

Minutes of General Meeting

Date	Tuesday 3 rd June 14
Time	10.00am to 12.00pm
Venue	Stoke Town Hall

Agenda topic	Action														
<p>Attendees and Apologies</p> <p>Present:</p> <p>John Beech (Chair) Geoff Bryan (Deputy Chair) Pam Bryan (Secretary) Stephanie Wood (Deputy Secretary) Winston Green (Treasurer) John Burgess (Deputy Treasurer) Mick Jones Jennifer Pardue Hannah Hulme (Sentinel) Philip Woodward Val Lewis (Healthwatch) Angie Bunn Dave Currie (Private Hire Association)</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Apologies</td> <td>Mark Fisher UHNS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lesley Smith</td> <td>Mike Brown UHNS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alan Rose</td> <td>Val Turner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike & Pat Dixon</td> <td>Pauline Betteridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rebecca Elliot</td> <td>Michelle Taylor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tristram Hunt MP</td> <td>Stewart Barker</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Brian Turnock</td> </tr> </table>	Apologies	Mark Fisher UHNS	Lesley Smith	Mike Brown UHNS	Alan Rose	Val Turner	Mike & Pat Dixon	Pauline Betteridge	Rebecca Elliot	Michelle Taylor	Tristram Hunt MP	Stewart Barker		Brian Turnock
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<p>1. Parity for Private Hire Dave Currie Dave explained the case for allowing private hire vehicles to use bus lanes. STAND had asked for members' opinions on this and all but one were in favour for a number of reasons. Cost, help from drivers they know and trust, allowing them to get closer to parts of the town centre which would otherwise be out of reach, fairness /parity with taxis, were a few of the reasons which members put forward in favour of this being allowed. STAND had sent report to the council supporting the private hire vehicles being allowed in bus lanes. Dave invited anyone interested to the Council Scrutiny Committee meeting at Stoke Town Hall on 26th June at 10am to speak in support of this matter.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last meeting were signed as a true record.</p> <p>3. Treasurer's Report To present day we have £979.64 to cover all costs for the year.</p> <p>4. Matters Arising from Minutes <u>Tontine Street Kerb Edges</u> Members reported that the stainless steel studs had been fitted but people were still tripping up over the kerb. John Beech to contact Dave Stubbs. <u>Shopmobility</u> Members reported that they thought that Hanley Old Bus Station was an ideal location for this service and more people were now using this service <u>Funding Bid</u> Phil has managed to get £30 from Unite which we should receive shortly. <u>Hanley Forest Park Fun Day 16th Aug.</u> Pam asked for volunteers. John Burgess and his wife, John Beech and Jennifer Pardue offered help but we still need more people, even if you can only spare an hour please contact Pam and offer your help. We are publicising</p>	<p>JB</p>														

<p>STAND and looking into the possibility of running a wheelchair challenge, where able bodied people have the opportunity of doing an obstacle course in a wheelchair. (Thanks for the suggestion Val)</p>	<p>PB</p>
<p>5. Hospital Parking Updates</p> <p>Disabled people displaying a blue badge will now get an extra half hour.</p> <p>Pam read through the hospital responses to MPs letters and asked that STAND's thanks to all MPs involved be recorded.</p> <p>Mark Hackett Chief Executive of UHNS has said that they do not want to have car parking subsidised from money meant for patient care. In the financial year 12/13 the car parking made a loss of £754,143. After car parking charges were increased on 1st Nov 13 the figures for 13/14 shows that car parking made a gain of £24,251. The profit or loss from car parking is NOT ring fenced.</p> <p>Members felt that patient care was being compromised by UHNS not addressing the distances that disabled people have to travel and several examples of how unacceptable distances affected, breathing problems, joint problems, heart conditions, MS patients and stress levels were discussed.</p> <p>Problems of clinics overrunning and clinical staff being unable to contact car parking staff to tell them was causing concern. Val suggested that a pre printed letter be produced by the hospital and given to people affected by this problem, would save clinical staff's time and lessen patient stress levels. Pam will contact Mark Fisher and make this suggestion.</p> <p><u>Legal Advice</u> Steph explained that she would continue to liaise with Unity Law over this and report back when she has received their advice.</p> <p><u>GP surgery visits</u> Val asked if anyone with any disability had any problems in accessing GP surgeries? Please contact Val at Healthwatch val.lewis@healthwatch.co.uk and let her know.</p> <p><u>Changing Criteria for blue badges</u> John explained that with the advent of Personal Independence Payment PIP assessment the distance had been reduced to 20 metres. This would affect all 16 to 65 year olds and all new claimants. This will have a huge impact on parking space location and distances.</p> <p><u>Problems around access at Winton House</u> where the PIP assessments take place were discussed and the executive are to look into the possibility of a "mystery shop" to investigate these. The access problem is compounded by the fact that CAB can only provide a scribing service at Winton House and not in the person's home, which means that anyone unable to access Winton House is at a huge disadvantage. We were asked to look at hearing loops, lighting, and availability of signers. At the planning stage, STAND objected to the use of this building because of access issues and lack of disabled car parking. Pam will email les to see if there are any issue we need to be aware of before we do the mystery shop. Date of 17th June at 11am has been provisionally decided.</p>	<p>.</p> <p>PB</p> <p>SW</p> <p>All</p> <p>Exec</p> <p>PB</p>

<p>6. Highways and pavement obstructions Rob Ffello had written to the police and had forwarded a reply from Chief Inspector Amanda Davies saying that they would be in touch with STAND. To date they have not done this so Pam will write to CI Davies to ask what is being done. Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis promised a review to see if PCSOs could be used to deal with this issue but we have not heard any more from him so Pam will chase this up. Members were concerned that this issue is causing problems now and will get worse unless something is done to stop this abuse.</p>	PB PB
<p>7. Museum update Car parking is well used but there are still some problems about people blocking access to the car park. John Beech says that the library car park does not show that it is an access road.</p>	
<p>8. Donations. Donors were thanked for their contributions.</p>	
<p>9. AOB Transport Lane continues to cause problems. Members have seen private hire vehicles parked in disabled bays and blocking the dropped kerb.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting AGM on 5th Aug. General 7th Oct and 2nd Dec Les will you please book a room for these dates.</p>	LS