

Minutes of WAAFA meeting 3rd April 2012

Present

Keith Hatter, Nick Coe, Derek Smithers, Elizabeth McKerracher, Ian Barrett, Janet Chierchia, plus Andy Wales – website and Davina Glanfield – HCC Access Officer

Introductions

Attendees briefly introduced themselves to the meeting.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2012 were agreed by the group. **Action:** Stuart Banks items carried forward to the next meeting.

Matters Arising

Vehicle obstructions

Keith reported Stuart had contacted Brooks Centre management re moving the access barrier to the Centre's car park further down the access slope to stop vehicles queuing onto the main road and its pedestrian crossing. Outcome is awaited.

Keith had personal experience of being hit by a car at the Jewry Street / Southgate Road junction. PCSOs informed but Keith was not satisfied by their response. Nick suggested a yellow hatched box might be a solution.

Keith had contacted a local councillor about parking on pavements. This is not regarded as much of a problem or issue provided the vehicle is not causing a total obstruction. However, PCSOs can do something about this if it requires walking in the road or is a problem for a wheelchair user or person with a guide dog who cannot get through and where it would not be safe to get around the obstruction on the road.

Keith is continuing contact with Guide Dogs for the Blind about their campaign against parking on pavements.

Disability Hate Crime

The group recognised the need to raise awareness of disability hate crime in Winchester. **Actions:** Stuart to pass on to the police a list of organisations to visit that use WACA's minibuses etc. Ian to arrange a link to WCC website site and Andy to put a link on the WAAFA website.

Janet reported from Mencap. A launch of the Stand By Me campaign is hoped to be arranged at the Great Hall on a Friday with Steve Brine MP attending. Learning Disability week is the week commencing 18th June.

High Street Market Stalls

Issues with the width of access, especially where stalls adjoin benches situated outside Marks & Spencer in the High Street, were highlighted by members of the group.

Action: Stuart is to give WAAFA members the results of the Shopmobility service users survey regarding their issues with High Street accessibility, after which WAAFA Chair will write to WCC expressing concerns arising and request the benches be removed on market days to enable safer access.

Agenda Items

WAAFA Website

£300 funding from WCC has enabled Andy Wales to be paid to set up the WAAFA website. Discussion took place about how the website could be further developed and utilised and be more interactive and easy to search for. A What We Do page and a Campaigns page with Voting Buttons were suggested. Andy confirmed the accessibility of the website as being user friendly and it was agreed that any audio or video files would be best linked through You Tube. Andy was given links to HCC Disabled Go and WCC websites. **Action:** Members are to give links of disability groups known to them to Stuart to co-ordinate and pass to Andy.

PR Event

Discussion took place about holding a Question Time Panel event and 'hanging it' on Disability History month which runs mid November – mid December 2012. Suggested panellists included representatives from the police, WCC – Steve Tilbury, HCC – Cllr Felicity Hindson, RNIB, sensory perception, and physical disability. Sponsorship to cover event costs were discussed with stall holders paying for having a stall displaying relevant information before the event start time. **Actions:** Keith to draft a letter to potential panellists and book a venue for a date in November. Stuart to invite Maria Miller MP Minister for the Disabled when the date and venue are arranged.

AOB

WCC E.Panel

Ian reported that WCC are establishing a web based e.panel for consultations with 1000 people across the Winchester district which could be publicised through WAAFA. To express interest in being a WCC e.panel member email jkelly@winchester.gov.uk and enter e.panel in the subject box.

Date of Next Meeting