

Access Group Meeting Thursday 8th September 2016

Present - at the meeting:

Alan Hunt, Beryl Thomas-Cleaver, Bill Cleevely, Margaret Baron, Eva Rich, Annette Peter, Jessica Hatchett, Ian Hatchett, Alan Thomas, Rex Codd, Simon Hancock, Stuart Merrit and Jeremy De Wilton

Apologies - couldn't come to the meeting:

Henry Langen, Marion Pope, Liz Cartwright

Minutes of the last meeting

- a. The minutes of the last meeting were signed and agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

- a. The council is not a two ticks employer for disabled people. The access group is going to write and ask why this is not the case.
- b. Alan has visited the boardwalk at Broad Haven. There are large gaps between the boards which could trap wheelchairs and walking aids, which makes it unsuitable for all disabled people.
- c. The group will write to County Show organisers to let them know about their concerns that show tickets can only be booked online. It was felt that if large newspaper advertisements included a telephone number, you should be able to book tickets over the phone.

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- a. The bank account balance is £1183.

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- b. Email from Disability News Service about the government's response to a major House of Lords inquiry into the impact of the Equality Act on disabled people. The government appears to have accepted just eight of the 55 recommendations. Baroness Jane Campbell who was a member of the House of Lords Committee said she was angry and bitterly disappointed.
- c. Email Hatti Woakes forwarded by from Ceri Rees of Pembrokeshire Councils Transport section suggesting that providing parking for mobility scooters near shops might be helpful for people with mobility problems.
- d. Email from Vin West (Access Association Wales Secretary) about

an inquiry taking place by the House of Commons Women & Equality Committee called Disability and the Built Environment. The Committee is calling for evidence and you can have your say by visiting this website: <http://tinyurl.com/j3krr56> .

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- a. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 10th November. Nominations for officers should be given at the October meeting.

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- c. Jessica will be completing another quarterly return form at the end of this month which will cover July, August and September. She will bring it to the next sub group meeting on 6th October for the group to look over. It must be completed by 14th October.
- d. The sub-group met with Karen Davies who is the council's Project Manager for Day Opportunities, Welfare Benefits Advisor and manages Norman Industries. Karen was very informative about employment issues for disabled people and can help disabled people access suitable training. She told us about The Workways+ Project which will be launched with an open day on Monday, September 26, at 19 Old Bridge, Haverfordwest, SA61 2EZ (the old tourist information centre).
- e. Claire George from the council attended the sub-group meeting to tell us about the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and a survey the council is doing to find out what you think is good about living in Pembrokeshire. Copies of the survey are widely available in several formats including an online survey at <http://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=146653035198>

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- b. Alan reported about a woman who was refused entry into Croydon’s only disability assessment centre because wheelchair users are not allowed to use the lifts under their health and safety rules. In a discussion which followed it was mentioned that the DVLA test centre in Haverfordwest was on an upper floor with no lift for people with reduced mobility. It was agreed that we should write to DVLA about this.
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- b. The Access Group will invite the police commissioner to attend the day. The group discussed the possibility of a stand at an Older Person's Day event on Friday 7th October at Tenby Leisure Centre. Jessica will attend. Ian will look into the price of a banner. Alan will bring a beach wheelchair.
- c. Jessica will be completing another quarterly return form at the end of this month which will cover July, August and September. She will bring it to the next sub group meeting on 6th October for the group to look over. It must be completed by 14th October.
- d. The sub-group met with Karen Davies who is the council's Project Manager for Day Opportunities, Welfare Benefits Advisor and manages Norman Industries. Karen was very informative about employment issues for disabled people and can help disabled people access suitable training. She told us about The Workways+ Project which will be launched with an open day on Monday, September 26, at 19 Old Bridge, Haverfordwest, SA61 2EZ (the old tourist information centre).
- e. Claire George from the council attended the sub-group meeting to tell us about the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and a survey the council is doing to find out what you think is good about living in Pembrokeshire. Copies of the survey are widely available in several formats including an online survey at <http://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=146653035198>

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The report was read out to us by Jeremy.

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Chairman’s Report

- a. There was no report this month.

Access Officer’s Report

- b. Alan reported about a woman who was refused entry into Croydon’s only disability assessment centre because wheelchair users are not allowed to use the lifts under their health and safety rules. In a discussion which followed it was mentioned that the DVLA test centre in Haverfordwest was on an upper floor with no lift for people with reduced mobility. It was agreed that we should write to DVLA about this.
- c. Alan attended the Pembrokeshire Greenways meeting in June and told them about the work of the Access Group. It was agreed that the Pembrokeshire Passport would be given out when people applied for a disabled bus passes.
- d. Alan is meeting with Chris King of the RNIB to talk about access in Tenby.

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Meeting ended: 3.45pm

Next meeting: 13 October 1.30pm

Access Group Meeting Thursday 8th September 2016

Present - at the meeting:

Alan Hunt, Beryl Thomas-Cleaver, Bill Cleevely, Margaret Baron, Eva Rich, Annette Peter, Jessica Hatchett, Ian Hatchett, Alan Thomas, Rex Codd, Simon Hancock, Stuart Merrit and Jeremy De Wilton

Apologies - couldn't come to the meeting:

Henry Langen, Marion Pope, Liz Cartwright

Minutes of the last meeting

- a. The minutes of the last meeting were signed and agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

- a. The council is not a two ticks employer for disabled people. The access group is going to write and ask why this is not the case.
- b. Alan has visited the boardwalk at Broad Haven. There are large gaps between the boards which could trap wheelchairs and walking aids, which makes it unsuitable for all disabled people.
- c. The group will write to County Show organisers to let them know about their concerns that show tickets can only be booked online. It was felt that if large newspaper advertisements included a telephone number, you should be able to book tickets over the phone.

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

- a. The bank account balance is £1183.

Correspondence (any information received since the last meeting)

- a. Email from Rachel Gibby about the Older Person's Day event. See item 2 under Community Voice below.
- b. Email from Disability News Service about the government's response to a major House of Lords inquiry into the impact of the Equality Act on disabled people. The government appears to have accepted just eight of the 55 recommendations. Baroness Jane Campbell who was a member of the House of Lords Committee said she was angry and bitterly disappointed.
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