

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

MINUTES FOR MEETING No. 118

Held on Monday Monday 11th August 2014
at Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

1 Introduction of those present

Mike Kelly (President), John Lambert (Chairman), David Dowle (Vice-Chairman), David Harris (Secretary), Steve Rook (Treasurer) Carolyn Harris, Ian White, Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Gordon Lake, Francis Drake (Cllr WPBC), Sue Ward-Rice (WPBC), Carole Lord, Carole Chinn, Gill Penwell

2 Apologies

George & Sheila Dyer

3 Approval of Minutes of Meeting 117 held on 11th May 2014

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

4 Updates on outstanding points:

a) **"A" Boards** - The situation was still unsatisfactory - no single point of responsibility for action and no way a member of the general public can find out if a particular board is "wrong". Members are encouraged to report problems to council help line (phone number at end of Minutes). We would like to see some form of street marking/studs to indicate agreed limits of sitting out areas.

b) **Chapelhay slope** - No further information

c) **Weymouth Post Office** - Lifting of footway not discussed at meeting. There seems to be an impasse with no further progress.

d). **Easton Boots** - Dawn Atkin had previously stated it had not been built to the approved plan and remedial work would be done. DH to check with DA if now completed.

e) **Sea Life Tower** - DH would write to Merlin Entertainments about wheelchair user having to be seated at 90 degrees to everyone else.

f) **"Buggy Permit"** on buses - no update MK to follow up at next First Bus meeting.

g) **Drop Kerbs improvements** - Tesco Corner was still a problem. Meeting felt that this should now be fixed as a temporary measure - we'd been told that road resurfacing was due since 2012 and it still has not happened. SWR to take up with DA.

h) Changing Places room (ex TIC bldg) People are often seen trying to gain

access with a RADAR key. Door should have a notice stating "Disabled Toilets around other side of building". Sue Ward-Rice will do.

i) Twitter/ Facebook - Graham Ryan will remind Mark this week.

5 President's Report

Weymouth & Portland Borough Council changes

Nothing further has been heard concerning the suggestion of setting up a small office as a point of contact in Weymouth. A proposal concerns the possible use of part of the Mulberry Gallery in Commercial Road for this purpose following the intended closure of the Council Offices at North Quay.

Post Offices

I await the advice of Simon Thompson at Dorset Community Action and Richard Brown at "Community Futures" regarding our continued concerns about access to Weymouth Town Centre Post Office. They were also considering concerns raised about access to Fortuneswell and Wyke post offices. Some recent works of improvement have been carried out to other sub post offices though many still suffer from a cluttered / cramped interior and that at Easton still has stepped access (as well as those at Fortuneswell and Wyke).

Custom House Quay

I understand that the Borough Council is considering changes to Custom House Quay, on a trial basis, to increase harbourside sitting out areas and to reduce on street parking. People will be affected in different ways. The proposals could have great amenity value but more detail is needed and members may prefer to make direct representations rather than there being a stated Access Group opinion on the subject.

A354 Weymouth Way

There has been another fatal accident on the section of the A354 between Westham and Chafey's Roundabouts. I believe that it is imperative that a 30 mph speed limit is imposed as soon as possible from the pedestrian / cycleway crossing to the north of Chafey's Roundabout (and including the roundabout) to Westham Roundabout, or preferably on the whole length of the A354 from Manor Roundabout to Westham roundabout.

There is also a need for greater protection for pedestrians, wheelchair or scooter users and cyclists, from road traffic, where the new walkway / cycleway reaches the edge of the A354 near Southill Garden Drive and at Spa Road, Radipole.

6 Chairmans Report

Welcome to new WPBC brief holder for social inclusion Cllr Francis Drake and thanks to Cllr Colin Huckle for all his work on our behalf.

An ongoing theme since the last meeting seems to be sorting out dropped kerbs.

Thanks to Dawn Atkin (Technical Officer responsible for Dorset Highways, DCC) and Susan Ward-Rice (our liaison officer from WPBC) who seem to be addressing, or have addressed, the problems satisfactorily. A member of the public asked for help with no dropped kerb outside the Angling Club; I was pleased to note that members of the Group met with him on July 18th and the issue was discussed on site.

Internal alterations at Broadmeadow Post Office, Wyke Regis, gave us hope that the ongoing issue of access into the shop might be sorted at the same time. Mike Kelly and Susan will know more about that.

7 Access Officers Report

- a) Town Centre Management plan was due to be publicised by "pop-up" stalls in various locations around the town to get views from the public.
- b) Cash Desk at North Quay would be closing on 31 October 2014.

8 Investigations Officers Report

Representatives of the Group had been invited to attend a site meeting at the Angling Club car park. This was in response to a drop kerb request from a member of the public, Mr Thorner. Five members attended along with Sue Ward Rice and Dawn Atkin. Mr Thorner wanted to be able to cross Commercial Rd by wheelchair directly from the Angling Club car park to access New Bond St. DCC Highways are unable to do this because there is a major flooding problem with this section of the road. All local kerbs and gutters have embedded drains to deal with this. Any drop kerb would have the effect of reducing the already marginal draining capacity.

Sue Ward-Rice offered to find out if it would be possible to get another on-street disabled place near the Cinema to provide some relief for the situation Mr Thorner has described.

8 Treasurer's Report

£2080 currently in reserves - £24 spent since last meeting.

10 AOB

- a) Sylvia Tyrell - a member for many years - has recently died.
- b) Carole Chinn reported recently attending the BID office to volunteer. She was unable to enter on her wheelchair, she had to talk with people at the doorway. She also had formed a view that if she did volunteer she would be being trained in a different place to other volunteers.
- c) It was agreed to increase the frequency of meeting to bi-monthly. This would commence after the February 2015 AGM.

Next Meetings (all start at 14.00):

Monday 11th August 2014	Monday 9th February 2015
Monday 10th November 2014	

Help Line Phone numbers:

DCC highway emergencies: 01305 221020

WPBC Help Desk: 01305 838000