



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 8 September, 2011 at 10.30am

Present:	Andrew Baldwin	HDC Councillor
	Peter Burgess	HDC Councillor
	Peter Billington	HACVS
	Lilian Bold	LINK (voice on health and social care)
	Damian Brewer	HDC Equalities Officer
	Susan Carter	Independent
	Wendy Edwards	WSCC, Libraries
	Jill Hardie	WSCC, Adult Services (Strawford Centre)
	Margaret Killner	Independent
	Norman Raby	Independent
	May Pope	Independent (was Carers)
	Janet Raybould	4Sight
	Pat Rutherford	Parish Councillor

Invited speakers	Igor Kadiyski	WSCC, Supporting the health and Wellbeing of adults and older people
	Karen Jordan	HDC
	Judy Buckley	HDC

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

Andrew Baldwin, Cabinet member for the Environment, Horsham District Council (HDC) chaired the meeting and took the Minutes. The Chairman welcomed everyone. Apologies received from Yvonne Law, Emma Smith and Eric Mackie of the East Grinstead Access Group.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2011** – agreed as a true record. It was pleasing to note that many of the outstanding Actions from previous meetings had been completed. Damian to arrange for the agreed Minutes to be added to the HDC website.

3. Supporting the health and wellbeing of adults and older people

Igor works for the Northern Prevention Assessment team which is a joint team of staff from the County Council and Sussex Community NHS Trust. It started work on 1 June 2011 and includes health advisors (nurses), social care workers and support workers. Their aim is to help people to stay healthy and remain independent and to prevent a person with moderate needs becoming substantial needs. They provide advice, assistance and “sign posting” for social services and health matters to people who do not receive services from specialist health care teams or social care services.

The eligibility criteria for a person to receive help from Social Services tightened from April 2011. There is no longer a care package for everyone leaving hospital. They give help on

the benefits available and work closely with the Department for Work and Pensions and many organisations and charities like Age UK, Help at Home, and Crossroads. The DWP undertake home visits. Prevention work is mainly educational, to promote well being and prevent a crisis e.g. helping carers by offering some respite care, looking at trip hazards, fire alarms, is the garden overgrown. Concern expressed that it is very difficult for carers to have a breather. Following the closure of some day centres, it would be nice if some buildings can be hired out free of charge to enable groups to provide some activities.

Someone with savings or assets of over £23,500 has to pay for their care. Damian to check with Richard Morris to see if mention of this organisation can be included in the next HDC News.

4. **Resident's satisfaction survey** – Karen explained about the resident's survey and the hope that many people will take part, as an incentive there is a £50 prize. Residents are encouraged to complete the form online. Karen wants us to discuss this with the organisations we represent to encourage more participation. Agreed we ask Karen back in 2012 to talk about the responses/ feedback.
5. **Access to polling stations** – Judy explained that there are 67 polling stations in the District. Each has to be assessed to make sure it is suitable e.g. accessibility for the disabled, adequate lighting, parking, proximity to residents etc. There are approximately 15,500 residents now with a postal vote. It was agreed that by the end of 2012 Damian will check them all out and produce an access guide for all polling stations. The next elections likely to be November 2012 for the elected Police Commissioner. In view of the fact it would cost £100,000 to run an election in our District it is hoped the government will agree to the election taking place in May 2013 when the County Council elections are held.
6. **Health update** – Lilian gave feedback i.e.
 - (a) LINK is being replaced by Health Watch, independent voice of health and social services. Likely this will now take place from October 2012 following the extra consultation regarding government changes to the NHS. There will be a transitional period before elections are held. LINK is funded by WSCC but the money is not ring fenced and WSCC top slice it.
 - (b) Project on monitoring assessments in Social care – WSCC has paid out £30,000 in 2010/11 in compensation to 120 people who complained to the Local Government Ombudsman. A Social care assessment is being carried out with WSCC to visit people at random to see what their experience was of receiving help/ support
 - (c) Stroke DVD has been distributed
 - (d) Minor Injuries Unit – nothing to report. Andrew will try to obtain an update for our next meeting
 - (e) North East Review – this has been main streamed but not sure what it means. Andrew will ask for an update for our next meeting
 - (f) Urgent treatment centre at Crawley is operating at full capacity
 - (g) Cataracts – Andrew mentioned that at the Council meeting on 7.9.11 the Council Leader was asked to take up with the Sussex Community NHS Trust why they have tightened up their criteria for treating cataracts. The result is that many people with cataracts will have to wait longer for treatment.

7. Suggestions for future speakers

- Metrobus
- Dr Simon Dean, GP Commissioning from Park surgery. Also possibility of asking Simon Turpitt, Chairman of the Sussex Community NHS Trust
- Gemma Crowther, Chief Executive Officer, Voice for Disability who unfortunately was unable to make today's meeting
- Vivien Lyth, Age UK
- Karen Jordan – 1st quarter 2012 with feedback to HDC residents survey

8. Any other business

- (a) Wendy explained that Horsham library is being closed for 3 weeks starting 9.9.11. Will reopen 3 October. New automated machines are being installed. There was a staff restructure in March 2011.
- (b) The road outside the Cloth Shop in the Carfax needs repairing. Damian to contact WSCC Highways
- (c) The passage way leading to and from the Forum and West Street (between Blacks shop and the car park) was dug up last year and the paving replaced with tarmac. Andrew explained that this area belongs to Blacks and that their Agents (Savills) had recently been reminding to take action. Andrew will find out a progress report for the next meeting
- (d) Chichester Access Forum has produced an excellent free guide. Andrew and Damian will see if something similar can be produced for Horsham
- (e) Funding for Parent Carer groups – grants up to £1,000 available to fund local parent groups, voluntary organisations and community groups that provide direct support for parent carers in West Sussex.

9. Days and times of these meetings for the remainder of 2011

Wednesday	2 November	10.30am to 12.30pm
Thursday	15 December	12 noon to 2.00pm

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.

Minutes typed up and distributed by Andrew on 10 September 2011