



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 14th April 2011 at 10.30 am

Present:	Andrew Baldwin	HDC Councillor
	Peter Billington	HACVS
	Damian Brewer	HDC
	Susan Carter	Independent
	Wendy Edwards	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 Catchpole	Carers Support Services
	Helen Crooks	AHDC Project Co-ordinator

1. **Welcome, Apologies and Introductions**

Andrew Baldwin, Cabinet member for Housing and Community Development, Horsham District Council (HDC) chaired the meeting. The Chairman welcomed everyone. Apologies received from Margaret Alford, Lilian Bold, Jo Fisher, J Hardy, Jackie Manners, Joyce Narborough

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2011** and updated actions – agreed as a true record. No matters arising. **Action** - Damian to arrange for these to be added to the HDC website

3. **Liz Catchpole spoke to the group about the Carers Support Services**

The 2001 Census was the first to ask a question about carers. In the Horsham District 11,641 carers were identified (10% of the population). Over 1500 provided more than 50 hours per week of care. The peak age of carers is 45-64 and many have to give up work to care for someone.

Leeds University did a study of carers about 5/6 years ago and found that the economic value of carers was estimated to be £87billion, £134.4 million in the Horsham District.

Mental health as well as physical health is often compromised, and Carers Support is keen to get carers into the service. Research has found that carers need:

Recognition of value

Information

Financial Help

Breaks

Understanding employers

North and Mid Sussex Carers Support cover the whole of Crawley, Mid-Sussex and the Horsham District down to Dial Post and work alongside Worthing Carers and provide:

- Support workers who visit Doctor's surgeries every week to help fill in forms, provide information on benefits, act as a signpost to other organised support groups and also to provide a listening ear.
- A mental health carer's support group which meets monthly at Horsham Hospital.
- A service at East Surrey Hospital to support carers on a patient's discharge from hospital.
- Referral increasing to 2 GP support workers at Crawley and Horsham Hospital
- Emotional support service provides 36 weeks free counselling
- Telephone call back service (Mandy) to provide a friendly listening ear
- Small pots of money for carers to take a break, there is no facilities but they can help with research, there is a national and local database
- Support groups for recently bereaved carers
- Information booklets, leaflets, DVD's
- Quarterly newsletters
- Activities and visits and information about Carers week which is 13th -19th June
- Carers handbook
- Links to other organisations
- A new generic Horsham Carers group meeting 27th April at Lavina House, contacts Lyn Chappel and Amanda Harris Evans
- 3 events held last year in Horsham, Crawley and Mid Sussex, Horsham based event was attended by about 40 carers and an action plan was produced

May Pope asked if the new GP Commissioning will make a difference Liz informed us that Anna has worked closely alongside to make sure GPs are care aware.

Andrew asked if Liz could talk at a council Meeting, as this is the sort of thing they ought to know.

It was suggested that Damian could have a stall at the County Mall on Friday 17th for Carer's week.

Andrew asked about young carer's as he knows of a girl of 13 who is a carer – there is a young carers association in West Sussex and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers do a lot for young carers. Someone from the Young Carers Service could come and talk at the meeting, Liz to supply a contact name.

4. Feedback

(a) Janet Raybould – Key Fobs

Janet tested the key fobs, they were not very successful, it does not tell you if you are near a bus stop and you cannot rely on buses coming in the order that is given, and have to rely on asking fellow passengers or the bus driver to tell you the number of the bus. There is no audible display at the bus station and if the buses use the wrong bay, which does happen occasionally, there is no way of knowing.

Action: Damian flag up with bus services.

There has been no feedback from Gary. **Action:** Damian to contact him.

(b) Pat Rutherford - Wheelchair Accessible Taxis

Sue thought that there was a higher charge for wheelchair accessible taxis'.

Action: Damian to investigate how to find a wheelchair or scooter accessible taxi and if there is a different charging scale for this.

Action: Damian to ask Andy Skipper (Licensing Inspector) to talk to the meeting about wheelchair accessible taxis.

- (c) **Andrew Baldwin - Chesworth Lane wheelie bins obstruction**
Andrew has not been able to meet anyone from Hop Oast on site, so not progressed yet.
Action: Andrew to report at next meeting
- (d) **Andrew Baldwin - Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's)**
John Batchelor has said that a purge of DFGs is being done in the Horsham Area, so adaptations should be progressing far quicker, ok for budget at the moment.
5. **Link update:** Lilian Bold unable to attend so no update received.
6. **Helen Crooks, Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) Project Co-ordinator**
Helen showed a film and gave a presentation on facilities for disabled youngsters between the ages of 5 and 19; siblings are also included.
There is secure funding to continue and develop new activities and make these more accessible to other user groups, such as working with Farlington School 6th form students to promote inclusion by providing a mentor, free of charge, to carry out training workshops so the students can acquire skills to enable them to work with disabled people using the Farlington School facilities. There is also a taster session starting in July at Southwater where disabled adults can be picked up by minibus for the morning to allow them to try out different activities.
The QE2 School found that students were losing their skills after they left the school, so working in partnership they are now able to train people up to run the coffee shop/food bar in the Arts and Drama facility which helps to retain their skills.
Andrew would like to know how money is needed to run an extra trampoline course.
Action: Damian to investigate
7. **Suggestions for future speakers, topics?**
Lilian Bold – Stroke DVD – **Action:** Damian to check with Lilian for next meeting
Andy Skipper – Disabled taxis
Young Carers – suggest autumn
Helen – to find out more for handicraft activities for adults
8. **Any Other Business**
Sue: Millennium Hall signing not resolved yet. **Action:** Damian to chase up
Emma: Electric charging points in disabled bays, the disabled bays are to be moved to another area.
9. **Date of next meeting**
Wednesday 8th June at 10.30 am in the Wicker Room