

Winchester Area Access For All (WAAFA) Meeting

Held 18 July 2013 at 2:00pm

Volvo Room, WACA, The Colebrook Centre, Colebrook Street, Winchester, SO23 9LH

1. Present: Keith Hatter (Chair Sight Loss), Margret Gunn, Andy Cadle-Mills (Spinal Injuries association), Zanell Neethling (Minutes Secretary), Dr Ian Barrett (WCC Equalities Advisor)

2. Apologies: Bruce White (Mental Health Befriending Service), Cllr Vicki Weston (WCC), Cllr Jackie Porter (HCC), Fiona Whitehouse (Hearing Loss), Richard Hein (Parking & CCTV Manager WCC), Janet Chierchia (Win & District Mencap and Win & District Carers Forum), Sylvia Smallwood (University of Winchester, Disability Advisor), Kim Walsgrove (HCC Senior Access Officer), Penny Parkinson (Osborne School)

3. Minutes: Of meeting held 23 May 2013 were read and agreed.

4. Matters Arising:

Hockley Viaduct Route – KH did go the Viaduct Route, there is ability to access it. If map on website, unsure.

Lifts at Station – should have started in June 2013, but work has not visibly commenced, there may be onsite work being carried out, but presumably that will happen. Brockenhurst station will be improving with lifts on station as well.

Fareham – they have said they have a template, and they have not forwarded it to us as yet. We will manage ourselves for the template.

5. Treasurers report: n/a

6. Gold Badge Letter: KW provided KH with list of shops starting with HSB and proceeding as far as Debenhams and opposite down to M&S up to Jewry Street. Letter has been drafted, copy supplied with Agenda/Minutes. Letter was read and agreed. Use to give something to display in their window or counter which people can see, and can expect a reasonable good reception and so businesses themselves can 'blow their own trumpet'. Some sort of badge which would need designing, something fairly simple and straightforward, together with the year 2013/14. KH to suggest to come up with idea for design and KH will send to Chamber of Commerce or Chris Turner to see what they think of it, as a matter of courtesy. Then there needs to be some way of letting the public at large know about this and its being awarded, Hampshire Chronicle or Award Ceremony (which would need to be publicised). Awards of 'Excellence'. A certificate as well, which they could if they wish to display or keep it. The logo could be incorporated with it, or give them a separate logo (smaller) like a badge or digital copy to put on the website etc. Contact with Winchester School of Art (postgraduate student who has now left), but have written to her again asking if the student could pass it on to someone else who could help with survey or

design the logo. Perhaps we could come up with something ourselves, and before it is awarded, could get School of Art to approve it. Have asked Fareham, but they haven't done it for 3 or 4 years and the person who done it is no longer there. Eastleigh also didn't seem to know much about it. Will keep trying. IB will search on web for combined disability symbol or something similar. IB suggested that it will be worth spending money on graphic designer and get it professionally done.

Survey: This will be done September/October during next academic year, with help of Osborne School, University, Peter Symonds, hopefully the Art School. MG raised concerns about signposting someone in charge, to prevent doubling up on asking shops, or managing the group of students. KH suggested drawing up rota's or schedules or portion of the tasks via various institution or individuals, also some shops may be more able to be surveyed by Shopmobility.

Criteria: Questions, is it more appropriate for someone to go around with clipboard and tick boxes or more as a 'mystery shopper'. KH will contact various shops and ask if surveyor may come in and take 10 minutes of their time and ask a few questions. Probably get feedback from disabled people, could invite people from various organisations to supplement various questions. IB helped Fareham draw up a set of questions, looked at every business in terms of same set of issues, to be fair to business, need to be consistent in this way.

1. Physical accessibility (getting in to the shop in wheelchair, if visually impaired, if learning difficulties obvious if sort of place you would go in to).
2. Can he reach the button on opening the automatic door, does door open towards you or away from you, is the door wide enough. The door in inches/mm is: dimensions of doorways, dimensions positioning of buttons, catches or handles. Any steps – what is the surfaced of the step/height and are they level or at an angle?

IB suggested looking at County Access Surveys (national standards) and adopting this. Doing survey in this amount of detail takes a fair bit of time. KW is best person to ask on this, practicalities of access.

Next sets: ambient of light, height levels of counters, can reach what need to reach inside shop, helpfulness of staff (policy of the shop/staff training or awareness).

IB will have a look at Equality Officers information available. KH will draft questionnaire in light of the information by September 2013 and wording of a Certificate. To get Mayor to hand over Certificates (Feb/Mar 2014 – before elections and after Christmas 2013).

7. Informal Scrutiny Groups (ISG): KH attended Winchester District Strategic Partnership – ISG Groups are groups which look at Council policies at the 'green paper stage' and make suggestions. About 4 of these groups and one is on 'Walking' (accessibility to places for people on foot and wheelchairs etc.) Cllr Robert Hutchinson, Chair of Walking Scrutiny Group, inviting people to join the groups. KH putting forward it anyone would like to join the group. The groups scrutinise council policy in the areas of transport/walking. They look at issues where they believe there is a gap in provision/gap in policy. Aim of the groups is to

look across the whole council to see whether or not there is consistent practice or any issues, and if there are issues, to propose solutions to them. Groups of backbench councillors and officers from all parties. They have a few meetings and then produce a report on it, not a standing committee. Cllr Robert Hutchinson, overview of transport scrutiny group, KH to ask for more details.

8. Chesil Theatre Update: KH not heard anything, MG have seen plans around proposal, it is in process. When it gets there will presumably hear if they pass. MG is happy with the plans (builder to build four houses around the back, entrance on the side, ramps are being put in – as far as MG is concerned is happy and waiting on planning permission). IB to write in support of the planning permission, IB to find out when the plans are going in and MG will write letter in support of planning permission.

9. Discussion of joint meeting with Havant Disability Group: Andy Bundy, Secretary of Havant Disability Group, had a communication from Peter Fox, HCC, regarding 'Denmead' which is within Winchester City Council, but actually in Havant. People of Havant have had other issues regarding placing of bins at recycling centre, and position of disabled parking bays and problem with dropped kerbs and speed humps and new housing development. These initial matters have been dealt with, but they are suggesting a joint event with Winchester disability forum (and other forums), somewhere in autumn. Held either in Waterlooville or Havant in autumn.

10. Dates of Autumn Meetings:

Booked - Wednesday, 18th September 2013 (apologies IB)

Thursday, 17th October 2013

Thursday, 21st November 2013

Thursday, 12th December 2013

Thursday, 16th January 2014

Thursday, 20th February 2014

11. Communications with other organizations: KH had email from Susan Glandfield, Action for Blind RNRB, concerning access to medical records. HCC and other authorities throughout country are conducting a survey about accessibility to medical records (health, GP and social care records). "Consulting local people on governments proposal for citizen access to records" (GP and Social Care). There is a meeting/workshop on this at Littleton Village Hall on 24th July 2013, Wednesday, 9.30am – 04:30pm. KH been asked to attend, however he will be unable to attend. (Whether specific to blind people or anyone's access, KH will find and out and let ACM know).

KH circulated an email from the police from PC Craig Shears. KH notice a big increase on number of vehicles parked on pavements, and cars and vehicles stopping on pedestrian crossings and this is extremely dangerous. KH has been reporting every incident to the police since December 2012. KH don't know if incidents are contravening any laws (ACM highway offense). The consequence was that police officer at North Walls have come to see

KH to set up system whereby all calls can be logged under one incident number. In email stated that "please, anybody else who encounters any such things, please add them to the list". The more reported, the higher on priority list. PC Shears will come to our September meeting.

KH went to Voluntary Sector Forum Meeting, which basically is about tendering to carry out work for government and how to go about it. KH made contact with Andover MIND, who are conducting a Dementia Friendly Communities Project and Mandy Moore have expressed interest to attend one of the WAAFA meetings in the future.

KH attached to minutes from Winchester District Strategic Partnership Meeting, Barton Farm consultation, immediate reply from Jackie Porter. Circulated by KH.

12. AOB: Make-up of Group – ACM wondering about what other groups might be interested which are not being represented. Janet represent Mencap (learning difficulties). Fiona Whitehouse (represent deaf), but she unfortunately work commitments prevent from attending. ACM met a police officer from HCC, Police Link Officer for Deaf People (interested to attend WAAFA). Sergeant Glenn Barham, MBE for services to deaf people.

KH will have word with Live at Home Scheme about representation in WAAFA. IB suggested City Council tenants and Supported Housing tenants. IB will find out who officer responsible is.

KH met Adam Knot, Peter Symonds Paralympian, spoke at Winchester Talking Newspaper AGM, he's left Peter Symonds going to University. Very good speaker. Adam said he would pass details on to the College.

Meeting ended at 3.40pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 18th September 2013 at 2pm at The Colebrook Centre, Colebrook Street, Winchester, SO23 9LH (Volvo Room)