

MINUTES OF THE PEMBROKESHIRE ACCESS GROUP MEETING
HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2016

At The Meeting: Alan Hunt, Eva Rich, Bill Clevelly, Beryl Thomas-Cleaver, Henry Langen, Margaret Baron, Liz Cartwright, Jessica Hatchett, Jenifer Barfoot, Stuart Jeremy and Frank.

Apologies from anyone who couldn't come to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Terry Mills, Rex Codd, Alan Thomas, Annette Peter, Ian Hatchett, Mark Phillips, Simon Hancock.

MEETING

Beryl suggested that Henry open the meeting.

1. Train Training, an all age approach – Jenifer Barfoot.

Jenifer went through her presentation which she is also presenting in Pembrokeshire schools.

The information was sponsored by Great Western Railway Company.

The advice was to try and travel off peak if possible to avoid crowding and get cheaper tickets.

Jennifer told us about the dangers of not observing safety information for instance ignoring warnings and signs at level crossings.

Anyone can book assistance in advance for things such ramps and unloading luggage to make the journey easier.

Everyone's train experiences are different, some good and some bad, and sometimes you have to disembark to buses or taxis if there are problems with the train or on the tracks.

Some discussion took place and Frank told us he had to go down a stoney slope to the road and then up the other side to get to the platform at Machynlleth Station and when he went to the disabled toilet it was being used to store bottled water.

Henry questioned the independence of the information being presented because it was sponsored by a rail company.

Jenifer was thanked for her informative presentation.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising (things people would like to talk about from the last meeting).

- a. Alan Hunt wrote to Mark Woolgar about Pembrokeshire County Council not signing up to the Two Ticks Employers Scheme. He has asked if the council would think about signing up to the new scheme which has replaced it. Jessica said the reply Alan received sends out the wrong message and Beryl said it was a disgrace. Alan is going to write and ask what criteria they could not sign up to and ask when they might be able to think about using the new

scheme. Alan will copy Simon Hancock into the next letter.

- b. County Show – Alan got back in touch with County Show about not being able to buy tickets by phone. They have said again that this is not something they can do.

4. Correspondence (any information received since the last meeting)

- a. Alan Thomas said it will hopefully soon be illegal to charge disabled more for taxis than non-disabled people.
- b. Email from the council about a new Bus Survey. The council wants everyone to be able to have a say about what bus services in the future might be like. Questionnaires are available at leisure centres, tourist information centres and libraries as well as on the council website.

5. Community Voice Project

- a. adverts – Jessica has had replies from various newspapers about prices, so we can let people know what the Group does and also what has been done and to publicise the conference next year.
- b. Alan told us about AXSmap which is an app we can use to rate the accessibility of a business. Everyone is urged to use as it could really help disabled people find out about tourism venues. The website is www.axsmap.com and the app is available for mobile phones.
- c. Alan is to circulate the dates for the Access Audit Training. The dates for the two courses are : Jan 24th and 25th 2017 and Feb 7th and 8th.

1. Any other business

- a. Beryl told Pembrokeshire People First that she will bring their report up the agenda to item 5 or 6.

The next Pembrokeshire Access Group meeting will be held on 8th December 2016 at 1.30pm.

The meeting closed at 3.55pm.