

Minutes of WAAFA Meeting 12 July 2011
at The Colebrook Centre

Present Keith Hackett Chair
 Janet Chierchia Treasurer
 Derek Smithers HIEF representative
 Chris Griffiths-Jones WCC
 Sharon Rhodes Adult Services
 Elizabeth McKerracher WACA
 Kim Walsgrove HCC
 Frances Cleland WCC
 Penny Parkinson Osborne School

Apologies Ian Barrett
 Shirley Kinneally
 Nick Birtley
 Councillor Vicky Weston
 Nick Coe
 Pat Neal
 Stuart Banks

1) Introductions

Attendees briefly introduced themselves to the meeting.

2) Previous Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth read the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2011. These were approved and there were no matters arising that were not already on the Agenda for today's meeting. Stuart's action points to be revisited at the next meeting.

Frances Cleland, WCC Elections Manager, requested that issues about physical access to the District's 82 polling stations be referred to her. Meeting recommended that she liaise with Stuart Banks. Janet suggested support be made available to those with learning disabilities and their carers / caring organisations and that this information be available on the WCC website. Frances said that some information and pictorial guidance was available at this year's elections. Frances was advised to also contact Scope, Mencap and Open Sight. Other suggestions were larger print, e.g. street name, and better signage to polling stations. Frances left the meeting.

3) Hearing Loops

Derek said that an efficient P A system is better than a portable induction loop. Kim said that a sound field system which is portable is available at the Discovery Centre and can be used with roving microphone or as a stand. Derek said that the acoustics in the room the meeting was held in today at the Colebrook Centre was good. Kim advised contacting Shona Forsyth at HCC.
Shona.forsyth@hants.gov.uk.

Action: Derek Smithers

4) Dedicated disabled changing/toilet facilities and Planning Applications

Elizabeth reported back on her correspondence with Steve Tilbury, WCC Director regarding the provision of dedicated disabled hanging / toilet facilities at the proposed Silver Hill development which was favourable.

Kim advised contacting Shona Forsyth as HCC had drawings and suggested that £35,000 was nearer the mark than £25,000.

Action: Committee Members

Chris said that WCC Planning Department can send out a weekly list or applications are available on the website. He advised that it is possible to drill down by area / ward but not by development. Planning applications can be considered by an individual or by a group of this Committee. It was suggested that Eastleigh District Disability Forum be contacted via Rachel Harrison, Eastleigh Borough Council as a source of information.

Action: Keith Hatter

5) Osborne School

Penny was welcomed as the Osborne School representative on the WAAFA Committee. The school together with Peter Symonds College is campaigning the Highways Department for a school crossing on Andover Road. The Mayor Barry Lipscomb and Steve Brine MP are being contacted. Routes from the school to the Guildhall are to be trialled by students in September 2011. School students could help WAAFA identify cracked paving, need for additional crossings, dropped kerbs etc. It was suggested further information be sought from Leonard Cheshire and Disabled Go. Kim advised that WAAFA give consideration to how information gleaned is presented.

Action: Penny Parkinson

Chris mentioned the Destination Access Audit 2008/09 by Tourism South East which is comprehensive but not detailed regarding shops as it has a tourism bent.

Action: Chris Griffiths Jones to check if this document is restricted or can be used by the committee.

6) WAAFA Website

A manager needs to be recruited, WACA Volunteer Centre and the Hexagon Centre being possible sources.

Action: Keith Hatter and Sharon Rhodes

7) Access to The Square

Keith advised Blue Badge holders will have full access to The Square after repaving works are completed. 80mm kerb edges will be maintained for guide dogs.

8) Sainsbury's Badger Farm

Keith went to Sainsbury's and reported that it is within the Manager's gift to resolve the issue of those waiting in inclement weather for collection. Keith raised bar code reading machines at check outs not being user friendly for those hard of hearing, the visually impaired and the disabled.

Action: Keith Hatter to offer WAAFA's services for consultation on improvements at the store.

10) Any Other Business

Derek will remain as the Hampshire Independent Equalities Forum representative although Madeleine Close is its sensory rep.

Janet report on the Safer Places Scheme to identify shops etc identified by a symbol for those who feel unsafe and which provide a refuge with trained support.

Elizabeth raised the need for a Secretary / minute taker from the Committee members.

Action: Keith Hatter

11) Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13 September at 2.00 p.m. in the Volvo Room at the Colebrook Centre.