

ACCESS & DISABILITIES WORKING GROUP MINUTES - 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

Present:

Councillors Rose Williams (Chair), Eden, Grashoff and Khan.

Also in attendance:

Alan Fleming	Enrych Berkshire
Bob Bristow	Reading Association for the Blind
Diane Goodlock	MS Society Reading
Trish Wright	MS Therapy Centre & Readibus
Lisa Bamsey	Readibus & Service User
Liz Cheyney	Member of the Public
Timothy Murgatroyd	Member of the Public
Helen Bryant	RBC - Access Officer
Richard Woodford	RBC - Committee Services

Apologies:

Siân Hooley	Berkshire Phab
Carol Pearson	Member of the Public
Mike Pearson	Member of the Public

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Further to Minute 8 of the previous meeting, the Group had been on a tour of the town centre prior to the meeting and Councillor R Williams confirmed that she would circulate a separate list of observations prior to the next meeting.

Further to Minute 2 of the previous meeting, Alan Fleming reported that the toilets in the Broad Street Mall were working.

Further to Minute 4 of the previous meeting, Alan Fleming reported that he had met with representatives from GWR who had confirmed that Changing Places would be provided on the north side of the station when Crossrail came to Reading in 2019.

It was reported that over-hanging branches were an issue on footways, particularly for blind people, and it was suggested that this could be reported through Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) or could be picked up on the Ward Environmental Audits.

Further to Minute 5(b) of the previous meeting, it was suggested that the issue of no rails on the steps at the northern interchange of the station should be referred to officers in the Transport Section.

Further to Minute 5(b) of the previous meeting, Helen Bryant reported that the issue of noise in Broad Street, that made navigating the street particularly difficult for blind people, had been referred to officers in the Licensing Section.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

ACCESS & DISABILITIES WORKING GROUP MINUTES - 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

3. SIMON PROJECT UPDATE

Helen Bryant reported that there were currently technical problems with the SIMON Project. The project was aimed at promoting the independent living and societal participation of mobility impaired people in the context of public parking areas and multiple transport modes, through the adoption of specific navigation information and Helen was due to attend a meeting about the project in October 2016.

The Group also discussed the decision taken by the Traffic Management Sub-Committee on 14 September 2016 (Minute 31 refers) to increase the number of Pay and Display parking bays in the town centre and agreed that an officer from the Transport Section should be invited to the next meeting to talk through the issues.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That an officer from the Transport Section be invited to the next meeting to talk through the issues around the expansion of the number of pay and display parking bays in the town centre.

4. MASS RAPID TRANSIT (MRT) SCHEME

Information on Transport Schemes and Projects could be found at:

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/transport-schemes-and-projects>

5. DISABILITY PRIDE DAY

Further to Minute 6 of the meeting held on 3 December 2015, Helen Bryant reported that she had been in contact with the Alliance for Cohesion and Racial Equality (ACRE) regarding Disability Pride Day and had also been given contacts for Reading Pride. Students from Reading University had also said that they would be interested in getting involved.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

6. PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME

The consultation on proposed changes to the concessionary fares scheme could be found at:

https://consult.reading.gov.uk/css/proposed-changes-to-concessionary-fares/consult_view

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Readibus

ACCESS & DISABILITIES WORKING GROUP MINUTES - 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

Trish Wright reported that Readibus drivers were having problems with the bollards in Queen Victoria Street as they had to stop to take them out and then stop again to put them back.

Dropped Kerbs

Trish Wright reported on the lack of dropped kerbs between the station and the prison and that in some places there were dropped kerbs on one side of the road but not on the other.

Scam Emails

The Group shared information on recent scam emails that purported to come from Marks and Spencer and from HMRC.

Reading Transport

Alan Fleming expressed his thanks to Reading Transport for the additional buses that had been put on routes in Tilehurst.

Paralympics Games

The Group expressed their admiration and congratulations to team GB athletes in respect of their success at the Rio Paralympic Games.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Access & Disabilities Working Group would next meet on Thursday 1 December 2016 at 2pm.

(The meeting opened at 2.00pm and closed at 4.15pm)