meeting. She explained that the role

of the organisation was to promote children's rights and ensure that the voices of young people are heard.

- b. They have close links with the county council, health board and the children's commissioner.
- c. They have also organised campaigns such as the See Me, Hear Me campaign on social media to combat prejudice against young people, and a mental health campaign to raise awareness of mental health issues among young people.
- d. They also have been working with the Pembrokeshire 50+ Forum on an intergenerational project.
- e. Beryl thanked Bryani and said how impressed she was with the work of the youth assembly.
- f. Alan Hunt pointed out that young people and older and disabled people often faced similar difficulties, for example with travel and bus passes. He also praised the role of the children's commissioner in promoting the issues of provision for wheelchair users in secondary schools and said it was a pity that there was no disabled person's commissioner.

5. Minutes of the meeting on 14th January, 2016.

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

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

- a. Disabled Access Day is on Saturday, 12th March, and Clynfyw Care Farm are hosting a Try Something New, Visit Somewhere New event to celebrate the day.
- b. Pembrokeshire Access Group has been invited to come along. They will take one of the beach wheelchairs to promote the work of the access group.

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

- a. As the treasurer was unable to attend the meeting, there was no treasurer's report.
- b. Alan Hunt told the meeting that the donation box for the beach wheelchair at Saundersfoot has raised £73 for the year ending 2015.

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

- a. The access group has been invited to an open day at the Pavilion, Withybush Showground, on February 25th, to see the new accessible facilities. If the building is now suitable, it may be a possible venue for the access group's conference.
- b. Email was received from Janet Price regarding Direct Payments following a meeting with Diverse Cymru. Janet

has asked Christina Thomas of Diverse Cymru to attend an access group meeting to talk about how to access Direct Payments user forums, but Christina has yet to make contact.

- c.** Alan has received an email from Lorna Livock at PAVS with details of the South Hook LNG Community Care Fund. There are two levels of funding £500 and £5000 available to any voluntary groups across Pembrokeshire. The access group is considering applying to enable them to buy more wheelchairs.
- d.** Alan was sent a link to an article about Lego which has produced a figure in a wheelchair. Jackie Hooper, from Hywel Dda University Health Board, contacted a Lego supplier and they sent free sets to the health board for children in hospital to play with. The access group agreed to promote this on the website.
- e.** Jessica Hatchett (was Sutton) contacted the access group about wheelchair spaces on buses. She was unable to get on a bus to Neyland because the wheelchair space was taken. She waited for the next bus, but that didn't go to her destination. She has taken up the matter with Cllr Simon Hancock. The access group also agreed to pursue the matter. The continuing problem of transport for disabled people was discussed. Is this discrimination under the Equalities Act? According to transport regulations, the wheelchair space on public

transport is not necessarily reserved for wheelchair users and can be used for pushchairs.

- f.** The access group will tackle this issue on behalf of all public transport users and influence the bodies that write the legislation. Alan Hunt will write to the county council transportation department. Pembrokeshire People First and Young Voices for Choices will also give their support. Young Voices for Choices are conducting a survey of bus services this summer.
- g.** It was suggested that disability awareness training could be run by the access group, funded by Community Voice, for bus operator staff, and it should be a condition of contract to do the training. PPF and RNIB have looked into this.

9. Community Voice Project.

- a.** The Access Group has received the go ahead from PAVS to take over the Community Voice Planning Together project from Disability Wales.
- b.** A sub-committee needs to agree the documentation.
- c.** The next step will be to start organising the conference and recruit new members.
- d.** Karen raised the issue of the amount of administration (paperwork) involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the project.
- e.** Liz offered to show Alan the forms she has to complete.

- f. Karen also mentioned that PPF were due to deliver training for Disability Wales. Karen and Alan will meet to see if some training can still be delivered by PPF.

10. Public Toilets in Pembrokeshire. – Jon Mills from Danfo.

- a. The group welcomed Jon Mills who is Operations manager for Danfo UK Ltd. Jon spoke about the company's role maintaining 73 public toilets in Pembrokeshire for the county council.
- b. He said that the company usually fix 80% of problems within 24 hours of being reported.
- c. There is a 20p charge in some locations to use the toilets, except for radar key-operated toilets.
- d. There are plans to install a changing places toilet in the county and Jon wanted to know from the access group members where would be the best place to have one.
- e. They do not need to be part of an existing public toilet, but they do need to be somewhere with managed access as it was not a good idea for them to be radar key-operated without someone keeping an eye on them.
- f. There are already changing places facilities at Folly Farm and at Hampton Court Caravan Park in Templeton.
- g. The group suggested the transport hub or the tourist information centre in Tenby.

- h.** Other suggestions included the new library in Haverfordwest; the Ocean Lab in Goodwick; Haverfordwest Leisure Centre; the Meads Leisure Centre; Sunderland Trust; Regency Hall and the new Lidl development in Haverfordwest.
- i.** Stuart mentioned that the toilets at Haverfordwest multi-storey car park were in a poor state. Jon explained that the stonework was coming away from the steel structure causing rain to leak through the roof. Work will be carried out soon to sort out these problems.
- j.** Frank raised the issue of alarm cords being tied up by cleaners and then left so that disabled people couldn't reach them. Jon said he would ensure the toilets were checked for this.

11. Service Level Agreement with the council.

- a.** Alan Hunt has contacted the finance department and they have promised to come up with some figures by the next meeting.

12. Pembrokeshire People First Report. Jeremy De-Wilton.

A copy has been sent to Alan Hunt if anyone wants one.

- a.** The Centre for Independent Living active inclusion project is going well and PPF have been applying for a European fund to develop skills.

- b.** They are also about to be accredited by Agored Cymru. PPF are putting on more courses including autism awareness; equalities; safety awareness training; and social media.
- c.** Members have also been involved in the mental health consultation and are looking at developing a Learning Disabilities Charter for Pembrokeshire.
- d.** They are also working on the My Life in Motion project looking at what is stopping people with learning disabilities moving forward.
- e.** There will be an exhibition at the Pembrokeshire Archives to showcase their work.
- f.** A Big Lottery-funded autism project will offer one-to-one advocacy.
- g.** PPF are planning hustings in the run-up to the Welsh Assembly elections in May.

13. Beach Wheelchairs.

- a.** Poppit Sands looks set to lose its beach wheelchair as the introduction of car parking charges means there will be no attendant to supervise it. The café is unwilling to take on the responsibility. Various options will be looked at before the chair is taken away.
- b.** The group is cautious of buying new wheelchairs if there are not the outlets to be responsible for them.

- c. Coast restaurant at Coppet Hall might get the chair from Poppit Sands.
- d. Alan Hunt will write to Tenby Chamber of Trade to see if someone could host a chair.
- e. It was also suggested that a chair could be provided on Caldey Island to transport people from the boats. Perhaps the boat owners could be contacted to see if they could have a chair.
- f. The new beach wheelchairs from Adventure Mobility will be delivered during week starting on 14th March.
- g. The manual wheelchairs have arrived for attaching to the new beach wheelchairs.
- h. Poppit Wheelchair – Frank suggested getting in touch with Gill Wiszlocka to see if there might be a local solution to retaining the chair.
- i. Liz suggested getting Cllr Mike James involved.
- j. It was also suggested to have a wheelchair at Broadhaven South or Bosherton, possibly housed by the National Trust.

14. Access Officer's Report.

- a. An email was received from Ann Brennan, bursar of Ross-on-Wye School wondering if the beach wheelchairs might be suitable to use by first aiders to remove injured rugby players from muddy playing fields. She wanted to know where they could buy beach

wheelchairs and if the Access Group had any spare wheels they could use to fit on ordinary manual wheelchairs. Alan has put her in contact with Nino Algieri about this.

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

- a. The date for the April meeting was discussed as Alan Hunt will be on holiday for the second Thursday of the month. Alan will try to book a room on another date

The meeting finished at 4:00 PM.

Next meeting: 10th March 2016 at 2pm, County Hall.