

# WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP MINUTES FOR MEETING 113

Held at 2pm on Monday 13 May 2013 at  
Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

## 1. Introduction of those present

Mile Kelly (President), John Lambert (Chairman), Steve Rook (Treasurer), Gill Penwell, Sheila Dyer, Dave Thompson, David Wallis, Carol Lord, Carole Chinn, Christine Pearce

## 2. Apologies

David Harris (Secretary), Carolyn Harris, Ian White, Cllr. Kate Wheller, Cllr. Ann Kenwood, Julie Hursthouse, Graham Ryan, June Ryan

## 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were accepted as a true record.

**A Boards** – still many about around the town

**Dropped Kerbs** – the priority list these submitted to the Council has been accepted. Concern expressed of the one outside the Pier Bandstand as the signage was not effective because it needed re-painting, per C Pearce (*D H to contact the Council*)

**Chapelhay** – scaffolding had been erected but progress was apparently slow. It was thought that the timetable for completion, in 2 phases, took us to 2015. (*MK to contact Julia H at the Council*)

**TIC** – Concern that Council staff did not know where to access information for the public

**Disabled toilet near ex TIC** – No bins were available per C Pearce (*DH to contact Council*)

***A photograph of the Group was taken by the Echo to accompany the interview J Lambert had recently given***

## 4. Address by Donna Thompson (Weymouth Stroke Group)

Donna explained that she was a volunteer for this group, which she formed after her partner suffered a stroke in 2011 as there was no such group in existence. The group is a support network for both sufferers and carers and meets monthly at the New Inn 498 Littlemoor Road, Weymouth from 10.30 to 12 noon. Her phone no. is 07751 494207 and email [salesgirl10@hotmail.com](mailto:salesgirl10@hotmail.com)

## 5. President's Report

### Post Offices

I have reported our disappointment that some of the promises made about the accessibility of the new Weymouth Town Centre Post Office have not been

honoured. I regret to say that I am not aware of any improvements since our last meeting.

There is mixed news about the move of Fortuneswell Post Office. The new premises have stepped access (though fewer steps than the previous building). You will know that Fortuneswell is on a steep hill. The post office have been informed that their response of having a bell outside and sending a member of staff out to serve a customer who cannot access the premises raises a number of concerns. On a positive note there is considerable community benefit from the much extended opening hours. *(MK will monitor and follow up)*

Works are in progress to provide ramped access and a wide entrance to the Lodmoor Hill Post Office.

### **Pharmacies**

The long awaited improvements at Boots branch at Easton have still not yet commenced though Boots are now proposing improvements to their Fortuneswell and Wyke branches. I understand that Angel Pharmacies are proposing a move from Buxton Road to Wyke Health Centre.

### **Bus services**

First Bus has set up a Passenger Consultation Panel and I have attended its first meeting on behalf of W&PAG. Several measures have been introduced by the company to improve accessibility including information of the weights and dimensions of wheelchairs and scooters that can be accommodated, further staff training and information cards for passengers with particular needs. A number of concerns have been raised about the poor legibility of some bus indicators and concerning recent and further proposals for service reductions and changes.

### **Newstead Road Bridge**

Sustrans and the Lottery board are celebrating the various connections to the national cycle network achieved by the construction of numerous foot / cycle bridges in recent years. Hannah Clark of Sustrans is keen to hear experiences of disabled people about how the new bridge at Newstead Road which linked the 2 sections of the Rodwell Trail has affected them.

## **6. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that he had recently given an interview on the Group's work to the Echo and that would accompany the photo in the near future. He also reported that Ian White had resigned as Investigations Officer and recorded the Group's thanks for his work in the past. There had been ongoing problems with the mirror at ASDA and at the Group's meeting in February it had been agreed that David Dowle would contact ASDA again and that John would write to ASDA Head Office. This was done and after discussions with the Management it was considered that the matter had

been resolved to a certain extent. However the Chairman undertook to visit ASDA himself in order to assess the current situation.  
As a result of Ian's resignation the Group now needed an Investigations Officer. Sheila Dyer and Carole Chinn agreed to help whoever took on the role, also supported by MK. The Chairman will discuss this with David Dowle.

#### **7. Access Officer's Report**

**None** – will be resumed when post is filled)

#### **8. Treasurer's Report**

The Group had £2325.23 in the bank as at 5 May – the payments since the last meeting being £182.43 for the renewal of the annual insurance (about £8 more than 2012, £52 for the annual subscription to Disability Rights Uk and other payments for room hire and expenses.

#### **9. AOB**

Dave Thompson (Access Dorset) outlined progress on the Centre for Independent Living (linking Fernhill and the Acorns also) and said that there was a meeting later in the week to try to resolve the situation regarding the lease. If everything went well then it was hoped that there would be a consultation exercise in June to find out what people wanted from the project. He also wanted to promote member organisations, including the Access Group, as to what we did, our past successes in improving access for people and what still needed to be done. This would be incorporated into several short films on their web-site, along with others e.g. on cooking, staying healthy etc. It was hoped to put in a funding bid to promote more films. It was agreed that M Kelly and S Dyer would be the contacts for liaison.

**Date of Next meeting = Monday 12 August 2.00pm at Acorns Day Centre**