

Access Group Meeting

Thursday 13th October 2016 - 1:30pm until 4pm, Room ODM1, County Hall

Present: Alan Hunt, Beryl Thomas- Cleaver, Jessica Hatchett, Ian Hatchett, Marilyn Pope, Eva Rich, Bill Cleevely, Frank, Mark Phillips, Karen Chandler, Stuart and Jeremy.

Apologies: Alan Thomas, Annette Peter, Rex Codd, Margaret Baron, Terry Mills.

Matters Arising

a) Alan will write to Pembrokeshire County Council to ask why the council is not a two ticks employer. The letter will be written on behalf of the group.

b) Alan will also write to County Show organisers asking why it is not possible to book tickets over the telephone. Not everybody has internet access and not everybody can get to premises where tickets are sold.

c) Beryl asked for pavement parking leaflets when they are available to give to Portfield School council. She told the group that the pupils had a very difficult experience recently and Beryl feels that the leaflets may help the situation. She does not want a repeat experience as pupils were left shaken and upset. Ian said he can arrange for a box to be delivered straight to the school if this is easier. Frank said that Scout groups are apparently taking photos of cars parking on pavements. He is worried that, apart from this not being considered sufficient evidence, children will get hurt. The group will invite police officers and Pembrokeshire County Council transport department representatives to a meeting in the New Year.

Alan Hunt has received an email from Janice Powers of Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition for Action who have met with Carmarthenshire's Parking Services Manager and Dyfed Powys Police Neighbourhood Development section to discuss pavement parking. They jointly plan to run a campaign in targeted hotspots to try and stop pavement parking.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance is £1,138.74.

Correspondence

- a) Bevan Commission with information on how to become a Bevan Advocate.
- b) Disability Wales AGM information about their AGM in Wrexham on 19th October.
- c) Disability Wales (DW) newsletter
- d) Disability Wales with information about a job opportunity at DW for a Policy & Research Officer
- e) Dyfed-Powys Police with information on how to report hate crime. It was noted that Pembrokeshire People First are a third party reporting centre and that this wasn't included in the information from the police. Alan will get back to them about this.
- f) Vanessa Walker from Theatr Gwaun emailed to thank the Group for supporting their funding bid to improve access at Theatre Gwaun.

Young Voices for Choices Transport Project

Young Voices for Choices forum has been carrying out a transport project during the summer and will finish their travels at the beginning of October. They are starting to look at the information they have gathered and are looking for case studies from people who use or have used public transport.

They want to know if Access Group members of people we know can help them. The project is not just for young people but for everyone who uses public transport and they need some stories from disabled people about their experience of using the bus or the train.

They just need a few lines or a phone call from people with information such as:-

- Which type of transport was used
- Which route and if possible the route number and or the time of the journey
- What sort of experience you had. This could be good or bad and could include information about the driver, other passengers, was the transport on time or not, in fact anything you think is worth mentioning.

Jessica said she would get back to Young Voices about her recent experiences using the bus.

Contact details for Young Voices are:-

judith.mcnamara@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Tel 01437 775570 or 07769 934501

nadine.farmer@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Tel 01437 775295 or 07795 612917

We will write to the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) about there only being one wheelchair space on a bus.

Plan the AGM

The AGM will be held on Thursday 10th November. Beryl proposed the Henry Langen be honoured with the title of President. Bill Cleevely has been treasurer for 16 years, but he announced his intention to leave the post at the AGM. The following nominations were received:

- Beryl Thomas- Cleaver – Chairman
- Annette Peter – Chairman or vice chairman
- Margaret Baron – Secretary
- Ian Hatchett – Treasurer
- Jessica Hatchett – Press and publicity
- Eva Rich and Annette Peter – Visual Impairment representatives
- Marilyn Pope - Hearing impairment representative
- Stuart and Jeremy – learning disability representatives (new posts)

Community Voice Project, Conference and Website

- a) The deadline for the PAVS quarterly return form is the 14th October. At the sub group meeting, Jessica ran through some of the important questions on the quarterly return form and explained what answers she had already noted down. The group made suggestions regarding the outcomes section and Jessica noted these down to add in. The group has requested money for the next quarter and estimated costs for advertising, wages and other expenses.
- b) Jessica will finish completing the form and submit it via email. A post copy will follow.

- c) Ian brought his laptop and could show the progress on the Big Access Talk website. It is going well and the group gave some feedback. The deposit for Jamie Owen to speak at the event has been paid.
- d) Alan asked the Group what the objectives are for the proposed training of council (PCC) staff. After discussion it was confirmed as follows:-
 - a. That it is not just about disabled people having a voice it is also about making sure that PCC staff are actually hearing what is being said. It is unfortunately the case that all too often people are not hearing.
 - b. To help PCC staff comply with
 - i. Wellbeing of Future Generations Act
 - ii. Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act
 - iii. Equality Act 2010
 - iv. Human Rights Act

Training of bus drivers was also discussed and it was suggested that perhaps PPF could become accredited trainers to train bus drivers when they take their Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC). Drivers have to do this every 5 years and PCC Transport Section have said they would try and make disability awareness training a compulsory element of the CPC I Pembrokeshire.

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

Ian Eynon does not feel that we need to have a Service Level Agreement in place. He proposed we had £500 to cover transport costs and we could then request further funds when needed. Bill pointed out that the Access Group accounts contained substantially more funding this time last year. He will send Alan some figures.

Marilyn left the meeting at 14:35

Pembrokeshire People First Report

Jeremy read out the report as follows:-

- a) Our Autism self advocacy group is going strong, preparing to take

part in the Haverfordwest Lantern procession. It has also applied to be part of Learning Disability Wales' training project about raising awareness of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Disabled People.

- b) The Film and gaming clubs are still going - although they have no funding.
- c) Young Tudor project is a project for 14-18 year olds with autism. They are hoping to start making a film with the support of one of our film club members.
- d) Money is a real problem. Several of our grants are coming to an end. Staff are working flat out to try and get more grants in, but these are difficult times.
- e) We're really pleased that James Tyler has been appointed a member of the West Wales Regional Partnership Board. This is an important group that decides health and social care priorities throughout our region.
- f) The Pembrokeshire Learning Disability Strategy should go out for consultation soon - after quite a delay. We will be very involved in looking at it.
- g) We have members on the Easy Read sub group of our local partnership Board, and are working hard to explain what works for us.
- h) Finally, we are preparing for Elections - for members who become trustees of PPF and also for our All Wales people First National Council rep. Our AGM will be in Johnston at 1.00 on Thursday 24th November – and everyone is welcome.

PPF is to look at our new websites to make sure they are easy read.

www.accessiblepembrokeshire.com

www.bigaccesstalk.com

Karen left the meeting at 15:30

Chairman's Report

There was no chairman's report this month.

Access Officer's Report.

Included in items above.

Any Other Business (any other things that need to be talked about)

a) Mark Phillips was back at the meeting. He works for Diverse Cymru, which have taken over from the Rowan organisation in helping service users to manage direct payments across Pembrokeshire. It is hoped he can attend Access Group meetings and/or sub group meetings as part of his job.

b) Alan, Jessica and Ian attended the Older Persons Wellbeing event at Tenby Leisure Centre on Friday 7th October. They had a stand and a beach wheelchair on display. The stand showcased the Big Access Talk and had nomination forms for the awards. There was also information on services such as the Pembrokeshire Passport.

c) Jessica has started working part time for Dewis Centre for Independent Living in Milford Haven as an Advocacy Group Facilitator. She wants to assure the group that this work will not interfere with her Access Group/Community Voice meetings and work.

d) Jessica raised the issue of Argyle Medical Group closing St Clement's Surgery in Neyland and St Oswald's Surgery in Pembroke in the afternoons due to staff shortages. She feels it was difficult enough to get an appointment when the surgeries were open all day, and that these closures do not help people who live in Neyland and Pembroke, as they may not have transport to travel to Pembroke Dock for an afternoon appointment if they need one. She asked permission to draft a letter on behalf of the group, as she feels a letter from the group as a whole - rather than herself as an individual - will be more effective. She will liaise with Alan before the next meeting.

Meeting ended at 4:00pm

Next meeting is at 2pm on 10th November after the AGM which starts at 1:30pm.