

WAAFA Minutes 20140619

Winchester Area Access For All (WAAFA) Meeting

Held Thursday, 19 June 2014 at 2:00pm

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

1. Present: Keith Hatter (Chair, Visual Impairment), Zanell Neethling (Minutes Secretary), Chris Hall (Parability), Mike Green (WADSAD), Rhodri Dean (HCC Access Team), Andy Cadle-Mills (Spinal Injuries Association), Janet Chierchia (Winchester GOLD)

2. Apologies: Penny Parkinson (Osborne School), Kim Walsgrove (HCC Access Team), Valerie Brown.

3. Minutes: Of meeting held 15 May 2014 were read and agreed after minor changes: Walking Strategy Group – Cllr Porter's name to be deleted (page 3) and typing errors adjusted in Keith's name on top of page 4.

Action: ZN will update minutes and resend to circulation list

4. Matters Arising:

4.1 Help for Heroes: Keith has sent e-news link to Janet Finch, however he has not received the ball park figure of HfH in the Winchester District yet, but he said that he realises that it may not be possible to give such a figure.

4.2 E-newsletter: Storage of current articles from: Good Accessibility Awards – Phase II, Winchester Talking Newspaper and Book Groups for the Visually Impaired. Also various new articles were sourced by ZN and enquiries have been made with local disabled organisations if they would be interested to feature an article in the WAAFA e-newsletter, some include; Leonard Cheshire Disability, Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership Board, South East Network of Disabled People's Organisations (SENDPO), Enham Trust, Winchester & District MENCAP, Apple Tree Support, Winchester Dyslexia Association, South Hampshire Deaf Child Society, Hampshire Harriers Wheelchair Basketball Club etc. It was suggested to cover some articles more on 'access', RD agreed to writing an article from HCC Access Team perspective and the work that they do for disabled access.

Action: Send RD e-newsletter & add to circulation list

Action: RD to write article on disabled access for E-newsletter

4.3 Draft Walking Strategy Consultation Meeting with WAAFA: Wednesday, 28th May - Margaret Gunn, Keith Hatter, Cllr Hutchison (Chair of The Strategy Group and Winchester Town Forum) & Liz Kessler (Walking Strategy Group) attended. The strategy, from Margaret and Keith's viewpoints, was thought to be ok. It was emphasised early on in the document and in its glossary that the definition of pedestrian should include wheelchair users, mobility scooter users as well as people walking. A route which has steps in is not acceptable; this is implicit in all that is said in the strategy. Emphasised specific areas where gradients are too steep e.g. underpass in Sussex Street and pavements too narrow or uneven e.g. Colebrook Street an issue. Discussion followed on this. Where appropriate

to use table junctions and discourage traffic flow. Encourage people to walk or cycle as much as possible. The draft strategy distinguished between shared spaces and segregated spaces; latter is where cyclists and pedestrians are separated by a kerb or painted line – but painted line is not acceptable, because this cannot be detected by a blind person. Strategy is now going to be submitted to council for approval and adoption.

4.4 Winchester Railway Station Car Park: With Cllr Jackie Porter, David Jones (Litter-picking Group) and KH looked at new car park with decking on it with two objectives; 1. Jackie Porter and Mike Todd have expressed horror at lack of pedestrian facilities on that route. Missed opportunity to put a safe route around the edge as it could have been done at the time. Looked at this and tried to identify possible route through middle of car park, into Andover Road, crossing halfway along the route, to avoid entrance to shops. The key thing was taking up the point ACM raised when completed; the provision of disabled parking bays and the distance to the ticket machines, it being not on a kerb (can be reached from ground by wheelchair) and not be cluttered etc. Identified possible sites for disabled parking bays close to ticket machines and close to the station along with picking up and dropping off points.

4.5 Parking on pavements issue: KH made contact with PC Shears' successor who took over the issues that KH has been logging; PCSO Dawn Gretton at North Walls Police Station.

4.6 'Access Day': no further news on this as of yet.

4.7 'Spotlight on Dementia' Event – 3 June: Launch event similar to Access Awards Scheme; the Dementia Friendly Communities Project, which is hoping to launch in October 2014.

4.8 'Community Mixer' Event – 11 June: Each gave 3 minute presentation on the work that they do. KH had flyers/leaflets printed for WAAFA which were distributed during the meeting. These are on hand if anyone requires any for distribution. Key speakers in the morning were about funding (Hampshire & IOW Community Foundation and Awards for All). The event totaled approximately 34 stalls and 29 presentation speakers during 'showcase hour'.

4.9 Room Hire: United Reform Church = £23 / Winchester Baptist Church = £24 – Message from Kim Walsgrove (who has come to the rescue); to set the dates for next 6 meetings as room will be booked at HCC HQ Offices. There is parking in the basement which is accessible. Pre-booking required - please email Kim Walsgrove with car make, model, vehicle registration and driver's name. Please note the car park is height restricted and cannot accommodate top boxes or tall vehicles. The next meeting has been booked for Tuesday 15 July 2014 at QE II Court , The Castle.(please note change of room: Denning Room not Mountbatten Room). Dates for future meetings agreed: Thursdays; 18 September, 16 October and 20 November, 15 January, 19 February, 19 March 2014.

5. Treasurer's Report: n/a

6. Parability – Chris Hall: Parability has been around for over 2 years. Launched on 05 May 2012 at Russell Howard Recreational Park and Daniel Bowler Memorial Trust Fund in Basingstoke. Since outset they have been supported by a local business of Basingstoke, Paul Midgley, who manages Drum Runners and have moved forward since then. Aims: to

encourage people to become as fit and active as they can and to help build a united human race where discrimination of any kind is a thing of the past and where we all help each other. Parability is set-up on the internet (Website/Email/Twitter/Facebook). Have recently launched first local Facebook page, the idea long term is that this Facebook page will be specifically for various local areas. Being tried out in local Basingstoke area, and looking to launch in SPECTRUM area. Access information available through internet links. Also want to provide information on what Parability does and what other organisations do, which will be posted on events section of website. Main organisations; Drum Runners, SPECTRUM CIL, Shaw Trust (Maria Thomas, Head of Partnership), Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. Some of what we do: run activity and social groups (looking at branching this out to other areas), work with educational places (assembly talks and student volunteering for work experience etc.), and provide information and links on internet platforms. Parability has 6 volunteers and hoping this will expand over the next few years. Training closely with John and Sarah to do what Chris does. They are also hoping to get a link with LinkedIn House, a school for children with special needs. Leaflets and business cards left at meeting and various pictures were shown, if you require some leaflets on Parability, please contact ZN.

Drum Runners background: Paul is a well-known business man; one of the main things outside his music or commitments is supporting people/organisations who want to do things for the community. They are a non-profit organisation and any money gets put back into the community.

Action: CH to forward Drum Runners contact details to WAAFA

7. Hampshire Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) – Have your say:

In a nutshell they are going to look at closing some Household Waste Recycling Centres. If there are places where people live within 5 miles of more than one centre, they will be looking at closing one of the centres. Also reduction of hours when not used. None of this will happen until after objections can be raised. KH is unsure if this has any implications for taking away facilities which are preferred by people with access problems e.g. the site near Waterlooville (recently refurbished). HCC aware of these issues (RD reports) along the lines of where accessible parking bays were some way from the skips; staff would assist people to carry refuse to the right skip. The problem is centred on not always having staff available. There is a balance in trying to make sure it was safe and people's needs were met. Discussions are being had around resolving these concerns. Plans to refurbish other sites and the managers are concerned to receive similar comments, so it will be used as a template for future plans. Proposal was not to reduce staffing levels, but to shut it when not being used. If some sites are more accessible than others, this needs to be flagged up on website (HCC). RD will raise this within the HCC Access Team for discussion.

8. Access Awards – Phase II:

KW has provided WAAFA with a list of shops in Jewry Street, City Road, Broadway around corner into Bridge Street, around corner into Chesil Street. None received yet for Southgate Street or St George's Street and The Square and rest of High Street from HSBC

up to Westgate. Concentrate for Phase II on Jewry Street (40 minus pubs = 15) and The Broadway (30 minus pubs = 14) that totals 29 shops. Phase II Part A: 30 shops. Add City Road (7 minus restaurants = 5).

Action: ZN will capture shop names in a list

Easy-read questionnaires have been made ready by Janet. 100 copies will cost £50. It will take approx. 45minutes to complete each questionnaire and currently MENCAP have no volunteers as yet. Winchester GOLD has a volunteer who used to be a press officer for HCC, JC will get this volunteer to look at the WAAFA Access Awards Phase II Press Release.

Action: ZN to email Winchester GOLD with jpeg press release and pictures

9. Possible Event (Welfare Reform?):

Piloted Universal Credit – not rolling out across country. If deadline and change is April 2015 it would be a good idea to have a workshop for everyone in October/November 2014 for 6 months to plan how this might affect you. Care Act changes impacting? – how to implement better care plans, but also implications of Care Act, not only disabled people meet eligibility criteria, but if carers meet it they have services in their own rights. There are over 300,000 carers in Hampshire. Carers have an assessed need, but they don't have to meet it. They also have a right to an assessment.

WACA Have Your Say Grant closing date 27 June 2014. It was suggested to find out by when we need to spend the money, as we could possibly apply for the venue and refreshments for an event next year.

Action: ZN will email HYS Grant

10. Communications with other organisations:

Please refer to matters arising above.

11. AOB:

Google Webmaster: ZN will register WAAFA on Google Webmaster, which is FOC. This allows for WAAFA to be on the first page of Google for a search on access in Winchester.

Access Awards Film: ZN is awaiting a response from Garry, a contact who may be willing to produce a short film clip of WAAFA and the Access Awards for a small fee.

Toby North: Analysing some of Phase I Access Awards questionnaires, particularly those that didn't receive any awards. Toby will feedback to WAAFA, hopefully, for the July 2014 meeting.

The meeting ended at 3.40pm.

Date of Next Meeting –

Tuesday 15 July 2014 at 2pm at HCC HQ, Elizabeth II Court, Sussex Street, Winchester, SO23 8UJ (Denning Room)