

# WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

## Minutes of Meeting 97 held on Monday 9th November 2009 at The Acorns, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

### 1. PRESENT

Mike Kelly (President), John Lambert (Chairman), David Harris (Secretary), Steve Rook (Treasurer), Carolyn Harris (Vice-Chairman), Terri & Ray Bartlett (Dorchester Access Group), Anne Kenwood (Cllr), Julia Willoughby (WPBC) (Access Liaison Officer), Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Sheila Jackson, Sheila Dyer (Publicity and Complaints) George Dyer, David Dowle, Ian White.

New member Ian White was welcomed to the group

### 2. APOLOGIES

Joan Heynes, Alan Christopher,

### 3. MINUTES OF MEETING 96 HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2009

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

Nothe Gardens A large sign to be placed at the entrance to the gardens showing, e.g. where are the slopes and how steep they are. Installed signage not yet reviewed by a member. **JW States these are now imminent.**

Newtons Cove Footbridge, Rodwell end of Nothe Gardens Now completed. DH & CH had been over bridge before formal opening and reported it to be easy to use with good paths either side. Other members plan to go and have a look soon.

BT Payphones DD reported that the open fronted kiosk is still opposite W H Smith in St Mary Street but anyone in a wheelchair or scooter would be hard pressed to use it as there are two benches in front of it which are back to back and close together. **JW Will pursue this matter.**

Footpath Ramps David Harris asked if there were any guidelines which put the onus on builders/ contractors to provide temporary ramps to footpaths when footways were dug up. JW will make enquiries. **Action JW**

Public Toilets Closed toilet by multi-story CP is being shown as available on current maps. Ongoing topic awaiting JW's further input. JW states this is now removed from current maps.

All previous actions having been reviewed, the meeting was satisfied that the minutes of the previous meeting represented a proper record of the business of that meeting.

### 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### **Taxi Licensing**

The Borough Council has recently consulted on taxi licensing but I don't know what action will be taken. I think that pressure should be maintained to improve taxi accessibility and driver awareness. I have read of a recent High Court judgement that required Liverpool City Council to lift its refusal to accept Peugeot E7 taxis and I suggest that the Group should seek a meeting with the Borough Council officer responsible for licensing to ask about the local rules applied. **JW will find out what WPBC policy is**

#### **Newstead Road foot and cycle bridge**

I have been asked to attend a meeting concerning this project to link both parts of the Rodwell Trail.

#### **Seafront Regeneration**

The last meeting reiterated that the provision of better and more accessible toilets is of particular importance. Information of how aspects of the scheme will proceed despite the loss

of much of its funding is requested. I have read that the Access Association are carrying out research on accessibility of beaches and will try to find out more on this. **JW will follow up.**

### **Countryside Access**

I understand that works have been carried out to 33 miles of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Trail to remove stiles and make the footpath more accessible.

I would suggest that the Access Group should enquire what policies and proposals Dorset County Council have to achieve similar improvements.

Further footpath improvements are planned around the area of Portland Bill to provide more disabled access.

## 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**Councillors working group – Resource Allocation for Disabled People** (this group is putting together a strategy or use if and when the councillors are allotted financing!).

Meeting was held 17<sup>th</sup> September – invited were:

**On behalf of Access Group** -John Lambert. JL spoke about the idea from Sheila's letter for premises in the town centre where the larger mobility vehicles could get indoors – perhaps including a cafe. The thought that a suitable unoccupied shop premises might be used was suggested.;

**Dorset Association for the Disabled (DAD)** – Keith Morris & David Dowle. Keith spoke about the distance between disabled toilets in the town centre. The TIC toilets and those on the quayside were the only ones and for a disabled person the distance between them was significant. On Portland the situation was worse, and in his experience local shops had no interest in helping. He also said that disabled toilets were not checked to see whether they were practical to use – this required users to be involved at the design stage rather than adopting a design standard.;

**W&P Carers Group** – Sylvia O'Connor. Sylvia spoke about the Neighbourcar service and exchange of free bus passes for taxi tokens since many people were unable to use a bus.

DH read out a fuller abstract of the proceedings to the WPAG meeting. No great weight would be attached to these in the absence of funds actually being available to councillors – especially during the recession.

Next Meeting of the Working Group is 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 and is open to the public.

**Complaint received re Moby Dick Bar/ Restaurant** on Esplanade forwarded to SD.

## 6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

## 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Funds in bank stood at £796.56 at the end of 2008. Insurance premium is our main expenditure. A small further reduction might be possible, and this will be kept in mind for the next renewal. We have sufficient funds in the bank to allow the group to continue for a further 3 or four years at the present rate of expenditure without additional income.

**Post- Meeting note:** SR has now received a cheque for £250 from Weymouth Carnival committee.

## 7. COMPLAINTS OFFICERS REPORT

Nothing to report.

## 8. ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT

**GIS mapping.** An exercise was being started to encode many local features onto a GIS mapping system across the whole of the county so that the information in future could be presented in many formats.

**Public Toilets.** A members working group was being established to provide a focus for the future provision of toilets within the borough

## 9. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Ray Bartlett told us that the Dorchester group were starting a survey of all businesses in Dorchester to establish what facilities for disabled were being provided.
- b) In Poundbury there was much dissatisfaction with the many gravel paths – these made great difficulties for disabled people particularly because of their unstable surface.
- c) DH had checked all the crossings along the Esplanade from the Kings Statue as far as Lodmoor Park. The only one without the tactile buttons was that near the bowling green at Greenhill.
- d) Dorchester Access Group members extended an invitation for WAPG group members to attend any of the open meetings of the Dorchester group. The next meeting was on 11<sup>th</sup> November at the Corn Exchange at 18.30. The Speaker would be from the RNID.
- e) A question was raised about the unsatisfactory nature of the foot crossing at Chafeys Roundabout. The speed limit on the road from Manor roundabout is 50 mph. Pedestrians requiring to go to/from Southill to Weymouth on foot have to cross this road on a crossing which has no road markings on the carriageway. It seems that the present guidance does not recommend the use of “zebra” crossings (the least expensive) on roads with limits above 35mph.

### **Dates of Future Meetings during 2010**

(Quarterly Meetings all Start at 2pm) 8 February; 10 May; 9 August; 8 November

# WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

## *AGENDA FOR MEETING No. 98*

To be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010, immediately following the AGM  
Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth,

1. Introduction of those present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Meeting 97 held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009, and matters arising
4. President's Report
5. Chairman's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Complaints Officer's Report
9. Access Officer's Report
10. Publicity Officer's Report
11. Any Other Business

### **Troubleshooter Line**

For all road or pavement problems contact

**Dorset County Council** on:

Freephone 0800-23-23-23

or 01305 221020

or on the Web at:

<http://maps.dorsetforyou.com/highways/reportproblem/>

**WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP**  
**AGENDA FOR**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held at 2pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
At Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

1. Introduction of those present
2. Apologies
3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009
4. President`s Report
5. Chairman`s Report
6. Treasurer`s Report
7. Election of Officers for the Coming Year