



Minutes of Oswestry and District Access Group
July 10th 2012

1. *Present:* Angela Bright (Chair), Janis Menage, Margaret Chamberlain, Anthony Jackson, Sue Napper, Sally Tinkler, Lin Stapley, Sue Roberts, Mr Grimes. Velma Finney

2. *Apologies:* Kathleen Smith, Alfie Jones, Elaine Channon,

3. *Matters arising:*

- Audiology Department: Margaret has an appointment this week. The rent has been decided and a tender has gone out for soundproofing hopefully all will then be sorted. Only have repairs at the moment.
- Arriva Buses: Keep reporting problems
- Dog mess is problem needs to be enforced.
- Pedestrian Crossing Gobowen Derwen Students happy with the new crossing.
- Whittington level crossing still in the pipeline
- Letter of support to Allotments
Sue Napper: There are toilet facilities at St Martin's will try to find out more.
- Need for Shropshire Council representative
Bill Benyon has written to say he will no longer attend the Access Group meetings
Contact Shropshire Council for a representative.
Suggested Vince Hunt
Janis emailed him he is happy to try to come to more meetings.

4. Minutes accepted as true record

5. *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT*

- i. Guide quote from Shropshire Council for 5000 guides £1932 plus VAT = £2318 suggested that the Guide was not eye catching enough, need for new photographs and to check on the information accuracy

Sally Tinkler : at the moment staff levels stretched to the limit may be able to help check information later in the year

Sue Napper: New photographs need. Generic photographs needed of the town like the park, Heritage Centre (Though not

good access there). No car numbers, people's faces especially children.

Lin's daughter doing photography course will get her to take some images, credit her in the guide and on web site if used.

Maybe approach Derwen part of independent living skills course to see if student's can help. Email Maria Whapshot.

Anthony: Could they also help deliver?

Sue Napper: could store would appreciate a donation to costs.

Suggested asking for maybe £200 to allow for any increase in the quote price and to ask about design costs.

Timing decide to make Easter 2013 the target date.

Angela and Janis to have preliminary meeting to look through Guide for changes. Wednesday 18th 2012

- ii. Plans for improvements for Santander have been approved and work is to start soon. Will close for 2 weeks.*
- iii. Boots the Chemist Ian Whitehead development manager says the shop is to have a refit this summer and he saw no reason why an automatic door should not be fitted. I mentioned in passing the camber outside the front door was dangerous. So he is going to look at that also hopefully contact Steve Oakley to see if it can be improved.*

Margaret: Pharmacy counter is too high for me to be seen waited 20 minutes the other day needs improving. Aisles a bit narrow,

Velma Finney will email leaflet on information for store holders on aisle sizes etc. to pass onto Boots.

Ken Allan has been in touch again about the pavement after seeing an able bodied lady stumble there. He wondered about Health and safety regulations with regard to the unevenness and slippery nature of the paving especially as the street is so shady.

- iv. Alarmed to find volunteers for British Waterways have to be interviewed before picking up rubbish along the canal and that they then have to commit to a minimum 8 hours*
- v. Summer outing. Nothing arranged yet for this year. Margaret suggested a visit to the Town Museum in the Guildhall.*

Sue Napper concerned about the lift there, Margaret has used the lift in her small scooter. Sally had left the meeting at this stage get Avalon to try out the Museum

Velma asked was it a Shropshire building. No it is a Town Council building

Margaret: Heritage Centre is listed they have done what they can. I have always wanted to see the second floor and suggested they make a film of the area. This has been done and can now be viewed there. No access to the rear garden.

6. Velma Finney

Feedback on

- a) Blue Badges charges local authorities given right to charge should not be more than £10 in Shropshire, luckier than Scotland where it is £20.
- b) Arriva Buses had Difficulty getting hold of anyone at Arriva. When eventually spoke to someone was referred to the web site. The introduction of the policy on Wheelchair and Scooters using bus services is Government driven and is country wide.

Anthony recently at Chester Park and Ride the driver was very helpful and allowed 2 wheelchairs aboard

Lin: Scooter drivers should have a driving test some are menace on the pavements.

Angela you could say the same of pushchair users and kids on scooters.

Margaret : On a recent visit to Cardiff the taxis have slopes rather than lifts the height of my small scooter causes a problem you have to be forced into the taxi which causes damage to the scooter my Train journey was not satisfactory either. Reserved seats but I was separated from my carer. Went to Gobowen 5 times to try to sort out. Eventually swapped around on the train. At Cardiff thrown onto the train and could not move as not enough space. Assisted rail service breaking down?

Sue Napper sent some information for Margaret.

- c) Music Hall after refurbishment; There will be an opportunity to view the Music Hall. Would the Access group like to visit?

Angela would be interested in checking out the new Music Hall

- d) Library

New Community Hub in the entrance. You will need to make an appointment at the hub for Castle View Offices and services. There is a lack of privacy for people in this open area.

I have been told there are few incidents of people causes problems and there is a room available for private conversation. I am trying to find out if this scheme is the first of its kind. They are looking to re-open the old entrance do not think this would satisfy requirements for access.

As Access officer for Shropshire Council buildings I would like more input from access groups and more consultation. From experience e.g. Leisure centre we know this is not always the case. I often see that after plans have been checked and approved I find things are changed before implementing with no further consultation. Our staffing level has been cut to 8 staff from 70 and we no longer have the same contact with Architects, surveyors etc. about projects. Meeting in Guild Hall next Tuesday about a supplementary Guide with a check list to police the requirements for access.

7. *Town Council News by Margaret Chamberlain*

Oswestry In Bloom 2 baskets were stolen on the eve of the inspection I hope this did not spoil our chances of an award.

Food Festival was well attended with plenty of stalls.

“Oswestry 2020” meeting in the Memorial Hall please tell us your views Saturday 14th July 2012 to air your views on what should happen in Oswestry in the next 8 years

Sue Napper: Thought the recent knitted bollard covers etc were rather fun.

8. *Any other Business*

Web site: It had become apparent that some features of the web site were out of date.

We are very grateful to Sue Napper for her help in updating the web site.

She has taken out such as reference to the Borough Council, the P.O. box number and added Angela Bright and Janis Menage as contacts. Any mail coming into the email address is being re-directed to the secretary. Minutes of group meetings have been added.

Today Sue took a new photograph of some group members to replace the old version.

Sue is prepared to act as temporary administrator of the site until the AGM.

The meeting closed at 12.15

Next meeting: September 11th 2012

Cambrian Room Memorial Hall