

STAND

Stoke-on-Trent Area Network for Disability

Stoke-on-Trent Area Network
for Disability
stand-stoke.org.uk

**Minutes of the General Meeting held at 10.00 am on Tuesday
21st June 2016 at Stoke Town Hall.**

Attendees:

Stewart Barker
John Beech (Chair)
Eileen Bloomfield
Pam Bryan (Secretary)
Geoff Bryan
John Burgess
Rita Dale (Eton Park Councillor)
Winston Green
Robert Lamonby
Lisa Nixon (for Rob Ffello M.P.)
Jennifer Pardue
Jean Simpson
Leslie Smith (Access Officer)
Brian Turnock
Lynn Watkins (for Ruth Smeeth M.P.)
Phil Woodward
Ann Whitehurst
J.Fisher

Apologies:

Mike Dixon
Pat Dixon
Horace Hodson
Mick Jones
Barry Simpson
Lee Wanger

2. Minutes of The Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the general meeting held on 3rd May 2016 were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

a) Middleport Pottery

Pam reported that the work had been agreed but had no further update.

b) Meir Drainage Channels

Geoff reported that agreement had been reached to do the work.

Standing up for People with Disabilities

c) Stand Publicity

Pam reported that Michelle had resigned.

d) Pavement Parking

Members had spoken to PCSOs who said they had not received advisory notices to put on offending vehicles. Pam had received a letter from the Crime Commissioner saying to get in touch with him if there were continuing problems.

3. A & E Update

Pam had made an onsite visit with HealthWatch reps. and made recommendations to make areas more disability friendly. Most of these had now been met including high and low chairs and twin handled mugs in the café area.

A solution had not yet been reached regarding people in wheelchairs being left at the entrance with no way to get to their cars. This was ongoing.

4. Pall Mall Car Park

Pam reported that facilities would remain as before.

5. Carmountside

Leslie reported that previously requested work had been done and STAND reps. would arrange a site visit to confirm this.

6. Podiatry

Rob Lamonby had emailed Pam outlining his case and she had referred it to Rob Fello. She would continue to pursue this and said that a proper dialogue with the Podiatry service should be held to work towards solving the ongoing problems. Jennifer suggested that STAND could link up with Age Concern and the Diabetes Society to work together. Pam will contact VAST to pursue this.

7. Community Transport

Leslie reported that disappointingly there had been no progress in this area. Pam will invite Brian Edwards (Transport Officer) to the AGM as a guest speaker. The Chair said that deregulation of bus services had led to a decrease in bus transport. It was also noted that disabled people couldn't actually get to bus stops so needed door to door service.

8. Lowered Kerbs in Malthouse Road

Rita Dale reported that the Council had now inspected the site and was awaiting progress.

9. Disabled Access to Hanley Library

Pam had received an email from the Library confirming there are two disabled parking spaces outside the Library and further spaces on the John Street car park. Because the spaces are within 50 metres of the Library, no further progress with this would be possible. However, Leslie said that future plans for changes at Hanley Museum might make a possible space between the Library and the Museum available. She would look at any available plans and ask for STAND to be included in discussions.

10. Green Door Fun Day

Pam asked for volunteers to help on 2nd July at the STAND tombola stall.

11. Future Plans for Hanley Town Centre

Leslie showed the plans for Stafford Street and Crown Bank. It was noted that the toilets at Crown bank had been closed and Stand had not been consulted. Concerns were also raised that new automatic toilets were planned in this area and these would not be accessible to mobility scooters or electric wheelchairs. Pam would contact Jack Brereton with STAND concerns re. lack of inclusion in formulating the proposed plans. Leslie would also feedback these concerns directly to Council planners. STAND would also recommend the provision of short term parking facilities by toilets for the disabled.

12. Any Other Business

a) Blue Badges

Anyone with a terminal illness (likely to die within six months) in possession of a DS1500 form is normally entitled to immediate possession of a blue badge. However, reports have been received that people have been required to go through the formal process of assessment to obtain the badge. John will contact Mike Clarke to clarify the position.

b) National Carers Strategy

Pam had completed this survey and noted that carers should have priority access to GPs at their surgery.

c) Wheelchairs at UHNS

Pam reported that she had emailed Robert Courteney-Harris to pursue the matter of lack of assistance back to vehicles for disabled patients.

d) Meir Drainage Channels

Jennifer reported that this problem had still not been resolved and was ongoing.

13. Next General Meeting – AGM – 10.00am Tuesday 30th August

Next Executive Meeting – 10.00am Tuesday 12th July