

Access Group Meeting 14-03 11 March 2010

1. Present

H Langen, Chairman	B Cleevely, Treasurer
Cllr J Codd	A James
B Thomas Cleaver	A Hunt
J Price	J McNamara

2. Apologies

E Rich, M Bell, M Goodall, A Tinnuche, Cllr C Cavill, S Butler, P Murphy – Secretary.

3. Minutes of 11 February 2010

- a) A successful Hate Crime conference was well attended. Press coverage followed in local papers. The Police have 52 officers trained in Wales. The hope is that training will extend to all police officers. Henry provided illustrations of poor treatment of persons with a disability.

It was understood that new trainee police officers do not receive disability training. Henry agreed to investigate this through Disability Wales. It was agreed to write to the Chief Constable seeking an assurance that training of existing and new officers is to be addressed and within what timescale. **A Hunt**

Some authorities are issuing cards to disabled persons. This is carried voluntarily and should assist in identifying needs. The card would carry a photograph and would confirm a disability. S Butler is to provide further information in due course.

Henry requested information on where bus passes were being refused and for what reasons.

Training videos may be available for the local bus companies.

- b) Charging for use of council car parks is set for implementation on 1st April. Detail of spaces and proximity of payment machines was to be raised at the next meeting.

The press report on charging was discussed. Checking of blue badges is now occurring in car parks.

- c) The reform of the blue badge scheme is to be raised with A Burns AM at the June meeting.

- d) The TIC at Saundersfoot has insurance cover for the hire of wheelchairs.

4. Treasurers Report

Income has accrued from the hire of wheelchairs. These monies will be used for the servicing of the beach wheelchairs. Monies have also been received for the acquisition of wallets.

5. Correspondence

- a) The County Council has received a complaint that the hearing loop on County Hall reception was not working.

- b) M Bell has reported that Charities can transfer funds if there is a common aim and objective held by each charity. Supporting bikeability would appear acceptable.
- c) National Assembly for Wales Equality of Opportunity Committee is seeking views on accessibility of railway stations. A survey of individual stations was discussed. Individual members would inspect various stations with feedback to the Access Officer.
- d) A database is being set up of Access Groups.
- e) Polling Stations are to be visited for the Election. Any concerns on polling stations to be reported to the Access Officer. The continued use of the closed Pentlepoir School was raised.

6. Access Officer Report

a) Pembrokeshire Passport

Further quotations have been obtained and the wallets may be obtained at 55p each with Braille included. A sample of the wallet to be brought to the next meeting with a launch considered at Plas Hyfryd, Narberth in May.

Visits to bus depots were considered together with approaching taxi firms through licensing.

The wallets can be obtained from the Contact Centre, with a database of recipients being set up.

A publicity banner to be considered for the launch.

- b) Press Releases have been issued to the press and are being run in local papers.

7. Disability Wales Issues

No matters were reported. The future agenda to be re-titled as Chairmans Report with an additional item for local matters of concern.

8. Any Other Business

- a) Wales Council for the Blind have a meeting to be attended by Cllr J Codd. Temporary obstruction by scaffolding could be made aware to pedestrians by the use of audible signals.
- b) Display of furniture for sale was reported on Dew Street opposite the Pig Bank.
- c) Pierce Murphy had an accident because of a missing gully grating requiring an increase in pain killers.

Meeting finished at 4.00pm.