

# WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

## MINUTES FOR MEETING No. 117

Held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2014

at Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

### 1 Introduction of those present

Mike Kelly (President), David Harris (Secretary), Steve Rook (Treasurer) Carolyn Harris, Sue Glynn, Christine Pearce, Sheila Dyer, Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Gordon Lake, Colin Huckle (Cllr WPBC), Sue Ward-Rice (WPBC), Ian Newport (DCC Highways), Dawn Atkin (DCC Highways), Carole Chinn

### 2 Apologies

John Lambert, David Dowle, Ian White, Gill Penwell, Anne Kenwood

### 3 Approval of Minutes of Meeting 116 held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

### 4 Updates on Points from 2013

a) **"A" Boards** - The tour of areas of the town had taken place - Ian Newport was firmly of the view that the best effects long term would be achieved by a co-operative approach. "Highway Obstructions" could be removed, but this definition did not cover most of the use of Boards in the town.

b) **Chapelhay slope** - DA believed handrail work (and thus all work) had now been completed - she would check and report back

c) **Weymouth Post Office** - Lifting of footway not discussed at meeting

d). **Easton Boots** ramp unsatisfactory - DA stated it had not been built to the approved plan and remedial work would be done.

e) **Sea Life Tower** - no update.

f) **"Buggy Permit"** on buses - no update.

g) **Drop Kerbs improvements** The ones close to Budmouth College discussed previously had now been completed. DA had not received the list from Ian White. DH would forward to her today.

### 5 President's Report

#### New groups

An Aphasia Group has been formed in Weymouth and also a branch of the Dementia Alliance.

## **Weymouth & Portland Borough Council changes**

With the announcement of the intended closure of the Council Offices at North Quay and the transfer of the majority of staff to the new offices at South Walks House, Dorchester, consideration is being given to setting up a small office as a point of contact in Weymouth. The Council's Property Services Manager, Greg Northcott has asked the Access Group for comment on the possible use of part of the Mulberry Gallery in Commercial Road for this purpose. I hope to arrange a visit with the aim of enabling several Access Group members to view the building but so far this has not been arranged. I understand that the Crookhill Depot at Chickerell is also under consideration though I would think that the office needed to be in the Town Centre. Carole Chinn, Mike Kelly and Sheila Dyer offered to visit and report back to group.

## **Post Offices**

At the suggestion of Councillor Colin Huckle I approached Dorset Community Action regarding our continued concerns about access to Weymouth Town Centre Post Office. There are also problems concerning 2 of the 3 Portland post offices (Fortuneswell and Easton, though the Co-op sub post office at Weston is accessible). Has anybody got any further comments about these or any of the other post offices in the area? The subject has been referred to Richard Brown at "Community Futures".

## **Dorset Parent Carers' Group**

The Group have erected an accessible beach hut near the Pier Bandstand.

## **Special Beach Festival**

On 28 July a special beach festival is proposed involving opportunities for disabled people to try out some sports. Expressions of interest are required by 31 May.

## **Bus services**

Representations have been made on a number of subjects including continued problems with the "Real Time Information".

## **6 Ideas/ Suggestions from Mr Mark Golsby**

Mark attended the meeting with the suggestion that the group might benefit (more visibility, younger people interest) if we had a Facebook and Twitter presence and an email account for the Group. He was prepared to set this up for the group and monitor/police it on our behalf within the existing annual fee. The meeting agreed to go ahead on that basis.

## **7 Access Officers Report**

- a) "A" Board categories /enforcement split responsibility WPBC/DCC. It was requested that anyone encountering difficulty should report it to the local authority help lines. Numbers at end of this document.
- b) Fortuneswell Handrail. One side of steps may be done - DCC OK, Councillors OK but it would help if WPAG were to send a supportive letter to the Conservation Officer (MK with cc to DH).
- c) Pavilion Drop Kerb. It was reported that some users of electric wheelchairs were finding the existing Drop Kerb (some 5 or 6 cm) hazardous when trying to access the Pavilion,.DA agreed to look at the area to see if improvements could be made.
- d) "Tesco corner" in Weymouth. DA reported that the road was due to be

resurfaced, and that improvements to the drop kerbs at that point would be made as part of that work package.

## **9 Treasurer`s Report**

£2104 currently in reserves - normal expenditure this year so far, insurance and room hire fees unchanged.

## **10 AOB**

a) A brief discussion of Kate Wheller's invitation to her Mayor Making ceremony had took place, but unfortunately no representative from the group was able to attend.

b) MK had noticed two metal plates (where lockable bollards are located) on the ramp to the platform of the former Weymouth Quay Station were raised above pavement level and appeared to need repair. This area is used for stalls at special events. Ian and Sue noted the item (there is uncertainty as to which Council is responsible for that area).

### **Next Meetings (all start at 14.00):**

<b>Monday 11th August 2014</b>	<b>Monday 9th February 2015</b>
<b>Monday 10th November 2014</b>	

Help Line Phone numbers:

DCC highway emergencies: 01305 221020

WPBC Help Desk: 01305 838000