

ACCESS & DISABILITIES WORKING GROUP MINUTES - 1 DECEMBER 2016

Present:

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

Also in attendance:

Alan Fleming	Enrych Berkshire
Bob Bristow	Reading Association for the Blind
Laxmi Kachwaha	Readibus
Trish Wright	MS Therapy Centre & Readibus
Lisa Bamsey	Readibus & Service User
Liz Johnson	Readibus
Nigel McAlister	Member of the Public
Timothy Murgatroyd	Member of the Public
Simon Beasley	RBC - Network and Parking Services Manager
Helen Bryant	RBC - Access Officer
Nina Crispin	RBC - Consultation and Engagement Officer
Amy Bryan	RBC - Committee Services

Apologies:

Liz Cheyney	Member of the Public
Keith Hester	Berkshire County Blind Society
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 15 September 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Further to Minute 7 of the previous meeting, Liz Johnson reported that there was no issue with the bollards in Queen Victoria Street.

Councillor R Williams circulated notes from the walkabout that had taken place prior to the previous meeting.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

3. TRANSPORT UPDATE AND SIMON PROJECT

Simon Beasley attended the meeting to update the Group on transport matters. Simon talked through the notes from the walkabout on 15 September 2016, noting any issues that could be investigated or where work was currently planned. Issues talked about included contrasting material on steps, tree pits, kerb lines, disabled parking bays and overhanging tree branches.

The Group also discussed the changes to town centre pay and display parking that had been agreed at the Traffic Management Sub-Committee on 3 November 2016.

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Further to Minute 3 of the previous meeting, Simon reported that there would be trials for the SIMON project during January and if anyone wanted to take part they would need to be available for half a day and would need to let the transport team know by mid-January 2017.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

4. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

Kim Wilkins, Senior Programme Manager Public Health, gave a presentation on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020.

Kim gave a brief overview of the Reading population and explained that the foundations of the strategy were the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children, recognising and supporting all carers and high quality co-ordination information to support wellbeing. The priorities within the strategy were:

- Healthy lifestyle choices
- Reducing loneliness and social isolation
- Reducing the amount of alcohol people drink
- Mental health and wellbeing in young people
- Living well with dementia
- Breast and bowel cancer
- Reducing tuberculosis

The consultation opened on 10 October 2016 and would close on 11 December 2016. Further information could be found at: www.reading.gov.uk/hwbstrategy.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

5. DISABILITY HISTORY MONTH

Information on Disability History Month was available at <http://ukdhm.org/2016-broadsheet/>.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Reading Special Shopping Evening

The Group were reminded that the Special Shopping Evening would be held on Monday 5 December between 5pm-7pm.

Readibus

It was reported that there was a Readibus meeting this evening.

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Reading Hydrotherapy Pool

It was reported that Royal Berkshire Hospital had announced that the hydrotherapy pool would be closing in March 2017. Councillor R Williams agreed to write to the hospital on behalf of the Group and Cllr Grashoff agreed to contact the local MPs regarding the closure.

Physical Disability and Sensory Needs Network (PDSN)

It was reported that the PDSN were working on a disability awareness day and this Group could work with the PDSN on the event.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That Councillor R Williams write to Royal Berkshire Hospital regarding the closure of the hydrotherapy pool;
- (3) That Councillor Grashoff contacts the local MPs regarding the closure of the hydrotherapy pool.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Access & Disabilities Working Group would next meet on Thursday 9 March 2017 at 2pm.

(The meeting opened at 2.06pm and closed at 3.52pm)