

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

Minutes of the SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING held on 9th May 2011
at The Acorns, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

1. PRESENT

Mike Kelly (President), John Lambert (Chairman), David Harris (Secretary), Steve Rook (Treasurer), Carolyn Harris, Peter Bennet, Gillian Penwell, Gordon Lake, Ian White, , Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Emma Banwell (DCC Transport).

2 APOLOGIES

Terri & Ray Bartlett, Joan Heynes, Anne Kenwood (Cllr), Julia Willoughby.

3 REPORT OF PRESIDENT

Future of the Access Group

Following from the previous meeting I have organised publicity for the Access Group in the Dorset Echo, Portland Free News, View from Weymouth, Wyke Register and Preston Register and spoken to groups including the Portland Carers' Association. There was discussion at the last meeting about how the Group might network more effectively and I believe that the Group should join the Access Dorset Group mentioned at the last meeting by Sheila and George Dyer.

Portland Carers' Association

Many concerns are shared between us and this raises the question whether networking and the making of representations on similar issues would increase the effectiveness of both organisations. PCA have expressed concerns about the possible closure of the Fairfield Centre at Fortuneswell. This may be a subject that the Access Group should discuss. Topics of concern that have been touched upon previously by the Access Group are the poor accessibility of Boots Pharmacies at Easton Square and Fortuneswell and Easton Post Office. There is a sensitivity concerning the viability of the shopping areas at Portland and the matter was not pressed but I do not accept that the access to Boots at Easton, in particular, is as difficult to resolve as suggested. I wrote accordingly to Boots but to date have not had the courtesy of a reply. I would like to report further to the meeting on this.

Public Libraries

Dorset County Council are proposing significant cost savings to these services the result of which is likely to result in the closure of several branch libraries. The future of Portland Underhill, Portland Tophill, Wyke Regis and Littlemoor Public Libraries is in question. I believe that these service cuts will impact severely upon disabled and elderly people but the current DCC consultation exercise is flawed as it seeks comments on changing practices without seeking opinion as to whether the proposed cuts are excessive. Nevertheless I would encourage members to complete the consultation forms if they have not already done so and I would suggest that at this meeting a decision is made as to whether to respond as a Group.

Planning applications

The monitoring of planning applications has not been regularly carried out in recent years but I notice that there is a current application to provide an access ramp to Barclays Bank in Weymouth.

Local Transport Plan

Representations have been made on behalf of the Access Group following from the last meeting. In addition to the proposed LTD there are no doubt many issues relating to the delivery of the Weymouth Transport Package that the Group may wish to raise with Dorset County Council. Bus services have been greatly disrupted over the past

few months though First Group have tried to respond to concerns voiced about service 5 in the Radipole Village, Southill and Goldcroft Road areas. Resultant service changes have resulted in much poorer access to the Chickerell Road area of Westham. With the Weymouth Transport Package Works coming towards their end I suggest that representations should again be made to First Bus and South West Coaches concerning the need for a further review of service routes and standards and the need to ensure that all vehicles used are of easy access design.

1 REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

At the meeting a brief review of previous topics was conducted by the Chairman. Little of significance had changes in the past three months.

2 Talk on Weymouth Transport Package - Emma Banwell DCC

A presentation was given to the group explaining how the various junctions had been planned and giving an insight into the reasons behind the decisions. A range of questions were asked and answered, members came away with a clearer understanding of the ideas which were being put into practice.

6 REPORT OF TREASURER

The cheque has been received for the grant of £2000 from the Synergy Housing Community Fund, this thanks to the efforts of David Dowle who spotted the opportunity and David Harris who wrote the application form.

Other than this item, There had been no major income or expenditure items since the last meeting. DH/CMH and Peter Bennett attended a photo opportunity to provide a photo of the cheque being presents to the Access Group.

7. SUMMARY OF SITUATION The Group continues on a meeting-by-meeting basis without a full complement of officers. It is hoped that over time further members may join to help alleviate the situation.

9. AOB – Gordon Lake Drew members attention to the fact that a new mobility equipment business had opened in St Mary's Street in Weymouth Town Centre. On a second point he had found that the wheelchairs provided in ASDA were not in a good state of repair and were difficult to use safely. DH agreed to draft a letter to ASDA Management.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm.

NEXT MEETING was arranged for 14.00 on Monday 8th of August at The Acorns.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP
AGENDA FOR
SPECIAL MEETING

To be held at 2pm on Monday 8th August 2011
At Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

- 1 Introduction of those present**
- 2 Apologies**
- 3 President`s Report**
- 4 Chairman`s Report**
- 5 Treasurer`s Report**
- 6 Proposal to continue under SGM meeting terms - i.e. "on hold".**
- 7 AOB**
- 8 Time and date of another Special Meeting for Status Review Monday 14th November 2011 at 2pm.**