

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 10.00am on Tuesday 27th October at Stoke Town Hall.

Attendees:

John Burgess (Chair)
John Beech
Jack Brereton (Stoke Council)
Geoff Bryan
Pam Bryan
Angela Bunn
Michelle Cooper
Jennie Fisher
Anita Gibson (Stoke Council)
Denise Keen
Mick Jones
Alan Mountford
Andy Norman (Stoke Council)
Alan Mountford
Jean Simpson
Leslie Smith (Access Officer)
Brian Turnock
Ann Whitehurst
Philip Woodward

Apologies:

Stuart Barker
Cheryl Barnett
Pauline Betteridge
Mike Dixon
Pat Dixon
Rob Ffello MP
Winston Green
Lynn Hughes
Tristram Hunt MP
Jennifer Pardue
Barry Simpson
Ruth Smeeth MP

2. The minutes of the general meeting held on 11th August 2015 were confirmed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

a) Access to Chiropody Services

Despite requesting a meeting and contacting HealthWatch for advice, Brian had made no further progress. He had written another letter of complaint. The Chair would obtain contact details of Karen Bradley MP to progress the Issue further.

b) Tontine Street Kerb Edges

A further discussion took place regarding this issue and various solutions were proposed.

Standing up for People with Disabilities

It was pointed out that extensive consultations had already taken place to try to solve the problem. Jack Brereton agreed that it was a serious issue, particularly for people who were visually impaired. He suggested a trial using paint on the edge of the kerb followed by a site meeting with STAND. Leslie Smith agreed to organise the meeting.

b) Meir Drainage Channels

Pam confirmed that the work had now been completed.

c) Independent Living Fund

Pam confirmed that this was still ongoing and that two lay persons would be involved in the process.

d) Abuse of Blue Badge Bays by Taxi Drivers/Extra Charges for Disabled People

Pam reported that Mike (Licensing Manager) was working hard to resolve this issue. Training for new license holders was being revised and STAND would be included in consultations. It was suggested that a community transport system could work if it was contracted out with appropriate training for drivers to assist people with disabilities. A meeting to discuss this would be arranged with Community Transport Scoping by Leslie. Pam would email date/time etc to members.

e) Hospital Parking

This issue was still ongoing although some improvements had been made. Pam had raised the issue of non- working parking machines with the hospital. The Chair also asked whether the proposed mini Marks and Spencer food store on site would remove some of the disabled parking bays at the front of the hospital and commented the STAND had not been consulted about the siting of the store.

g) Pavement Parking

It was reported that this was a real problem throughout the city and was proving to be a constant hazard. Pam agreed to contact the Police Commissioner again regarding the issue of booklets to PCSOs.

4. Pedestrianisation Hanley City Centre

It was noted that pedestrianisation had limited access to parking facilities outside shops for disabled people. The Chair reported that he was aware that private hire vehicles were using bus lanes and also asked whether a review of kerb loading/unloading lines could be initiated. It was noted that recent changes to one way systems and bus routes had taken place which

affected the flow of traffic in the city. It was also pointed out that this had also resulted in a lack of parking facilities for ease of access to Hanley Museum.

Jack Brereton reported that the Council would be looking at these issues as a whole across the city during the next few months in order to arrive at the optimum solutions. He agreed that accessibility for the disabled was an important issue to be addressed and the Council would need to ensure that all views and opinions were considered for the best long term solutions to be achieved.

The Chair suggested that the Police be included in consultations.

5. Museum Canopy

The Museum had confirmed that they would not be installing a canopy at the back entrance as this would interfere with surveillance cameras. They had stated that the door buzzer was usually answered immediately.

6. STAND Publicity

Pam would give STAND information packs to Michelle who would report on progress to the next meeting.

7. Middleport Pottery

Pam reported that they had been very co-operative and had re-installed bitumen between the cobbles after contractors' vehicles had disintegrated the original layers. Unfortunately, the same thing happened again. Leslie explained that a different type of bitumen would be more expensive to install. It was agreed that Pam would invite a representative from the pottery to the next meeting to discuss the issue.

8. Any Other Business

a) PM Training

The Chair reported receiving a thank you note from Mrs Oram for putting her in contact with PM Training who had helped with her gardening.

b) Angie Bunn (Disability Solutions)

Angie asked for nominations for disabled people to take part in the Great British Bake Off.

c) Carmountside Crematorium

Barrier access for disabled people was difficult in certain areas, particularly at the top end of the site. The Lord Mayor (in her role as a Councillor) had agreed to pursue this.

Date for Next General Meeting:

Tuesday 8th December - 10.00am Stoke Town Hall