

MINUTES – ACCESS GROUP MEETING

County Hall, Haverfordwest

9th June 2016 at 1.30pm

1. At the meeting:

B Thomas Cleaver

Alan Hunt

Rex Codd

A Thomas

J Hatchett

F Heaseman

2. Could not attend the meeting:

PPF, T Mills, A Peter, H Langen, M Baron, Cllr S Hancock,
J McNamara, A Richards, E Rich, B Cleevely

3. Welcome.

Beryl welcomed everyone to the meeting and said how disappointed she was that Henry was not well enough to attend. It was agreed we should write to Henry wishing him a speedy recovery.

4. Minutes of the meeting on 10th March, 2016.

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

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

- a. Alan Thomas said he had heard of a possible scheme at Angle which we might be able to tap into to improve ramp access to the beach.

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

- a. The Treasurer was not able to attend so there was no report.

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

- a. Email from Disability Rights UK about the Department for Transport (DfT) looking to assess the impact and quality of the disability awareness training provided to bus and coach drivers in the UK. DfT want disabled people who are willing to have a phone or face-to-face interview about this to contact them. If you have any questions or would like to take part please email

Philip.Connolly@disabilityrightsuk.org

It was suggested that we should invite someone from DfT to come and talk to us.

It was suggested that we write to Owen Roberts to see if support for the Pembrokeshire Passport could be made compulsory in the contracts for bus operators in Pembrokeshire.

It was suggested that we invite someone from the bus company which has taken over from Silcox to come along to a meeting to discuss the Pembrokeshire Passport. The new bus company will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

- b. Frank said that on a recent bus trip on a Richards bus the driver did not know how to open the ramp. He had to ring Richards Bros to find out.
- c. Email from Jim Bowen at Clynyfw about their big lunch event on Sunday 12th June between 12 and 2.30pm.
- d. Interesting comment on the accessibuilt@jiscmail.ac.uk forum from Manchester Disabled People's Access Group about the concept of shared space.

I have copied the comment below for info:

"Just wondered if anyone had noticed that the Queen's Speech included: -

"My ministers will ensure the United Kingdom is at the forefront of technology for new forms of transport, including autonomous and electric vehicles."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/queens-speech-2016>

Driverless cars require traffic lights, kerbs and road markings to assist the cars in identifying the routes.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/motoring/motoringvideo/11308777/How-do-driverless-cars-work.html>

So, will the "trendy" urban designers, promoting shared space without kerbs, road markings and crossings be forced to rethink their promotion of shared space e.g. Poynton, promoted by the Urban Design Group and others.

So much for the argument of pedestrians negotiating with drivers, when the driver is not in control! Of course this government favours the free market etc so probably both developments will carry on

happening but a large number of car companies have already invested in this area.

I think this is an important element in the arguments against future and existing shared schemes.

Best wishes

Flick

Manchester Disabled People's Access Group"

- e. Email from Disability Wales about the launch of a new three year project funded by the Welsh Government. It is called Care to Co-operate and there will be a launch event at the National Botanic Gardens, Carmarthen on 23rd June 12.30 to 30.00pm.

8. Community Voice Project.

- a. The minutes of the Sub-committee held a meeting on Wednesday 8th June at County Hall are attached for information.
- b. Alan Hunt, Jessica and Ian visited Picton Castle after the sub-committee meeting on the 8th June to try and finalise arrangements. Unfortunately the venue is not as accessible as we thought for more the proposed 100 – 150 people who might attend. The rooms can only realistically house up to 80 people and those at the back would find it difficult to participate. Jessica and Alan then looked at some alternative locations and none of them

were large enough or accessible enough for a conference of this size. After much discussion it was agreed to look again at the refurbished pavilion at the County Showground as this has all the facilities we would need.

- c.** It was also agreed that the afternoon session of the conference would be devoted to a new award for tourism attractions and accommodation providers in Pembrokeshire and that awards would be presented.
- d.** Ian is working on a quote for the new websites and a meeting will be arranged with Ian within the next few days to try and finalise our requirements for the sites, the logo and the app.

9. Service Level Agreement with the council.

- a.** There is still no news from the council so Alan will try and contact them.
- b.** It was agreed that we should invite someone from Finance at the council to come to the next meeting to let us know why progress has been so slow.

10. Pembrokeshire People First Report.

- a.** The report below was read by Alan Hunt because PPF were unable to attend.
- b.** We're sorry we aren't able to make the meeting, and I have written this report before attending the Community Voice sub-group, where I hope we will have useful

discussions about training; and developing an “app” for bus timetables.

- c.** Only a brief report since the last meeting.....
- d.** Our Campaigns Group is progressing its work around Health. Next step is arranging meetings with our MPs, AMs, the Community Health Council and Hywel Dda.
- e.** We have been actively contributing to the development of Pembrokeshire County Council’s Learning Disability Strategy, and would really encourage everyone to contact Joy James and Rachel Gibby to make their views known. They want to hear from, and embed the strategy in, the wider community.
- f.** We’re delighted to report we have received funding for 2 years from Porticus UK to support our family work. The job’s not over yet though – we still need around £30,000 to keep us going through this financial year.
- g.** We are also part of the LD Partnership Board sub-group on Easy Read. Our members feel this is a wider issue than learning disability – the ideal for us would be that everything is easier to read for everyone. We feel this is an Access Group issue and would welcome feedback.
- h.** Finally we wanted to flag up our “refreshed” Parents Group – for parents with a learning disability/difficulty. It is starting to meet in Milford Haven and we would really welcome some awareness raising. Contact

kate@pembrokeshirepeople1st.gov.uk for more information.

11. Beach Wheelchairs.

- a.** Rex reported that Pembrokeshire Housing Association are arranging a visit to Angle with residents of Kensington Court and De Clare Court to try out the new beach wheelchair. Alan Hunt said he would send information about the history of the beach wheelchairs to Ali Evans at Pembrokeshire Housing.
- b.** It was decided to send out some flyers about the beach wheelchairs to hotels and guest houses.

12. Chairman's Report.

- a.** None.

13. Access Officer's Report

- a)** Included in agenda items.

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

- a.** Jessica and Rex attended the recent Transport Forum at Crundale. Both said it was a real success and very a useful and informative event where everyone was able to have their say. A report on the event is to be published by the organisers.

- b.** Jessica has a meeting next week with Dewis Independent Living about their new project on employment for disabled people. Jessica will report back to us at the next meeting.
- c.** Jessica said that the car park attendants at County Hall were reluctant to let her taxi in because she had forgotten her blue badge. Alan Hunt said he would speak to them about it.

The meeting finished at 3:30 PM.

Next meeting:

Thursday 14th July 2016 at 1.30pm, County Hall.