



## 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 Thursday 16 December 2010 at 12.00noon

Present:	Andrew Baldwin	HDC Councillor
	Peter Billington	HACVS
	Lilian Bold	Local LINKS
	Susan Carter	Independent
	Liz Green	WSCC Library Services
	Margaret Killner	Independent
	Yvonne Law	Independent
	May Pope	Independent (was Carers)
	Norman Raby	Independent
	Janet Raybould	4Sight
	Pat Rutherford	HDC Councillor
	Emma Smith	WSCC Rehab Officer for Visually Impaired

**Invited speakers** Liz Robbins WSCC – Real Time to talk about key fobs

#### 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. Apologies received from Margaret Alford, Damian Brewer, Jo Fisher, Steve Hendry, Rory Jarman, Jackie Manners, Joyce Narborough,

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2010** – agreed as a true record. No matters arising. Action - Damian to arrange for these to be added to the HDC website and to chase HDC re the visibility of the wooden posts in Horsham park

#### 3. Feedback

- (a) **from May Pope relating to the Carers Strategy meeting held at Horsham Cricket Club on 3 November**

They explained what they hope to do in the future, concentrating on emotional support, better support from the NHS, short breaks for Carers and integrated and personalised services. Park Surgery, which is very large and has a patient's participation group, will commission services for Carers. Cut backs will inevitably affect the services available. Carers want to spread the word about what they do. We agreed to invite someone from Carers Support Service to our next Access Forum meeting – need someone with a bit of clout. Andrew thanked May for her feedback.

Action - Andrew will invite Anna Geall, Chief Executive of Carers Support Service for north and mid Sussex to a future meeting. Damian or Richard Morris of HDC to write a short report for a future issue of HDC News once we have heard from Anna Geall.

(b) **from Emma Smith regarding training to the staff at the Pavilions**

Emma explained that she has been to the Pavilions to carry out 8 training sessions and another 8 sessions planned for January. The staff had already received some basic disability awareness training but Emma's training dealt specifically with how to deal with people with visual or hearing impairment including basic sign language. Excellent feedback – so useful that the sessions have not been long enough! Lockers are difficult. Resources permitting the plan is to roll it out to all DC Leisure staff. Agreed we need to put an article in a future HDC News. Andrew thanked Emma for her sterling efforts.

Action – Steve Hawker of HDC to liaise with Emma and write an article for HDC News

**4. Liz Robbins talked about “Key fobs”**

Liz gave us a very informative talk. There is real time bus information at bus shelters saying the next bus is due in x minutes but it does not say what the number of the next bus is e.g. route 98 to Southwater. In Worthing, where it was piloted, there is an audio facility which is also useful for people with learning difficulties. The “key fob” activates the signs and does text to speech which has been approved by the RNIB.

The fob has 2 buttons – one gives out simple information the other gives all the information on the display. The signs in Horsham are set for simple information. The fob alerts you when you are walking past a bus shelter, may need the settings changed if announcements too loud. Liz wants feedback from anyone who has used them e.g. is the name of the bus stop sufficient? Emma has tried them and Janet agreed to take a fob to try and feedback to us at the next meeting. Unfortunately Liz said the key fobs cannot be used with the new screen in Horsham bus station. Action – Damian to let Liz know feedback after our next meeting

**5. Health update**

Andrew explained that the meeting of the North East Review Stakeholders meeting which he Chaired on 24 November was changed by the NHS/PCT to make it a private meeting ( i.e. invitation only) as opposed to a public meeting. Andrew and Lilian gave a brief overview of the meeting. The crux of it is that the south of the County will get most of the money and unlikely the extra hours for the Minor Injuries Unit at Horsham hospital will now happen due to financial restraints!

LINKs have looked at Disability Facility Grants (DFGs) and produced a report. Andrew said that Horsham District Council had an excellent track record on these and the way we operate them was attracting interest from other councils in Sussex. Any delay seems to be because of pressure on Occupational Therapists to carry out the assessments. Action – Andrew will arrange for John Batchelor from HDC to attend our next meeting to talk about the way HDC administers DFGs.

In another year Links becomes “Health Watch”- a bit like the old Community Health Council.

Lilian has been instrumental in arranging for a short 15-20 minute DVD on Stroke services to be produced in conjunction with local GPs and Media students at Collyers. Aim is for survivors of strokes to take it to community groups, church groups, Age UK etc. We agreed we would watch it at the second meeting in 2011

## 6. Suggestions for future speakers

### 9 February 2011

- Developments affecting Day Services from WSCC - Simon Starns WSCC Service Development Manager – Developing Day Activities Project
- John Batchelor from HDC re Disability Facility Grants

### 14 April 2011

- Anna Geall, Chief Executive Carers Support Service for north and mid Sussex
- Stroke DVD

### 8 June 2011

- WSCC- Adults' Social care – on changes to the eligibility levels for adults receiving social care support. Consultation is taking place now – from 25.11.10 to 3.2.11

## 7. Days and times of these meetings in 2011

It was agreed that we continue to meet at 10.30am (except for the pre Christmas meeting which will start at 12 noon) and that we meet on a Wednesday one month then a Thursday then Wednesday etc

After this meeting Andrew booked the Wicker room for the following dates and times for our 2011 meetings;

Wednesday	9 February	10.30am to 12.30pm
Thursday	14 April	10.30am to 12.30pm
Wednesday	8 June	10.30am to 12.30pm
Thursday	8 September	10.30am to 12.30pm
Wednesday	2 November	10.30am to 12.30pm
Thursday	15 December	12 noon to 2.00pm

## 8. Any other business

- (a) Peter said he was very pleased and impressed to have been contacted by HDC during the bad weather at the beginning of December to check he was alright. The Council staff contacted everyone who has a community link alarm. Others at the meeting confirmed they too had been contacted and appreciated the call
- (b) May mentioned that she had heard that parking restrictions have been introduced in Bartholomew Way, Holbrook. **Andrew said he would check with WSCC**
- (c) Andrew said that of all the meetings he attends this is his favourite. He thanked everyone for giving up their time to attend these meetings and wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy healthy prosperous New Year and looked forward to seeing them in 2011.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.

Minutes typed up and distributed by Andrew on 28 December 2010