

Pembrokeshire Access Group - Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday 9th February 2017

Time: 1:30pm

Room: 0DM1, County Hall.

At the meeting - Frank Heasman, Bill Cleevly, Jessica Hatchett, Eva Rich, Alan Hunt, Ian Hatchett, Cllr Simon Hancock, Beryl Thomas-Cleaver, Jeremy De Wilton, Stuart Merrit, Christine Bergstrom.

Apologies (those who could not attend) Liz Cartwright, Margaret Baron, Rex Codd, Rachel Knight (Customer Liaison Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council), Judith McNamara, Alan Thomas, Rhian Evans (Hywel Dda), Henry Langen.

Welcome

1. Beryl welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves to Christine Bergstrom.

Christine Bergstrom – Jobcentre Plus

1. Christine is the disability employment advisor at the Job Centres in Haverfordwest and Milford Haven. Her role is to make sure that disabled people have access to work opportunities.
2. Beryl asked how easy it was for disabled people to get employment. Christine told us about a government green paper asking how disabled people feel about getting employment and any barriers which people have.
3. There is still an Access to Work Fund available to help disabled people into work. Part time work is also included. People need to apply to the fund within 5 weeks of going to work and the money can be used to things like taxi fares and adaptations.
4. Christine mentioned the Disability Confident scheme which has replaced the old Two Ticks scheme. Christine said that the council had not signed up to the scheme.
5. It was decided to write to the council again to see if they would sign up to the Disability Confident Scheme. **Action – Alan Hunt.**

Minutes of the last meeting.

1. Bill noticed that there were two errors in last month's minutes.
2. Under Correspondence item 1 it was recorded that the Group's income had exceeded £10,000 for the period 2015 – 2016. This is incorrect but will apply for the next accounting period 2016 – 2017.
3. It was incorrectly recorded in the Treasurer's Report item 2 that the grant from Pembrokeshire County Council was £400. This should be £600.
4. The minutes of the January meeting will be amended accordingly and re-issued. **Action – Alan Hunt.**

5. The minutes were then approved. Proposed by Frank and seconded by Bill.

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

1. Alan contacted Angela Miles who also attended the disability outdoor pursuits event at Haverfordwest Leisure Centre to try and find out what the reported issue was with hiring out the beach wheelchairs. Angela did not know who had reported the issue so it was decided that Alan should contact Paul Renfro who organised the event to see if he knew who had raised the problem. **Action – Alan Hunt.**
2. The issue which Eva had raised about the condition of the path leading from Westfield Road, Saundersfoot into the village has been reported to the council by Alan. The council has said that the path will be inspected and any defects put right.
3. PAVS does not have a list of auditors which we can use to look at our accounts and does not think we need to get them audited unless our Constitution says so. We can get them checked by an Independent Examiner though if we want to. Beryl said that we should get the accounts checked. **Action – Henry Langen.**
4. Alan has found out that Narberth Town Council has taken out a long lease for the Library building and it is their responsibility for any building maintenance costs and repairs. Alan is therefore not able to help from his budgets. After discussion it was thought a pity that Narberth Town Council did not consider disabled access before signing the lease especially since one of their members is a wheelchair user.
5. Alan contacted Anthony Richards about the Google map of the coast path. Anthony will attend a meeting as soon as the map goes live on the internet to give us a presentation.
6. Cllr Simon Hancock reported that Neyland Town Council has plans to sell their existing office building and invest in a new community centre where the council will meet. The new building will be fully accessible to disabled people.
7. Eva said that she had contacted the Bus Buddies and found out how they might be able to help her in the future.

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

1. The amount of money in the bank is £1,599.38.
2. PAVS uses the Unity Trust Bank and it was decided to see if this bank would be suitable for the Group.
3. Henry was not able to attend the meeting so we do not know if the bank account has been moved yet. We also need to know if the public liability insurance has been paid and if Henry has found out the cost of getting professional indemnity insurance to cover access audits.
4. Alan and Ian were given plenary powers to help Henry with moving banks and sorting the insurances if Henry is indisposed.
5. Alan has received a remittance advice from the council confirming

payment to the Group of £304.14 to cover the cost of reprinting the flush kerbs flyer and the blue badge parking bay flyer. Alan also has the official order from the Group covering this item. Alan will deliver these to Henry. **Action – Alan Hunt.**

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

1. The latest newsletter has been received from Disability Wales. Alan will circulate this with the minutes. **Action – Alan Hunt.**
Alan has emailed Rhiannon Hicks of Disability Wales and will invite her to attend a future meeting to discuss the Enabling Wales Toolkit and how we can get involved in setting up a centre for independent living. **Action – Alan Hunt.**
2. An email from Jim Bowen at Clynfyw about an event they have organised at Theatr Mwldan for Inclusive Tourism. Jim was asking if the Group would like a stand at the event and if we know of any BSL interpreters. We will send him contact details of Tony Evans who has delivered BSL services to us in the past. **Action – Alan Hunt.**
3. Survey received from Disability Wales about a Department for Works and Pensions Green Paper called “Improving Lives: Work, Health and Disability”. Alan circulated the link to the Group’s mailing list last week and also completed the survey. Jessica attended an event held by Disability Wales on this in Merthyr and has also completed the survey.
4. Email from Gareth Morgan, Hywel Dda University Health Trust about the Sensory Loss Standards Implementation Group. They particularly want service users to attend these meetings and Alan has circulated the request to the Group’s mailing list. Anyone who would like to be involved in this important work should contact Gareth Morgan gareth.p.morgan@wales.nhs.uk .

Pembrokeshire People First.

1. Jeremy read out the report.
2. Alan commented on the training which was being set up by the Access Group for PPF to deliver to the Council, the police and the NHS Health Trust.
Dates have been published and we are awaiting the service providers to sign up. There will be 8 dates provisionally with a maximum number of people in each course of 10. The dates are spread over July, August and September.

Community Voice Project, Conference and Website.

1. Jessica has completed the quarterly return and sent it to PAVS. Funds have been included to cover the cost of the Big Access Talk. The numbers confirmed by PAVS are as follows:
Received to date from Big Lottery via PAVS = £13238.25.
Spent to date = £6803.83.
Estimated next claim = £18256 less £6434.42.
So total top-up amount = £11822.

(please note any difference between calculations is due to roundings in the Big Lottery Spreadsheet)

2. It was agreed that the quote as follows from Tony Evans for BSL and Palantypist services should be accepted for the Big Access Talk conference.
2 x BSL interpreters. Full day fee "250 each inclusive of travel.
2 x Palantypists. Full day fee £280 each plus travel at £81 each.
So £500 for interpreters + £560 for Palantypists + £162 travel for palantypists. We will also pay for a draft transcript at £40.
3. It was agreed that we should hire the Mobiloo mobile Changing Places toilet for the event. This will cost £300 + VAT for the day and includes an attendant to keep it clean and operate the lift.
4. Eva asked for copies of the Big Access Awards nomination forms and the conference booking forms. Alan will email them to Eva and bring copies to the March meeting for members to fill out. **Action – Alan Hunt.**
5. Ian is working with the Learning Disability Partnership Board to develop the InclusivePembrokeshire website. This is an excellent collaboration and demonstrates effective co-production and engagement. Ian will show us the website at the next meeting and has asked that the projector is booked. **Action – Alan Hunt.**
6. Alan has received a quote from Magnum PA for all the electronics, staging and sound for the conference amounting to £4784.95. Alan is meeting them tomorrow to go through the quote. Alan will also get more quotes if necessary as a comparison. **Action – Alan Hunt.**
7. Alan has sent the conference booking form and the awards nomination form to the council's Contact Centre who will post both out upon request.
8. Next Sub-Group Meeting will be on 2nd March in room 0BM1 at County Hall.

Chairman's Report.

1. There was no report.

Access Officer's Report.

1. Some matters were covered elsewhere in the agenda.
2. Alan has received a message from a resident in Milford Haven about the difficulties in accessing the Manchester Square doctors surgery. There are not enough wheelchair accessible parking spaces and the main doors are so heavy he can hardly open them. It was decided to write to the surgery and the Health Trust on this matter. **Action – Alan Hunt.**
3. Alan is going to attend a training session at Portfield Lower School about the council's wheelchair passport. The passport is designed to help vehicle drivers by letting them know the anchor points, weight limits and seat belt fitting options for each customer's wheelchair. This information is then recorded in a wallet and kept with the wheelchair.
4. Alan has received a complaint from a blind resident who is concerned

that the bin men abandon the food waste bins, once emptied, anywhere in the middle of the footway. Alan has written to the people at the council dealing with rubbish collections advising them to tell the operators to put the bins at the back of the footway or somewhere where people can't trip over them. Alan is awaiting a response but will chase them up if no response is received within a week. It was agreed that the waste collection service was generally excellent but that this issue should be put right. **Action – Alan Hunt.**

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

1. Jessica raised an issue about the lack of flush kerbs and signage at Narberth Crematorium. Alan has plans to provide more flush kerbs here and these should hopefully be in place before the end of the financial year. Alan will also look at signage and see what can be done to improve things. **Action – Alan Hunt.**
2. Ian raised an issue with the public toilet facilities in the county which now have to be paid for. There is no provision for blind and partially sighted people to use the pay machines or negotiate the turnstiles. Alan has raised this issue with Tracy Martin-Smith who is pursuing this with the Wales Council for Blind People. Alan was asked to raise this with the council. **Action – Alan Hunt.**

Meeting ended at 4pm

Next meeting – 9th March, room 0DM1, County Hall.