



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 9 February, 2011 at 10.30am

Present:

Andrew Baldwin	HDC Councillor
Peter Billington	HACVS
Damian Brewer	HDC Equalities Officer
Wendy Edwards	WSCC Library Services Equal Access
Liz Green	WSCC Library Services
Margaret Killner	Independent
Yvonne Law	Independent
May Pope	Independent (was Carers)
Norman Raby	Independent
Janet Raybould	4Sight

Invited speakers

Nigel Weston	HDC, Project Engineer
Bob Sinclair	HDC, Principal Civil Engineer
Penny Marsh	HDC, Environmental Health Officer

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, Lilian Bold, Susan Carter, Steve Hendry, Joyce Narborough, Emma Smith

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2010 – agreed as a true record. No matters arising. Action - Damian to arrange for these to be added to the HDC website and to check with HDC to make sure the visibility markers on the wooden posts in Horsham park have been done

3. Feedback

(a) Roffey Millennium hall

Damian has been to see the hall and has been in dialogue with the Parish Council. Various issues e.g. need a bell to enable disabled people to arrange for someone to let them in as the doors are very strong, need clear signage for the disabled bay spaces and to prevent unauthorised parking which makes it difficult for mobility scooters to get by. Damian to update us at the next meeting

(b) “Key fobs”

Janet has tried the fob and mixed response. It does not always say when the bus is approaching the bus stop (J) in the Carfax and some of the information is inaccurate. Janet will continue to use it and give feedback at our next meeting. Damian had passed a fob to the Strawford Centre for them to try and has mentioned it to talking newspapers for the blind.

4. East Street scheme update

Nigel and Bob gave a presentation and update following the pedestrianisation of East Street. Before vehicles had priority, now drivers are generally more considerate. The confused road markings have gone and pedestrians can now use the entire street. Between 10am and 3pm there has been a considerable reduction in vehicles using it – now only for vehicles loading and unloading in designated bays and blue badge holders. Slight increase in foot fall using East Street.

The law requires the words “No Loading” to be painted on the paving before we can enforce illegal parking. Waiting for the Department of Transport to issue the necessary Exemption paperwork so that we can start to enforce it.

The scheme is designed for tables and chairs outside some restaurants. In the evening there should not be any loading or unloading so chairs and tables can be kept out in the evening. Need to talk to Objectors but they may introduce 6pm street closure so no vehicles at all could use it between say 6pm and 7am or 8am.

The “A” Board protocol does not presently apply in East Street. When the protocol was first introduced elsewhere in the town centre the civil engineering work was still taking place in East Street.

It was agreed that there has been a vast improvement but still some confusion over which vehicles can still use it. We would like to see action taken over “A” boards and the street closed from 6pm until 7 or 8am and all day Sundays.

5. Disability Facility Grants

Penny explained how the system works, it is means tested. The LINKs report has been withdrawn as not entirely accurate. Penny explained that people need to contact the County’s Occupational Therapists who assess their needs. Presently, for non urgent work, there is a delay of around two months for Occupational Therapists to go and see someone and once seen it can take 6 months for the work to be authorised by WSCC. Even if someone uses a private Occupational Therapy they still need to get the County’s O T to check them. Liz kindly offered to make some enquiries to see if things can be speeded up. Once accessed by County, HDC visit usually within a week. They can use their own builders or one HDC recommends, get two quotations and do paperwork.

6. **Health update** – Lilian at another meeting so no update available

7. Suggestions for future speakers

- Developments affecting Day Services from WSCC - Simon Starns WSCC Service Development Manager – Developing Day Activities Project
- Anna Geall or Liz Catchpole, Carers Support Service for north and mid Sussex – Damian has contacted them twice.
- Stroke DVD

8. Any other business

(a) Disability Living Allowance – although changes due in April 2013 it is understood that some people who presently receive this will have to undergo a medical check possibly this year. This is worrying and upsetting. Damian to try to clarify if people need an appointment before 2013 then update at next meeting

(b) May mentioned at the last meeting that she had heard that parking restrictions have been introduced in Bartholomew Way, Holbrook. Andrew checked and was told that WSCC are considering some resident parking in parts of Holbrook like Tylden Way, Bartholomew Way. Many people from further afield, like Southwater and Ashington, drive to Holbrook to park for free then take a fast train to London. Parking goes all the way now down Ruser Road

(c) in Chesworth Lane is a house close to the railway line called HOADS. They have been told to put their bins on the pavement across the road from their house rather than on the grass verge immediately outside. Today a blind man with a guide dog walked into the bin and knocked it over. Andrew to speak to Alex Gander as this was flagged at the November meeting to see what can be done.

9. Days and times of these meetings in 2011

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

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.

Minutes typed up and distributed by Andrew on 9 February 2011