



HORSHAM AND DISTRICT **ACCESS FORUM**

The Horsham and District Access Forum brings together local people who work towards improving access to public places for everyone, whether they are disabled or able-bodied, parents with children in pushchairs, or the elderly.

MINUTES of meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2010 at 10.30am

Present:	Margaret Alford	Chair Saxon Weald Equality & Diversity Panel
	Andrew Baldwin	HDC Councillor
	Peter Billington	HACVS
	Lilian Bold	Local LINKS
	Damian Brewer	HDC Equalities Officer
	Jill Hardie	Strawford Centre
	May Pope	Independent (was Horsham Carers)
	Norman Raby	Independent
	Janet Raybould	4sight
	Carole Robertson	Manager Evelyn Lancaster Southern Housing
	Pat Rutherford	HDC Councillor
	Emma Smith	Rehabilitation Officer for the Visually Impaired, West Sussex County Council
Invited speakers	Luke Rogers	WSCC Highways Engineer
	Bob Sinclair	Principle Engineer, HDC

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

Andrew Baldwin, Cabinet member for Housing and Community Development, Horsham District Council (HDC) chaired the meeting and took the Minutes. The Chairman welcomed everyone, especially Luke and Bob, and then people introduced themselves. Apologies received from Sue Carter, Gillian Christensen, Phil Clements, Jo Fisher, Margaret Killner, Yvonne Law, Joyce Narborough, Terry Rixon, Chris Stark.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2009 – agreed as a true record subject to two corrections;

Item 5 (a) Patients Participation Liaison Group - £1000 paid to all practices which set up a Panel not just to new ones – per Gillian

Item 5(e) incorrect to say “People have to wait six months to become registered as Disabled”. Should say “People within some parts of West Sussex often have to wait six months for their grant applications to be processed, and are being advised to seek a loan in the meantime” – per Terry

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda - Jill raised some points but these are covered under Item 6

4. East Street pedestrianisation – update from Bob Sinclair and Luke Rogers

The vision is to create a more pedestrian friendly environment by creating more space and freedom for pedestrians. In places footways will be widened and will provide safe zones. Traffic Order will exclude all traffic except blue badge holders and those loading/unloading.

A few traders objected to a total ban on traffic and it would have cost the Councils many thousands of pounds if it had been challenged on appeal and would also have delayed the work starting. So a compromise was agreed and it will be piloted to see how it works. Clutter, kerbs, yellow lines, road signs to be removed. Cyclists will still have access. Building work to start in April, scheduled to last 5 months. There will still be access to the street whilst the work is being done.

Andrew thanked Bob and Luke. He asked that they contact Janet and Emma to discuss issues/ concerns their organisations may have and this was agreed.

5. Possible shop for Carers to use

Andrew has discussed this with Chichester District Council and Gary Mortimer-Cook at HDC. A local school allows the Carers in Selsey to use part of their grounds a few times a year to organise a car boot sale and the proceeds are used to finance the shop. It is mainly an Information shop, they do not allow Carers to leave those they look after there for an hour or two so that the Carers can do other things.

Any empty shop unit in Swan Walk is used to display other shop's goods. Gary MC had suggested we may be able to use the vacant Annetts shop as a kind of drop in centre but no disabled toilet. David Sheldon of POP has looked into this in the past without success. It was agreed that what people would like to see is the green bus back which WSCC withdrew. Damian to contact David Sheldon to see what the chances are of the green bus being reinstated.

6. Suggestions/Complaints received

- (a) Jill said there is a real need for a pedestrian crossing along Kings Road. This was shared by many other people. Andrew to see if the Section 106 money for infrastructure and transport when Marston Court was built has all been used
- (b) Peter said the crossing near the old Citroen garage in Guildford Road does not give some people sufficient time to cross. Peter believes they should allow 13 seconds to cross.
- (c) at the last meeting Pat mentioned that the settings on the crossing next to Blockbusters video shop at the end of Park Way did not give enough time for everyone to cross
- (d) no audible sound on the crossing in Albion Way between St Johns Church and Springfield Road
- (e) Jill asked if something could be done near the library to slow down traffic. There is already a raised area but felt more needed to be done. Could "SLOW DOWN" be painted on the road as you approach the library from the south?
- (f) Janet mentioned overgrowing hedges/tress in Crawley Road between the Norfolk Arms and All Saints church (on the church side) and in Rusper Road near Tesco Express on the west side of Rusper Road. Andrew will report this to WSCC.
- (g) May had a laminated poster regarding Expert Patient – an event at the Millennium hall on 27 April. Damian to arrange for it to be copied and put up near the Millennium hall and in the Carfax

It was agreed we invite someone from West Sussex County Highways Traffic Signals Team to come to our April or June meeting to give a short talk and answer questions regarding crossings.

7. Health update – from Lilian Bold

- (a) North East Review – in April they will look at Community Rehabilitation team for stroke victims. It will be piloted for 12 months in Horsham hospital. Intention was to include Parkinsons as well but insufficient funding. If pilot is successful then more money in 2011 for other conditions

- (b) Lilian is looking at rehabilitation services and physiotherapy services in hospital and communities
- (c) LinKs is monitoring the North East Review. Andrew is chairing a meeting in Horsham Council Chamber on 21 April from 10am to 12 noon of the North East Partnership for Health Board Meeting
- (d) Lilian recently attended a RADAR seminar with Public Appointments Commission and Equalities Commission. Trying to get more disabled people to apply for jobs in the NHS. They will run leadership courses to try to help
- (e) Extended hours at Horsham hospital – not yet started as they are having difficulties recruiting emergency care practitioners for the Minor Injuries Unit
- (f) Access Audit now completed for Horsham and Crawley hospitals. List of actions to be prioritised. They may request a meeting with Members from the Horsham District Access Forum to help prioritising the work. Hope to start end of April, early May.
- (g) Lilian is meeting Brian Hughes regarding Horsham hospital to look at end of life/terminal care and hospice care and how it can be better co-ordinated. People have to sell their homes to receive care in nursing homes. The recession has added to delays in selling their homes
- (h) Carole mentioned that Community Matron is very good service. Two residents from a sheltered home have recently move to nursing homes without being means tested and paid for by the health service.

8. Surrey and Sussex Healthcare Trust – revised Disability Equality scheme

Damian has been contacted by the Head of Equality and Disability at the above Trust. If anyone is aware of disability issues to let Damian know. Andrew asked him to flag the issue of public/ community transport to and from hospital for Horsham residents without their own transport.

9. suggestions for future speakers

It was agreed we ask Roland Higgins of West Sussex Association for Disabled People to attend our next meeting. Other future speakers to be someone from Highways Traffic section and Damian to talk to us regarding Equality Impact Assessments.

10. Any other Business

- (a) Andrew explained that at the start of this meeting he had received a long letter from Terry which he hadn't had chance to read before the meeting. After discussion it was agreed that as with other meetings if people cannot attend we cannot guarantee to deal with their issues. In future if people want to discuss things at these meetings and are unable to attend they must send a short list of bullet points to Andrew at least a week before the meeting and they will only be discussed if there is sufficient time and they are considered a priority
- (b) A Boards – this has yet again been delayed. Andrew has been assured it will start in March 2010. Delay over having to reprint the protocol! To be an item on the next Agenda
- (c) West Sussex Access Forum is holding a meeting in Haywards Heath on 3 March. Lilian, Damian and hopefully someone from the Strawford Centre will go as our representatives then report back.
- (d) Horsham bus station – no announcements and rarely anyone to ask. Need audible announcements. Damian to look into this.
- (e) Community Transport leaflet – this is available in larger print upon request.

- (f) Possible new member – Mr Steven Hendry. Andrew said that it is always nice to have new members joining. In due course, if there are too many, we will need to restrict it to Horsham District residents only.
- (g) Future dates for rest of 2010 – Thursday 8 April, Wednesday 9 June, Thursday 9 September, Wednesday 3 November, and Thursday 16 December.
- (h) Terry Rixon is no longer involved with LinkS

The meeting closed at 12.35pm.

Next meeting is Thursday 8 April at 10.30 in The Wicker room, Park House. Prior to the meeting let Damian know if you are attending AND you need a permit to park for free.

Minutes produced and distributed by Andrew Baldwin on 20 February, 2010