

Access Group Meeting 14-04 8 April 2010

1. Present

H Langen, Chairman	P Murphy, Secretary
A James	J McNamara
Cllr J Codd	Cllr C Cavill
M Goodall	S Butler
A Hunt	J Price
E Rich	B Cleevely, Treasurer
M Bell	

2. Apologies

B Thomas Cleaver, A Tinnuche

3. Minutes of 11 March 2010

- a) Charging in car parks was discussed. It was disclosed that the Council has 86 car parks of which 30 have a charge for use whilst 56 remain free use. It was noted that there were other car park providers in the County who charge for the use of their car parks.

There are 6,663 spaces in the 86 car parks with 381 of those being marked as disabled user. This represents 6.06% of the spaces which is above the 6% target. 28 of the charging car parks have 245 disabled spaces out of the total provision of 4,310. This represents 6.5% of the spaces.

The location of machines and number of spaces for disabled users was discussed for the four charging car parks in Haverfordwest. Machines could be adjacent to a bay or up to 50 metres from the space.

In early April warning notices had been placed on blue badgeholders vehicles where a ticket had not been purchased. In respect of disabled bays it was noted that notices were on display in each parking space. Adequate warning to disabled users is being given.

- b) Identity Cards may be made available shortly.
- c) It was confirmed that a bus pass had been taken from a passenger and the pass destroyed. The lady is now not prepared to pursue travelling on buses. Drivers are not meant to confiscate passes. New buses have monitoring systems to establish heavy braking and other manoeuvres. The lady is based in Fishguard and it was agreed to be invited to the next meeting.

A Hunt

Training of bus drivers is provided to PCC employees. Private operators have their own training regimes. The content of training courses was questioned and the quality of the training providers. Five year refresher training is required for all commercial drivers.

- d) The Hate Crime conference had proved useful to the youngsters who attended. The local Chief Inspector has expressed disappointment in not being made aware of the conference. The Chief Constable has been asked to clarify what training is being given to Officers.

- e) Equality Matters Training is on offer to the Group. Dates in May were on offer with Tuesday 11 May 9.30 – 1.30 being agreed either in London Road or at County Hall.

A Hunt

4. Treasurers Report

A balance of £6,403.65 remains.

5. Correspondence

- a) Independent living now conference is to be held in Cardiff 10.45 – 16.00 28 April with attendance by H Langen and A Hunt.
- b) Cardiff and Vale Coalition of Disabled People has a programme of training on offer.
- c) Disability Wales Membership Programme has a series of events in various locations through Wales.
- d) Rhian Davies, Disability Wales, is undertaking a dissertation. She has requested an interview with Group members to discuss the work of the Group as part of her ongoing study project. It was agreed that the Access Officer and Secretary undertake the task.
- e) Disability Wales Independent Living Fund is to be restricted to people working more than 16 hours a week from 1st May.
- f) Questionnaire surveys of local railway stations have been completed for about half of the stations. This information has been submitted together with older data gathered by PCC officers. Further surveys were to be undertaken including the station at Carmarthen.

6. Pembrokeshire Passport

Translation of Pembrokeshire Passport has been agreed. The supplier has indicated the format of the graphics to add to the wallets. Alan has agreed to undertake this work for a sample passport to be produced during the next month.

A launch would take place following discussion with representatives of the bus companies and Arriva Trains at the next meeting. A launch on Tuesday 1 June at 2.00pm at Plas Hyfryd, Narberth was agreed.

S Butler left the meeting.

7. Press Releases

The Observer and Telegraph have been covering the Press Releases.

8. Chairman's Report

- a) The Narberth Council have expressed pleasure in the proposed widening of a footway on Spring Gardens, Narberth.
- b) A new footpath at Folly Farm has a discontinuity presumably through the inability to secure land. This was considered unsatisfactory.

9. Access Officers Report

- a) The Isle of Wight Council has acquired a beach wheelchair at a cost of about £7,000. The Chairman indicated disability items appear to be overpriced by suppliers.
- b) Guide Dogs for the Blind wish to raise awareness of issues in Narberth affecting blind residents. This would take the form of a walkabout on 19 April. Various County Councillors have been invited.
- c) An enquiry from Pembroke Dock has raised parking by non blue badge holders in disabled bays. An incident occurred in Dimond Street which would be a matter for the Police to enforce.
It was agreed to write to the Police requesting assistance in this matter. **A Hunt**
- d) Mobility Scooter Laws are to be modified. A consultation is ongoing until late May. M Bell agreed to examine the document.

M Bell left the meeting.

- e) Scooter Training is being considered by Snowdrop who has offered training to local owners.

P Murphy left the meeting.

- f) The agenda for Angela Burns needs to be finalised at the next meeting.

10. Any Other Business

The PACTO forward plan is to be reviewed at the end of April. Any matters to be raised with Martin Goodall.

Meeting finished at 4.07pm.

Next meeting Thursday 13 May 2010