

# WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

## MINUTES OF MEETING No. 130

Held at Weymouth Fire Station & Community Safety Centre  
Radipole Lane, Weymouth DT4 0QF

Held at 2pm on Monday 12th December 2016

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Marguerite Brown (Deputy Chairman), Dave Harris (Secretary), Steve Rook (Treasurer), Carolyn Harris, Mike Kelly (President), Ian White (Investigations Officer), Mike Jolliffe, (Mayor, Chickerell TC), Sue Ward-Rice (WPBC), Cllr David Harris (DCC), Graham Ryan, June Ryan, David Dowle, Christine Pearce.

**2. Apologies:** Carol Chinn (Chairman), Bob Irwin, Sheila & George Dyer, Carole Lord

In the absence of Carole Chinn, Marguerite Brown chaired the meeting

**3. Mayor of Chickerell - Mike Jolliffe.** Mr Jolliffe was welcomed to the meeting.. It was decided to proceed with the matters relevant to Chickerell first so as to allow the Mayor to exit our meeting and meet his other commitments.

#### a) West Dorset Local Plan

The West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan is to be reviewed. Also Portland Town Council is preparing a Portland Neighbourhood Plan under the Localism Act, a Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan is in preparation, and Chickerell Town Council intends to produce a Chickerell Neighbourhood Plan. Mike Kelly pressed the need for these plans to take sufficient account of the needs of disabled people in the provision of new homes. General agreement was shown around the room.

#### b) NHS CCG Consultation Document

The period of consultation extends into February. It was felt that the group should present a case for maintaining a facility for "Supported Residential living" at Westhaven sites which would not be a medical facility but a bridge towards independent living at home. At the moment it was felt that the group can provide a wider view than present local boundaries allow other organisations.

### **c) Willowbed Hall Hearing Loop**

At present the loop system was not working. Mike Jolliffe reported that options for repairing it were being considered, but there was a parallel activity planning the extension of the building to include more local facilities (offices etc). Therefore any repair option would be a short term one with an expectation that extension project would include facilities for the future.

## **4. President's Report**

### **Local & Neighbourhood Plans**

The West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan is to be reviewed. Also Portland Town Council is preparing a Portland Neighbourhood Plan under the Localism Act, a Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan is in preparation, and Chickerell Town Council intends to produce a Chickerell Neighbourhood Plan. At some time I assume such plans will be prepared for other areas of Weymouth. As previously I would welcome the help of the Equalities Officer in pressing for accessibility to be highlighted as an objective in whatever plans and policies can be most effective.

At this stage I suggest that the Group should write to Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, Portland and Chickerell Town Councils, Weymouth Civic Society and the Sutton Poyntz Society on the issue.

### **Health Services**

There is a consultation underway by NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group. The Access Group may wish to consider whether to respond, and if so with what answers and comments. There is also information that the amalgamation of many GP surgeries is being considered with the potential for the closure of some of the smaller surgeries.

## **5. Chairman's Report**

### **a) NatWest ATMs**

Ms Carly Ings has informed me that the new outside ATM has been installed and is lower and easier to access. I have tested this and found it to be true. On the matter of publicity this has to be agreed with their Media Department who will be contacting me with a date, probably in the New Year.

As mentioned by Mike Kelly at the last meeting, some ATM screens are difficult to view with the sun shining on them and this could pose serious issues.

### **b) Temporary Dropped Kerbs for Roadworks**

Thanks are due to Dawn Atkin for her help in progressing the issue at the Esplanade and Lennox Street.

However this does not detract from the fact that the temporary dropped kerbs are narrow; they are just the width of a wheelchair/mobility scooter and do not take into account that some pavements are narrow and you have to turn to get on the pavement, this then means the wheels are in the air and could cause the wheelchair/scooter to tip up. Also the temporary tarmac is very poorly laid. Photos have been given to Ian and I'm sure this will be mentioned in his report.

Would it be possible for Dorset County Council Highways Department and the Group to get together, possibly at the Fire and Safety Centre – similar to Wessex Water – to demonstrate their procedures for getting disabled people across the road and for an exchange of views on how roadworks affect us?

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Group had £1560.59 in the bank in early December. We have not received any donation from Weymouth Carnival thus far. Payment was now likely to fall into our next Financial Year.

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

### **a) Hearing loops in Council Premises premises**

Thanks are due to Marguerite Brown for her help in checking the effectiveness of the hearing loop system at Commercial Rd. Significant problems have been discovered in the systems at South Walks House. A new infrared based system is being considered.

### **b) Greenhill Gardens handrail**

No information has been received - SWR would follow up within council.

### **c) Community groups lunch**

A date of 4 February 2017 has been fixed for this event.

## **8. Investigation Officer's Report**

### **a) Disabled spaces South Street Dorchester**

This area was due to be pedestrianised with the consequent loss of disabled parking along this stretch of road.

#### **b) Westham Bridge to Debenhams**

The harbourside area along this stretch of Commercial Road is going to be redeveloped. There will consequently be a reduction in the total number of parking spaces within the town as these car parks are closed. Cllr David Harris noted that the land was in multiple ownership. He also stated that the plans were not likely to be put into effect for at least three years.

#### **c) Xmas parking concessions**

Ian felt that with a little more thought some benefit to disabled people in the community could have been given here. People with mobility problems usually depend on the help of staff to access shops and to go about their business. This is simply not possible at times when the shops are busy although it can work well at less busy times. He made a plea that similar concessions are made for disabled people at times when they can be of benefit to them - he suggested quieter times e.g. 10am when shops are usually open, but not busy.

#### **d) Disabled toilets on Esplanade**

Ian had received complaints from members of the public about these toilets being physically locked. SWR suggested that Ian get the exact time and date and submit a complaint to the Council helpline.

#### **e) Other Disabled toilets**

Various members contributed to a general discussion about disabled toilets in the town which were very good and not visible from the street. Particular mention was made of those facilities within the following businesses: Coffee#1 (opp. McDonalds); Beefeater and Sainsburys (Weymouth Gateway); the new Costa Coffee Bar in Debenhams. It was suggested that a list might be maintained on the group's website of those toilets found to be satisfactory.

### **9. Any Other Business**

#### **a) Weymouth Gyrotory traffic**

Cllr David Harris spoke of a proposal to route traffic as a one way gyrotory system around the central part of the Esplanade (King St -

Kings Statue) and the equivalent part of Commercial Road in a clockwise direction. This would make both Westham Road and King St one way, and would remove the cause of congestion (crossing traffic) at the Clock Tower location.

### **b) Chapelhay Skips**

There still has not been any resolution to this previously mentioned problem. The skips were still out in the street and not placed within the provided fenced compounds and the problems were compounded because the organisation responsible for clearing the material in the skips was claiming that they have been contaminated by mixed materials being put in them.

Meeting Closed at 16.00

<b>Future meetings at 2pm at The Fire &amp; Safety Centre:</b>	
<b>Monday 13 February 2017</b>	<b>Monday 9 October 2017</b>
<b>Monday 10 April 2017</b>	<b>Monday 11 December 2017</b>
<b>Monday 12 June 2017</b>	<b>Monday 12 February 2018</b>
<b>Monday 14 August 2017</b>	