

MINUTES OF THE PEMBROKESHIRE ACCESS GROUP MEETING

Thursday 9th November at 2.10pm

Present:

Beryl Thomas-Cleaver	Alan Hunt
Margaret Baron	Karen Chandler
Stuart Merritt	Jeremy De Wilton
Helen Rice	Maggie Kirby
Peter Russ	Alan Thomas
Annette Peter	Eva Rich
Bill Cleevely	Jessica Hatchett
Rex Codd	Ian Hatchett
Frank Heasman	Susan Cook
Liz Cartwright	

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Maisie Jakeway, Simon Hancock, Reg Owens and Marilyn Pope.

Matters arising

- a) Susan Cook's name was missed off the previous minutes as being present. Jessica apologised.
- b) Margaret talked in more detail about the difficulties with the pavement/kerb in Picton Place (opposite Iceland) for wheelchair users. It can be very unsafe. Alan will look at this, as the raised kerb is also an issue for bus drivers.
- c) The Coastal Meeting is on the 8th December and Frank is a representative, Susan Cook is a back-up.
- d) Susan mentioned difficulty finding accurate accessible taxi numbers. Jessica will get an up-to-date list from Charlotte Mathias in licensing.
- e) The Access Group would like to have a representative on the Learning Disability Partnership Board. PPF are members and James Tyler is the chairman. Jessica will write to James Tyler to ask if an Access Group member can join. We will wait to hear back.
- f) Eva commented that the promised work on the path near her house has not yet been started and that it is still very muddy. Alan said that he has been promised that the work will be carried out this financial year and that the timing will depend on the availability of the workforce and the weather.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance on the main Access Group account is £2,020.94. Out of a possible £50,000 in Community Voice funding, £39,445.90 has been spent. That leaves just over £10,000 to be spent between now and January. Jessica has arranged for Local Giving to be renewed after some successful donations. Alan will arrange for Eva's name to be given to HMRC in connection with gift aid.

Memorial for Henry

Henry's partner Yve was not keen on a concert through Span Arts for Henry. She did, however, suggest that she was willing to sell an old wheelchair of Henry's to help pay for a bench. The Group can then provide a suitably inscribed plaque.

We discussed some of the things which Henry had helped to improve, notably wheelchair access paths. Henry worked closely with the National Park and the council to improve paths for wheelchair users and was often recognised in the press for these achievements. One example was his involvement with the development of the multi user path between the Ironworks at Stepside and Wisemans Bridge.

Correspondence

- a) Pembroke Castle has contacted Alan about providing a raised area for wheelchair users. Jessica will send Alan links she has about accessible ticket booking and the Hynt Card (which can admit one essential companion for free).
- b) Jim Bowen – sent us a poster about upcoming Christmas events at Clynyfw.
- c) A Transport Action Group meeting will be held on Monday 27th November from 10:30am to 12:30pm at the Picton Centre. Owen Roberts will be talking about Pembrokeshire bus services and there will be the launch of the Getting There videos and postcards.

Community Voice

- a) A CIL meeting was held on October 31st.
- b) Annette and Alan will be meeting with Alan Wilkinson soon to talk about how to spend the remaining funding.
- c) Red Target has spent a lot of time recently getting all of the project paperwork up to date and organised.
- d) There will be another meeting in January.
- e) Maggie and Helen talked about the possibility of using Pembrokeshire Housing's 'digivan' as part of the CIL startup.
- f) Access Audit training is being held at the end of November at Pembrokeshire Archives.
- g) Susan and Jessica will be looking into drafting a constitution for the CIL.
- h) Karen thanked the group for giving PPF the opportunity to lead learning disability and autism awareness training as part of our Community Voice project. The sessions were well attended by staff from the local health board and Dyfed-Powys Police. Unfortunately the take up from the County Council – in particular social care and contact centres – wasn't what we had hoped for. We will inform Linda Jones, the manager of the first contact team, about any future training we do before the project ends in January.

- i) Rex said he would like to see broader training available and Susan mentioned that she will be able to provide this sort of training in the future.
- j) Karen said that PPF could potentially hold more training in January.

PPF Report

- a) See attached

Changing Places toilets

- a) Jonathan Mills from Danfo says that Danfo is contracted to provide one changing places toilet for Pembrokeshire.
- b) Alan reported that Saundersfoot Harbour has funding to create a Marine Centre of Excellence and they are keen to include a Changing Places Toilet as part of the scheme. Alan has put them in touch with Danfo. Next year is 'year of the sea', so having a changing places toilet on Pembrokeshire's coast would be great publicity for any events that are planned.
- c) Another location which has been suggested by Danfo is in the toilet block at The Green Car Park in Tenby.
- d) Pros and cons:-
 - a. Tenby has the Harriet Davies Trust house.
 - b. Saundersfoot has less public transport.
 - c. The Hoist in a changing places toilet in Saundersfoot could be used to help people transfer to a beach wheelchair.
- e) Alan asked the Group if we had a preferred location and it was decided that both would be good. It would also be good if the council could promote / recommend / insist on the installation of Changing Places toilets in any major new developments. EG the proposed cinema complex in Haverfordwest.
- f) Frank talked about the issues accessing shops and cafes.
- g) Goodwick was suggested as another possible location, due to new developments / proposed harbour. The old Watersports Centre owned by PCC might be ideal.
- h) One north/one south?

Alan Hunt said that Saundersfoot Harbour management has a refreshingly positive attitude towards disability access.

AOB

- a) Jessica asked Annette and Eva how members can get their attention if they have an issue they want to discuss. Everyone should put their hands up and be polite. Whoever sits next to Annette and Eva will let them know who has their hands up.
- b) It is international day of disabled people on December 3rd. While the group doesn't have an event planned, we can promote it on social media.

- c) Jessica held a care and support workshop at Kensington court on Friday 3rd November. She hopes to hold more of these in future with different groups.
- d) Disability Wales has announced nominations for its Embolden Ambassadors. The nominated women are deaf or disabled women in Wales who are breaking stereotypes, achieving great things and creating positive change. Amy Barrett has received a nomination. There will be a workshop at the Picton Centre in Haverfordwest in January.
- e) Alan Thomas said Arriva Trains Wales has withdrawn its bid to continue running most of Wales' rail network from next year. An Arriva-owned company has run the franchise since 2003. There are three remaining bidders - Abellio, KeolisAmey and MTR. It will be very interesting to see who takes over and what this means for disabled passengers.
- f) Annette asked whether the Pembrokeshire Archives building would be a better location for meetings. The room at County Hall is getting rather full with the addition of new members. Maggie, Helen and Peter attended their first meeting this month and we hope they will come again.
- g) Disability campaigner Sir Bert Massie has died aged 68 of cancer. He played a key role in many of the changes that have improved daily life in the UK for people with disabilities. He was instrumental in securing the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.
- h) Susan raised the issue of the wooden decking outside the back of County Hall. Several members of the group have previously said this is an issue and is unsafe. Alan will raise it again with the council.
- i) St Johns Church lifts, Albany and accounts, progress Frans Nicholas?
- j) Jessica said she left school 16 years ago and was disappointed that attitudes towards disabled pupils and parents don't seem to have changed in that time. It was decided to add 'Education' to the next agenda and review the Education Authority's Access Strategy.