

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

MINUTES FOR MEETING No. 105

Held at 2pm on Monday 14th November 2011
at Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

1 Introduction of those present

Mike Kelly (President), John Lambert (Chairman), David Harris (Secretary), Steve Rook (Treasurer), Carolyn Harris, Julia Willoughby (WPBC), Lindy Treasurer, John Thraves (Dorset Cycling Network), Dave Thompson (Access Dorset Development Manager), Kate Weller (Cllr), Gillian Penwell, Ray Bartlett, Terri Bartlett, Peter Glynn, Sue Glynn, Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Ian White, Dennis Jackson,

2 Apologies

David Dowle (vice Chairman), David Harris (Cllr)

3 President's Report

Childrens' playgrounds

My August report referred to how the Access Group might assist County Councillor David Harris and others who are looking at playground provision including the aim to achieve greater inclusion with access improvements where possible. I haven't received any comments but will invite further discussion.

Pharmacies

Following our involvement in Angel Pharmacy's application for a new pharmacy in Easton, Portland the Group requested help from members about pharmacy access generally. Thank you for the comments received. The Wessex Pharmacy in Lanehouse has had the forecourt relaid. This has included raising the area near the door to provide level access into the building and thus removing the barrier the previous step had caused. Mike regards this as a good success. The ASDA pharmacy continues to be difficult for several reasons: it is situated in a noisy, echoey part of the store; wheeled access via the lift presents problems as there is no mirror fitted in the lift, making it impossible to reverse out safely (this despite the fact that such provision is necessary under current building regulations). Self certification practices by major organisations seem to be able to drive a coach and horses through these and there is no practical way of challenging the outcome locally.

Café sitting out areas

The Group will no doubt wish to respond to this further consultation process by Weymouth and Portland Borough Council. (see Chairman's Report for further discussion)

Improving access routes generally I expect Ian White will be reporting on his work in this respect. John Thraves of Dorset Cyclists' Network (who is disabled) wishes to work with others across the County in identifying key areas of the cycle network which represent a problem or obstruction to disabled people. Locally it is good to report that work has started on construction of the Rodwell Trail bridge over Newstead Road and the toucan crossing over the A354 at Ferry Bridge.

Local Plan

I have contacted Weymouth and Portland Borough Council seeking involvement in the work to identify issues for the proposed joint West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Local Plan. MK & KW are attending a meeting of the Working Group developing this plan on 21 November and will represent the group there.

Transport

I have received advice from First Group and South West Coaches about local bus

services and will report to the meeting. I mentioned the new Weymouth Park and Ride scheme at the last meeting. This has been supplemented by a service to Dorchester Town Centre. I have received favourable comments about both though for a resort town it is unfortunate that the Weymouth service does not run into the evening in the summer.

All buses are to be accessible by 2016. Discussion in the meeting felt it important that the new electronic signs should indicate whether the next vehicle had space available for a wheelchair so that users could decide whether to prolonged their wait or make other arrangements.

SW Trains had now produced a booklet giving accessibility information about all their stations and train types. It is a fairly comprehensive document and those likely to consider train travel should get themselves a copy. Mike Kelly offered to check if First Great Western who operate the Weymouth - Bristol / Gloucester service provide similar detailed information.

4 Chairman's Report

A further discussion of the "sitting out" areas policy in the meeting there was felt to be no significant items to change - the main thrust of the discussion was about how the guide would be "policed" and whether this would be effective from the point of view of those with disabilities. There was a strongly expressed view that marking pavements to show the extent of the area premises may use would be of benefit to other highway users. Kate Weller was happy to action recommendations we made on the sitting out areas, particularly surface markings delineating the limits allowed for such sitting out areas.

John observed that Mike's report had covered many of the current topics and thanked him for his inputs to the meeting.

5 Treasurer's Report

Steve reported there had not been much change from his previous report. The group now had just over £3000 in its bank account:

CASH ACCOUNT for the Year Ended 31st December 2011
as at 31 July 2011

Income			Bank			
Date		£	Date		Cheque	£
1.1.11	Bank balance b/f	1,055.37				
			14.2.11	RADAR	298	25.00
			14.2.11	J Lambert	299	40.40
22.2.11	W & P Housing	2,000.00	24.3.11	Aon Insurance	300	174.46
			22.8.11	M Golsby	301	100.00
1.9.11	Brotherwood Ltd	100.00				
			31.12.11	Bank balance	cf	2,815.51
		3,155.37				3,155.37

			Cash			
Date		£	Date			£
1.1.11	Cash balance b/f	16.81				
			31.12.11	Balance	cf	16.81
		16.81				16.81

6 Complaints Officers Report

Investigations into difficult local dropped kerbs was still under way.

Kissing gate installation improvement at RSPB Radipole lake - now suitable for even large scooters to get through.

There were still problems with fast traffic approaching Chafeys Roundabout, by chance Ian had been videoing when he approached it a few weeks ago and captured a very dangerous example of traffic behaviour there. He will use this to show DCC officers what can happen.

Ian had been on the Rodwell trail with a friend and they had explored the disused railway line from Ferrybridge to the Sailing Academy. Although a rough surface, the track was quite passable, if bumpy in places, and really would make a good path if simply levelled a bit.

7 Access Dorset

Dave Thompson of Access Dorset introduced himself and the organisation, he gave a brief overview of the organisation describing how it was intended to provide a focus for all groups and disabilities across the county. He was the only full time funded member of the organisation and was contracted for at least the next year.

8 Access Officers Report

Dropped kerb prioritisation will be done hopefully at the next WPAG meeting in consultation with the Access Group - there were plans for a web site to be set up for this purpose.

Work was in hand to produce a guide to the location of accessible toilets in the borough this would include places such as the Council Offices and Businesses which had suitable provision.

The "Changing Places" full capability toilet is going ahead and will be located in the now vacant ex-TIC building on the Esplanade.

9 AOB

Gill Penwell - County Council cabinet was due to make a decision on Day Centres in the coming month. Gill will report back during January in time for the next meeting.

DH asked for help with a pub accessibility guideline - MK and JL will help.

Ray Bartlett - a new toilet using RADAR Key and automatic opening had been installed in Dorchester Borough Gardens

Private drop kerbs - DCC might be involved in checking specifications

There were DCC guidelines on use of "A" Boards on pavements..

STOP PRESS

Mike Kelly has notified us since the meeting about the following:

"Would you like to circulate to the Group that the Connect2 Project which is responsible for the bridge being built across Newstead Road to link the 2 parts of the Rodwell Trail have identified Sunday 6 May for the likely opening ceremony (though the bridge should actually be put into use in early February). Because of our support from the outset the Access Group are regarded as part of the partnership and I hope as many of the Group as possible can get there on the day (exact details to be confirmed)."

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

AGENDA FOR MEETING No. 106

**Monday 13th February 2012, immediately following the AGM
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. AOB
7. Next Meetings (all start at 14.00)
Monday 14th May 2012.
Monday 13 August 2012
Monday 12 November 2012

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at 2pm on Monday 13th February 2012

At Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

1. Introduction of those present
2. Apologies
3. Approval of Minutes of SGM held on 14th February 2011
4. President`s Report
5. Chairman`s Report
6. Treasurer`s Report
7. Election of Officers for the Coming Year