

WAAFA Minutes 20140320

Winchester Area Access For All (WAAFA) Meeting

Held 20 March 2014 at 2:00pm

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

1. Present: Keith Hatter (Chair, Sight Loss), Zanel Neethling (Minutes secretary), Margaret Gunn, Vessi Wharton (Andover MIND, HDAA), Mike Green (WADSAD), Kim Walsgrove (HCC Senior Access Officer), Andy Cadle-Mills (Spinal Injuries Association), Janet Chierchia (Win & District Mencap and Win & District Carers Forum)

2. Apologies: Penny Parkinson (Osborne School), Cllr Jackie Porter (HCC), Cllr Victoria Weston (WCC)

3. Minutes: Of meeting held 20 February 2014 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising:

4.1 E-newsletter: Has been launched successfully. Slight issue with line spacing in the e-newsletter, despite it displaying correctly it was sending on test emails with different spacing. In the end the number of test emails limit was reached and it had to be launched. ZN will look into this for the next issue launch for June 2014.

4.2 WACA Tender for Services: WACA has a grant, not 'holding' money for us, but allocated money from grant for disability. Would have to negotiate to transfer part and not all of the money. WACA has decided not to bid for the tender. Depends on new organisation taking it over, and if they would be happy to host the funding for WAAFA. Paul Williams (CEO) leaving at end of March and Elizabeth McKerracher (Deputy CEO) is leaving at the end of April 2014. KH to write to Trustees of WACA asking for clarification, as we may need to make alternative arrangements. The church that ACM attends would be able to provide venue, and HCC (KW).

ACTION: KH

4.3 Winchester Cathedral: ACM still to contact Bruce Winton re: inaccessible stalls at Christmas Market 2013. No ramp access into the huts, ACM will look into this and follow up with Bruce Winton about this.

ACTION: ACM

4.4 Silverhill Development: KH has written to Vicky Weston enquiring about request for a public toilet and "changing place". No response as yet. Leisure Centre has received money for a 'changing place', but issues are coming in from disabled users under the Equality Act for it not being totally accessible. Not "instead of" but "as well as" a changing place, accessible toilet and normal toilet. 'Changing places' are designed for assisted use, and independent wheelchair user is challenging this with HCC.

4.5 South West Trains Network Rail Alliance Workshop: KH attended, as did HCC Cllr Jackie Porter who has sent a report to the Hampshire Chronicle. very few stations have 'changing places' and it was suggested that there should be one at Waterloo, but this

managed independently from Network Rail. Network Rail representative said in general 'changing places' problematic because of the size, railway stations tend to be narrow, and the 'changing place' is rather larger and not easy to fit onto platform. 'Changing places' are more applicable to transport interchanges, such as Waterloo than say Winchester. Two useful websites recommended: one which gives detailed information on accessibility of stations, platforms, including photographs of layout ([StationsMadeEasy](#)) and the other (www.disability-onboard.co.uk) Question was raised about low counters at ticket outlets, especially that only one ticket window is open outside rush hour which might not be the one with a low counter. Questions were also raised about tactile markings, the 'bobbles' about a metre in from platform edge, but not at all stations. And another problem is that some are metal studs, not only slippery, but also guide dogs don't like treading on hot metal. Network rail did say they are introducing a new material, a type of paving that has the studding imprinted on it, and is a bright colour (yellow) for visibility. Following was a talk on provision of assistive travel – 70million journeys p/year are made throughout network by disabled people, only 4 million of which are made using disabled rail cards. The disabled person's railcard is only specific to certain disabilities, revision of criteria are being looked at for the railcard. Total revenue from disabled passengers estimated to be £300 million per year, same as generated by West Coast mainline.

4.6 Winchester Museum: Prospect Art Group has had a reply from the museum, acknowledging that they are aware the lift is broken and they will endeavour to fix and/or replace it.

5. Treasurer's Report: n/a

6. Access Awards:

The ceremony was pleasant, the Mayor was very welcoming. Clarks won the gold and they attended along with about half a dozen or so other winners. KH was worried about size of venue; fortunately we didn't seek an alternative larger venue, as the mayor's parlour was suitable for 20 people. They had refreshments available and then after the ceremony the mayor showed those attending around the Abbey House. KH took certificates to Osborne School who were very pleased. Follow up letter will be written to shops/business with the 'Business Pack' information. The access awards need to be done annually, if not every two years. Also need to spread out, defined the High Street as first attempt. KH suggests as first idea that we divide the city centre into the High Street, and define the streets around them (joining the High Street) – sometime this year. Possibly extending to pubs/hotels and places like Leisure Centre. Database for those shops/businesses that have been done (spreadsheet) on different parts of accessibility surveys. To define area from HSBC up to upper part of the High Street, Jewry Street, St George's Street, Parchment Street, The Square and The Brooks Shopping Centre (Middle Brook Street), and from King Alfred's statue to the bottom of the High Street. Winchester Mencap may have some volunteers available come April/May and June to do surveys. To include City Road, as coming in by rail you would cross this to go into city centre. KH suggested due to volume and man power required perhaps to do it every other year (once every two years), and recreation facilities (pubs/hotels/leisure centre) every 5 years or every other year.

7. Disability Action Alliance:

Declaration and Membership agreement was read out by ZN.

www.disabilityactionalliance.org.uk – recommended discussing this at next meeting.

8. HADAG – Proposed shared database for ‘access issues’ for Hampshire disability access groups:

From Andy Bundy from Havant Area Disability Access Group – in response to request for minutes to be circulated to be kept up to date with. It seems a good idea and Andy Bundy is willing to set this up. Request for IT savvy people to help with set up of system and those to test the system.

ACTION: KH response

9. Communications with other organisations:

9.1 Station Travel Plan: If anyone interested KH will forward document to them, as it is a rather large document this has not been forwarded. KH went to meeting in November 2013, at which there were representatives of HCC, WCC, Winchester BID, WACA, WAAFA, taxi drivers, stagecoach (bus operators), WINACC etc. What has happened is that there is a sustainable travel plan for the county funded by SUSTRANS (Sustainable Transport), idea is that they are looking at transport to and from key places, including railway stations. Station Travel Plans for Andover, Aldershot, Basingstoke, Farnborough, Winchester and other towns in Hampshire. A report produced by consultants Halcrow, and they have produced a travel plan. With a view to making recommendations for improving to and from Winchester station by those who use it. Sustainable and environmentally friendly way by pedestrians. Looked at provision of busses, bus stops, taxi ranks, drop off zones, pedestrian crossings. Wide sweeping pavement area tends to be used for parking for those delivering to station – this shouldn't be it is illegal, but is a large area for them to park on. One of the things that came out of the workshop, is if this pavement area is reduced, there wouldn't be opportunity for parked vehicles to park there. Identifies City Road/Jewry Street as the way to City Centre, better flow to be made for busses, pedestrians, cyclists. They are inviting comments by the 28th March 2014, realise this is short notice, any comments submitted after this they will take into consideration.

ACTION: KH to circulate document

10. AOB:

Hampshire Dementia Action Alliance (HDAA): Vessi Wharton – Update: Dementia Friendly Communities Project: to improve life for those with Dementia, raise awareness and challenge stigma. Funded by HCC, and funded for the second year until March 2015. Part of project developing a Dementia Friendly High Street, in this year coming they will focus on this aspect of the project.

The meeting ended at 3.45pm.

Date of Next Meeting –

Thursday 24 April 2014 at 2pm at the Colebrook Centre, Colebrook Street, Winchester SO23 9LH (Volvo Room)