

## **Pembrokeshire Access Group – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Present:** Beryl Thomas-Cleaver, Alan Hunt, Ian Hatchett, Jessica Hatchett, Margaret Baron, Reg Owens, Simon Hancock, Eva Rich, Annette Peter, Bill Clevely, Melanie Hayes, Liz Cartright, Anthony Richards.

**Apologies:** Frank Heasman, Marilyn Pope, Rex Codd, Maisie Jakeway, Alyson Cooke, Alan Thomas, Karen Chandler, Stuart Merritt, Jeremy De Wilton.

The minutes of the last meeting were signed by Beryl Thomas-Cleaver. Margaret Baron proposed these were an accurate record and Annette Peter seconded.

### **1. Matters Arising**

- a) Susan told members of the Access Group that she was hit in her wheelchair on Quay Street recently.
- b) Anthony Richards is coming to the meeting later and talking about the Pembrokeshire Local Access Forum. He can accept one name and the chairman and vice-chairman have decided that this will be Frank Heasman. However, the group has decided that it is a reasonable adjustment to have Susan Cook in place as a backup, particularly in the instance of illness.
- c) Margaret highlighted an issue with a dropped kerb in Picton Place.

### **2. Treasurer's Report**

- a) The current account balance is £1384.62. A £598 donation from the National Park Authority will be added on to the balance. Anthony Richards said a new beach wheelchair has been placed at Freshwater East. Anthony said that the feedback on the beach wheelchairs is absolutely fantastic and people have been very impressed with having the choice. The £598 in donations has come from visitors to Haven Sports Ltd in Broad Haven. Ian suggested writing to all businesses that host the wheelchairs to show that it is appreciated. The group will write to say thank you.
- b) Charity Commission/gift aid.  
National Register of Access Consultants - £30 renewal paid.  
Change of member details on the charity commission website have been made by Alan.  
HMRC details for gift aid need to be changed – Alan will go to see Margaret at Kensington Court to go through this and update it. The group agreed to this. This will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

### **3. Memorial for Henry Langen**

- a) Alan has spoken to Henry's partner and Narberth Town Council. There is a bench in Narberth's St Andrew's Churchyard that is in poor condition that we would like to replace. Henry campaigned to have access in Narberth

Churchyard improved so this would perhaps be appropriate. The group approves of the location but the area would need to be tidied and improved. Because the bench is on church grounds, the council may not actually be responsible for maintaining the grounds. The group will find out who is responsible for this and write to them. We can look at alternative locations and make a decision soon.

b) Reg Owens suggested a concert in the Queens Hall in Narberth in Henry's name may be a possibility. The group will look into this as a way of raising money for the bench. Span Arts could be involved.

#### **4. Correspondence**

a) Alyson Cooke has written to Alan to say that she is no longer able to attend the group, citing health reasons as her reason for not wishing to attend. The group will write a letter to Alyson to ask her to consider attending, even if not on a regular basis. The whole committee unanimously agreed to this. Susan suggested that we send Alyson the minutes and agenda so that she can raise any points she wishes to raise. A letter will be sent in the post.

*\*Sadly, since the meeting, the group has heard that Alyson passed away a few days after our last meeting. Members are shocked and saddened by this news.*

b) An email from Debbie Johnson has outlined a new project called 'Take Me Too'. It looks at evening and weekend transport, and particularly lift sharing. Melanie Hayes from Shine Cymru says that transport is the biggest issue for members across Wales. If you need accessible transport at the same time as school runs, it is virtually impossible. Melanie has taken Debbie's contact details. Susan raised the issue of struggling to be able to get her own vehicle through the Motability scheme. There are difficulties in proving that public transport is not always the best option for disabled service users. Alan will circulate the list of current accessible taxi providers with the minutes. Susan has been working with Charlotte Mathias from the licensing department on disability awareness training for drivers. This would go alongside safeguarding training. Beryl suggested that Charlotte Mathias be invited to a meeting in the new year.

c) Rachel Gibby has contacted the Group with information on the Welsh Governments consultation on maintaining free bus travel for older people, disabled people and injured service veterans – Alan to circulate with minutes.

#### **5. Community Voice**

a) The next quarterly return must be with PAVS on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Jessica will submit this. The quarterly return will need to include the Access Audit training costs in November (including catering) and possible further training with PPF.

b) Jessica talked about making use of Local Giving until the free membership

ends on November 16th. If we can raise £200 before then we will receive £200 of match funding. There is also a campaign called Grow Your Tenner, which will allow donors to support their favourite Localgiving charity or community group by either making a one-time donation that will be matched by up to £10, or by setting up a monthly donation and after the first six donations, the following six donations will be matched up to £10. Jessica will promote this campaign and arrange membership renewal.

c) Alan will look at dates for the Tenby Museum walk and talk audit.

d) The Red Target contract was looked at and signed.

e) Another CIL meeting is being held at Pembrokeshire Archives on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October from 2pm to 4pm.

f) Beryl and Alan attended Bluestone to formally present their access award and a nice write up has gone in the Western Telegraph. This prompted a discussion on the awards criteria. Susan and Reg brought up access to the Bristol Trader and other premises that have been awarded the Big Access Awards in May. It was suggested that the group could write a sort of 'reminder letter' giving congratulations to the award recipients and providing them with a check-list for access.

## **6. AGM Reminder**

The AGM will take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November. The AGM minutes from last year will be circulated, along with any relevant policies such as the constitution.

## **7. PPF**

There was no PPF report, as members were not present. Karen Davies came to talk briefly about the four aspects of the Learning Disability strategy. These are: 1. Communication, 2. Housing, 3. Social Care and Health, 4. Education, training, employment, transport and direct payments. The strategy can be viewed on the Pembrokeshire County Council website. Karen has suggested an Access Group member sits on the LDPB and/or subgroups. This can be discussed at the AGM.

## **8. AOB**

a) The group understands that PPF podcast that was mentioned at the previous meeting is no longer going ahead.

b) The poor condition of the lane near where Eva lives has still not been improved as promised by the council. Alan will chase it up.

c) Anthony Richards, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park explained that there were a very small number of locations missing on the Google Street View, Coast Path map.