

Access Group Meeting 14-05 13 May 2010

1. Present

H Langen, Chairman	B Thomas Cleaver
A James	Cllr S James
Cllr C Cavill	J Price
M Goodall	B Cleevely, Treasurer
A Hunt	M Bell
E Rich	

2. Apologies

A Tinnuche, P Murphy – Secretary, J McNamara

3. Minutes of 08 April 2010

- a) The proportion of disabled spaces in Councils car parks was corrected to 5.7% with the ratio in paying car parks at 6.16%.
- b) The question of the removal of a bus pass from a passenger was to be discussed but had to be deferred.
- c) The position of the pay and display machine and disabled bays in West Street Car Park, Fishguard were reported as not in close proximity.
- d) Rhian Davies, Disability Wales, is to interview the Secretary and Access Officer at a future date.
- e) Guide Dogs had planned a walkabout in Narberth but this was postponed. The question of a buildout on Spring Gardens may assist crossing for visually impaired persons. Comment from Guide Dogs is awaited.

4. Treasurers Report

A balance of £6,395.50 will be reduced by payment for the Pembrokeshire Passports at a cost of £3466.25

5. Correspondence

- a) A talking buses early day motion received some support. The new Government may consider this matter.
- b) Clarification on the regulations for buses has been received from the Minister.
- c) Disabled parking in The Parade Car Park, Pembroke has been reduced from 12 to 6 in the light of lack of use. The reduced number will be monitored to ensure an adequate provision remains.
- d) Parking at Heatherton and toilet provision has been checked by the Access Officer. Parking is provided close to the entrance. The toilets need to be modified and the owner is pursuing this.

e) The Disability Wales Membership pack has been received.

6. Pembrokeshire Passport Launch

The Passports have been acquired. A launch at Plas Hyfred, Narberth on Tuesday 15th June has been agreed at 2.00 pm. A DVD is available for distribution to local bus operators. It was agreed to buy five at a cost of £10 each. **A Hunt**

A guide leaflet has been prepared for issue with the Passport by the Councils Contact Centre staff. The RNIB could be approached for an audio version. An A5 size leaflet was agreed.

The passport may be of use on taxis but this will require an approach to the individual operators to explain how the system would assist in communications.

Publicity on the passport was considered important in the various specialist local magazines. Presence at local shows and events should be considered.

A draft list of organisations was discussed

Cllr S James left the meeting.

7. Questions for Angela Burns

Topics suggested were for a statement from her on changes to disability in the last five years. Followed by a question and answer session on:-

- a. The reform of the blue badge scheme.
- b. Accessibility on trains
- c. How could accommodation for disabled visitors to the County be improved and better publicised.
- d. The database on local venues began some time ago. What is the current position?
- e. Accessibility onto and within buses needs a review on provision. Is this possible.
- f. Will support for Community Transport continue under PACTO.
- g. What does the Assembly intend for the creation and maintenance of the Access Group.

8. Chairman's Report

A cross party group is examining the level of support across Wales on the treatment of patients with neurological diseases. There appears to be a lack of consistency of treatment and on going support. A report on 14 July is expected.

9. Access Officers Report

A new café at Pembroke Castle is due to be presented with an award. Some issues were noted on the use of tactile paving. Identification of the glazed entrance door is a

mass of glazed panels is confusing. Signage to toilets is misleading. A letter to be sent to the architects.

A Hunt

10. Local matters of concern

- a. The link to the Narberth Health Centre remains outstanding. The internal layout of the Centre is unsatisfactory. It was questioned if WAG has any ability to achieve alterations.
- b. High Street, Haverfordwest has ongoing roadworks and scaffolding. Temporary high kerbs make it difficult for disabled users second hand furniture is for sale and regularly blocks the pavement opposite the library.
- c. National Park intends to widen the path to the beach in Penally.

Meeting finished at 3.55 pm

Next meeting Thursday 10 June 2010