

Access Group Meeting 14-02 11 February 2010

1. Present

H Langen, Chairman	B Cleavelly, Treasurer	
Cllr C Cavill	A Tinnuche	A James
Cllr J Codd	E Rich	M Goodall
S Butler	M Bell	J Price
A Hunt		

2. Apologies

B Thomas-Cleaver, J McNamara, P Murphy - Secretary

3. Minutes of 14 January 2010

- a) Dyfed Powys Police Hate Crime Officer is available to attend a future meeting. An equality matters course is also on offer to the Group and would occupy a full meeting.
The CPS is to hold an event in Plas Hyfred, Narberth on hate crime on 23rd February at 10:00am. Henry is accepting numbers attending for the catering to be organised.
It was agreed the Equality Matters training to be at 1.00pm on Thursday 11 March in place of the next Group meeting.
- b) Disability Wales may be able to accept Reg Owen on the Board because of his membership of PIPPA. Henry indicated he must stand down from Disability Wales at the end of his six years membership and this would leave West Wales unrepresented unless R Owen can be appointed.
- c) Guide Dogs for the Blind campaign in respect of the use of Public Transport has had comment from N Ainger MP. This indicated no requirement for audio assistance on buses. Long term improvements have been included in legislation for new buses. The PSVAR have been questioned for correct interpretations as route and destination must be displayed. Audio visual equipment within buses could not be considered a safety hazard and would benefit all users.
It was agreed a letter from the Group be sent to local AM's and MP's. The matter would be raised at Disability Wales. **P Murphy**
- d) A Burns, AM, has agreed to attend the June 10th meeting.
- e) A press release on the last meeting was offered to local press and appeared in at least two local papers. A more detailed report could be considered in future submissions.
- f) Charging to Blue Badgeholders in Council car parks will take effect on 1st April 2010. An additional hour would be provided for the tariff in each charging car park.
- g) Pembrokeshire Greenways Bike Ability open day is to be held on Tuesday 16th in Haverfordwest. The Greenways Officer has made enquiry regarding the Group assisting with funding a regular event. The first taster day was not well attended

and an established call for a regular event needs to be made. Health and Wellbeing may be able to offer funding to a regular event.

It was felt appropriate in principle for the Group to provide future financial support in the form of purchasing a bike for loan to Bike Ability.

It was suggested the Group seek donations for use on miscellaneous projects such as this one.

Schools may be alternative sites to hold an event. Greenways are open to suggestions for venues.

4. Treasurers Report

The balance remains the same as reported previously.

5. Correspondence

1. PACTO meetings on 15th and 16th February were noted.
2. The Centre for Excellence is running a consultation.
3. Disability Wales is undertaking a survey on passenger travel by rail. M Goodall agreed to submit a reply. Access to the train at Narberth was not available to wheelchair users. This would be raised with British Rail. There was some information on funding for Station improvements. A local user group would be approached for information.
M Goodall
4. PAV's have a meeting on the Spatial Plan on 26th February at 10.30.
5. The TIC in Saundersfoot has requested the beach wheelchairs be serviced for the season. The ramp to the beach was reported as being difficult if not dangerous to use. Users are warned of this difficulty. PAV's are to acquire a smaller chair for youngsters. The £3 user charge should pay for the annual servicing. The Group own two chairs, National Park has six and St Dogmaels CC has one. The question of insurance for users was raised.
A Hunt
6. Vin West, Arvon Access Group from Torbay has raised the matter of a company offering advice on completing benefit claims. However, the service requires up to half the back claims achieved to be paid to the company. The matter to be passed to the Council for follow up.
7. Pembrokeshire Passport
Funding has been obtained for the wallet up to £3,810 from Health Challenge Pembrokeshire. Alternative quotations have been obtained from suppliers without Braille. Few local people read Braille and a local adaptation of a few passports was suggested.
The Pembrokeshire Contact Centre is prepared to issue the general wallets and the personalised ones with a Braille stick on. Marketing may be able to produce marketing material. PAV's can provide information on their newsletter on the availability of the passports.

Cllr. C Cavill left the meeting.

A mock up of the final wallet would be obtained from the lowest supplier. Black text on an orange background was agreed. Embossed labels to be obtained for any requested Braille versions.

M Bell left the meeting.

6. Disability Wales Issues

Henry has attended Board and other meetings during the last month. Fuel poverty was a topic discussed in the presence of AM's and PM's at a conference. A consultation is being run on muscular dystrophy, with a white paper to follow in March. Social Care in Care Homes is at green paper stage and was discussed at Ffos Llas racecourse. Peter Russ from Templeton is promoting an activity centre in Pembrokeshire for West Wales, with a priority for disabled users.

7. Access Officer Report

- a) A youth camp is being held at Bluestone over an eight day event. Europe wide youngsters will attend to share experiences. Local establishments offering wheelchair accessible facilities has been questioned. Up to 300 may attend.
- b) Pembrokeshire supplementary planning guidance on parking for new developments is being discussed. The effect on disabled purchasers of new property is a concern as the guidance indicates some new dwellings will have no associated parking provision.

8. Any Other Business

1. Logos for disabled parking has been requested by Saundersfoot Harbour Commissioners.
2. Wales Council for the Blind are proposing a merger of blind support and vision support. There is little activity west of Swansea and an amalgamation may strengthen the position.
3. Minutes of the Access Forum are available.
4. Hate Crime leaflets are available to report incidents.
5. Call for evidence from Social Services has been received.

Meeting finished at 4.20pm.