

Minutes of General Meeting

Date	Tuesday 28 th Jan 14
Time	10.00am to 12.00pm
Venue	Stoke Town Hall

Agenda topic	Action		
<p>1. Attendees and Apologies</p> <p>Present:</p> <p>Geoff Bryan (Deputy Chair) Pam Bryan (Secretary) Stephanie Wood (Deputy Secretary) Winston Green (Treasurer) John Burgess (Deputy Treasurer) Lesley Smith (Access Officer SOTCC) Petronella Yearsley SOTCC Steve Buckton SOTCC Terry Crowe Cabinet Member for Transformation and Resources Mick Jones Stewart Barker Alex Smith (Sentinel)</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Apologies</p> <p>John Beech Pat Layland Joan Whalley MP Val Turner Val Lewis Phil Woodward Alan Rose Pauline Betteridge Malcolm Dawson Alan Mountford Barry Simpson</p> </td> <td> <p>Adrian Knapper Jean Snape Alan Dutton Brian Turnock Mark Fisher UHNS Mike Brown UHNS</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>John Beech Pat Layland Joan Whalley MP Val Turner Val Lewis Phil Woodward Alan Rose Pauline Betteridge Malcolm Dawson Alan Mountford Barry Simpson</p>	<p>Adrian Knapper Jean Snape Alan Dutton Brian Turnock Mark Fisher UHNS Mike Brown UHNS</p>
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<p>2. Shopmobility Steve Buckton</p> <p>Steve said that Shopmobility would be staying in the Potteries Shopping Centre for the foreseeable future. A situation that might change when the Potteries Centre start their proposed new buildings. Steve said that he would keep us informed. Lez said that the Changing Places Unit would be decommissioned in Feb 14. Discussion about advertising and signage to Shopmobility and the amount time the unit (Changing Places) was used and was it in the best place were aired. Lez said she would contact the groups that were instrumental in getting the unit in the first place to assess how much it was being used and bring this information to the next meeting. She will also invite members of these groups to our next meeting. This unit cost a great deal of money and it is essential that it is sited in the best place where it will be used.. Terry to ask how many people have used this in the last 6 months and bring that information to our next meeting. Steve pointed out that Shopmobility does run at a loss and any suggestion as to how it can be made more cost effective would help.</p> <p>Who is responsible for dealing with obstructions? Steve Buckton</p> <p>Roads subject to a traffic order are subject to council Civil Enforcement Officers and can be issued with a PCN (ticket). If someone has parked where there are no parking restrictions ie. the pavement, the council cannot do anything about this, which means that it should be reported to the police. Members are recommended to take photographs of the offending vehicle with the number plate and report the matter to the police. If the</p>	<p>S.B.</p> <p>L.S.</p> <p>T.C.</p>		

<p>problem persists we will invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to a future meeting to discuss the matter.</p> <p>Museum Parking Winston had reported a car blocking access to the new disabled car park. As this is on private land then it is a matter for the Museum and Library management. Members will take photographs and reg. No and report them to the relevant managers. Steve will email the managers with our concerns and report back to us.</p> <p><i>Steve did this immediately and Phillip Mountford is already on the case. He has contacted the Library staff and alerted them to the problem.</i></p>	<p>S.B.</p>
<p>3. Stafford Street dropped kerb Petronella Yearsley</p> <p>Petronella said that there were historic reasons why the dropped kerb was in the loading bay, but today it was used to assist unloading. Member gave experiences where they had been left stranded in their wheelchairs in the road because dropped kerbs did not line up. Petronella said that this would be investigated and the recommendations brought to our next meeting on April 1st when funding for 14/15 would be released. Terry would also look into this and bring information back to our next meeting</p> <p>Tontine Street Danger of Tripping Petronella Yearsley</p> <p>The visual similarity between the highway and pavement area had been investigated and Petronella delivered the following report:</p> <p><i>‘Despite carrying out a long of research and taking advice from other Cities who have renewed the public realm, unfortunately we have received a number of calls about tripping in this area. I believe that the abundance of A-boards in Tontine Street is causing a hazard to visitors but I believe that there may also be an issue with shade or shadow which may diminish the paving contrasts. The kerb was included further to meetings with RNIB and others. We will be installing some metal studs along the kerb to highlight the kerb edges in the next few weeks to try to alert pedestrians to the kerb line and prevent further tripping.’</i></p>	<p>P.Y.</p> <p>T.C.</p>
<p>Proposed Closure of Public Toilets</p> <p>Petronella said that she did not deal with this. Terry said that the Council had decided that NO public toilets would be close unless there was a viable alternative, which includes those with disabled access. Malcolm Dawson to be invited to comment on this at our next meeting.</p> <p>4. Minutes of last meeting</p> <p>Accuracy verified seconded by John Burgess</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>UHNS Parking Update Pam Bryan</p> <p>Apologies from Mark Fisher and Mike Brown but a full report had been sent and was distributed and read by Pam.</p> <p>Good News- UHNS are to improve the signage in February. UHNS took a “Light Touch” approach towards issuing parking tickets for the first two months.</p>	<p>M.D.</p>

Winston's Report: No volunteers, could not get wheelchair to parking meter, many other people were not aware that they had to pay, inadequate signage. Inside the building there was fantastic help. Next visit no one to help again. This will cause problems for anyone who has walking difficulties. In the reception again the help was immediately available.

Terry asked if these helpers had been CRB checked.

Stephanie's Report: Early November No signs saying it was a pay and display car park apart from small signs on machines. No volunteers to help. People were lining up to park. No wheelchairs available on the car park. Her wheelchair could not get up to the machine to put her money into it. Cars were parked too close to the ramps so could not get to put money in the machine. Parking Wardens were putting warning notices on car that had not got tickets.

Terry- Nothing on machines to say you have to pay apart from a very small strip that could be easily overlooked. Problems of abuse of blue badges.

Brian Turnock sent apologies but has raised the issue of the poor lighting at night when the writing on the machines is not visible.

Issues still outstanding

We accept the UHNS's right to charge disabled people to park but we insist that the method they use must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty and should not:

- a) Not put their health in danger by causing them to walk further than is safe ie within 50metres.
- b) Provide and advise disabled patients and visitors of help which is consistently available for disabled people to use the machines and to travel from the car park to the entrance.
- c) Not put a disabled person at a disadvantage that would not apply to an able bodied person.

Action

Pam will communicate our concern about the outstanding issues to Mark at UHNS and invite him to our next meeting for an update.

Pam will contact Val Lewis at Healthwatch to keep her informed of our concerns and invite her to our next meeting

Terry suggested contacting Adrian Knapper and Zaphir Bell to inform them of our concerns and invite them to our next meeting when hopefully UHNS representatives will be able to attend.

All members are invited to contact their MPs to raise these as a issues of great concern to disabled people.

Pam asked that we applaud the good things that are going on inside the UHNS main building regarding help for disabled people and recognise the efforts that Mark had put into finding a resolution. She asked that we defer involving the Equality Commission at this stage in the hope that UHNS can resolve the outstanding issues quickly.

Hospital Mystery Shop Contact Pam

P.B.

P.B.

P.B.

P.B

All members

5. Funding Bid

Our Lottery funding bid comes to an end in February. Pam read The Lottery report to members and said that we had put in a smaller bid for money to cover us for next year.

6. Raising the Profile of STAND

Action taken to raise the profile of STAND was outlined and an appeal for volunteers to help. Lez said to contact Alyson re volunteers.

Lez informed members about a Greendoor project on Aug 16th 11am to 4pm which would help in our attempt to raise awareness, but we have to provide an activity. Terry informed members about the disabled angling club,

News of our new website.

Terry offered to tell people in his groups about STAND. He had not heard about STAND until he had Pam's email.

Thanks to the Sentinel for helping us to raise awareness of disability issues and publicising our work.

P.B.

T.C

7. Donation From Willfield Camera Club

STAND received an £80 donation out of respect for the work that we do.

8. AOB

Mick asked about rules governing private car parks. Terry said that the Council have no say about private car parks. Geoff said all car parks are governed by rules.

Pam raised an issue about the car park in Tunstall by the new health centre that had recently been taken over by a parking company. No signs were seen to explain whether or not disabled people had to pay.

Pam said she would investigate further and report back to the next meeting.

Blue badge abuse-Members asked that we take up the issue of abuse. Terry suggested that we ask Transport officer, Pete Price to a meeting to discuss this issue. John JB asked that we also bring up the abuse of blue badge bay abuse by taxi drivers/private hire.

Stewart alerted members to the fact that tax discs, presently shown in windscreens are being phased out.

Geoff thanked everyone for their attendance.

P.B.

P.B.

Date of next meeting Tues 1st April (No tricks please!!!!) 10am to 12.00 Stoke Town Hall
