



Minutes of Oswestry and District Access Group
June 12th 2012

1. *Present:* Angela Bright (Chair), Janis Menage, Anthony Jackson, Sally Tinkler, Lin Stapley, Sue Roberts, Margaret Chamberlain,
Derwen College: Alfie Jones, Katie White, Lewis Powell, Marc Davies and Daniel Magovern

2. *Apologies:* Kathleen Smith (We hope you are feeling better soon), Jackie Elliott, Elaine Channon, Sue Napper.

3. *Matters arising:*

- **Audiology Department:** Margaret reported that they will not make an appointment too far ahead. Repairs can be carried out there but anything major you have to go to Shrewsbury. Drop in facility still available at the Orthopaedic. There has been no agreement on the rent (£758/morning) for the move to the Cambrian Health Centre. No money requested from the council yet.

- **Arriva Buses:** Will continue to monitor the situation.

- **Sue Roberts reports** she has asked the council about putting a bin for people walking their dogs to dispose of waste. Told there is no money to provide a bin.

Lin Stapley: I understand the council must respond within 12 hours if dog mess is reported more people should report make it so expensive that people will be prosecuted.

It was thought that until the law was more rigorously enforced the problem would continue.

Anthony said when he visited Crowbridge the law was strictly enforced and the streets were cleaner.

The fines are high should there be more signs displaying the fine.

- **Julian Graves** has been much tidier.

- **Letter of support** of providing toilets at the site has been sent to the allotment committee.

- **Guide:** Looking at printers and ways of raising the money.

- Crossing at Gobowen: The students from Derwen College think that the new pedestrian crossing is a great improvement.
- Railway crossing at Whittington which is particularly difficult to use is still to be done. Not forgotten.

4. Minutes accepted as true record

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- i. Plans for improvements for Santander have been approved and work is to start soon. Will close for 1 week.
- ii. After my first inquiry Boots the Chemist I asked the manager if she had had a reply. The answer was a no as they felt they had done all that is required under current legislation by installing the present automatic door. I said give me reasons why you cannot install one at the rear as well. I'm not taking no for an answer without good reason. That afternoon their development manager rang me. 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 meeting with Steve Oakley to see if it can be improved.

Sally: The Pharmacy and baby section are at the rear of the shop it would make more sense to have an automatic door there.

Angela: I did point out that the car park is at the rear of the shop.

Margaret: Some feedback on the camber outside the shop they say if they level it out it will mean having a step outside the shop.

- iii. I am arranging to go to Shire hall on Friday to discuss the style and for a new guide. Alfie has given me a contact number for the Derwen. I will contact to them to discuss costs of printing. We will then have some quotes to compare.
 - *Need a walk round the town to check on accuracy*
 - *Distribution: consider saving the cost of paying a company.*

Margaret: the first edition we did deliver ourselves leaving a few in dental, doctor surgeries, library etc.
- iv. Moreton Garden Centre: I have noticed there are no seats for people to sit anymore. The area full of bags of fertilizer. There were a number of disabled people in the centre. I asked where they had gone? Seems they needed the space.

- v. Smith's: Does anyone else find their shop cramped?
- *Katie: Yes, it is too crowded, difficult to get round*
 - *Lewis: The queues at the tills are difficult. Often it is unfair on other people who have waited longer in the queue when they open the second till.*
 - *Daniel: their door is very heavy too.
Automatic door is problematic because of the lack of space.*
 - *Sally: Avalon staff often have to leave wheelchairs outside.*
 - *Lin Woody frequently knocks things over there.*
- vi. *Sue Napper tells me the entrance to Public toilets on the main town car park is proving a problem. The timing is too short. Will be a bigger problem if no attendant present. One to keep under consideration. Radar key £3 from Council can be used all over the country. There is a form to fill in has Doctor's name if they need to check on disability. Margaret: The town Council could not afford to take on so a private company Healthmatic has the contract which is subject to a yearly review.*

6. Town Council News

Jubilee celebrations went well Guides, Brownies and Rainbows made bunting for the market Hall. The Rotary club parade was a little disappointing. They had hoped for a float for each of the decades of the Queen's reign. It was supported by the Guides and Brownies.

The Attfield theatre showed a film of the Coronation which was very good, I can also recommend as a theatre they put on a good mix of plays for all ages. There is a lift and they can move seats around to accommodate wheelchairs. I will be going again.

Park events were successful. Proms concert at show ground was good with excellent fireworks. The weather made for a very muddy weekend for the rest of the Osfest. The Sunday Service followed by Tea was great though it had to be held indoors. Beacon and Hog roast went well. Parking at racecourse for the lighting of the beacon was full.

Future dates:

Food Festival 7th and 8th July 2012

Concerts in the park: Sunday 24th June Shrewsbury Brass Band
Sunday July 22nd Ifton Brass Band

Sue and Lin: Organisations were not asked about the parade until 3 weeks before the parade felt the council left it too late. Need time to get a float organised.

Derwen College staff and students pointed out they are never asked to join the town parades. The students would love to participate.

Margaret said she would pass on this information to the Rotary club. She thought they maybe consider the Derwen to be in Gobowen not Oswestry.

7. Any other Business

i. Barclay's Bank

Lin: I cannot see if the door to Barclay's bank is open or closed. Plain glass is very difficult to see.

Anthony : Now the Bank is open plan it is difficult to bank bags of cash which have to be left so it can be counted in the back and you have to return later.

ii. Margaret: Charity Day on the Market next one September 14th opportunity to sell to raise money for your organisations.

Lin: It is not just about selling; it is an opportunity to tell the town about your organisation. We have had stands for Guide Dogs and *the Talking newspaper*. There have been stands for *the Citizen's Advice* and *Avalon Day Centre* have had one.

Market Manager David Clough can advise what is on or see Oswestry Town web site under "What's On"

Should Access Group consider having a stall? There is a need for more publicity for the group.

Alfie: the advert for the evening meeting had been too small. Have something bigger for next time.

Marc Davies wondered if the students at the Derwen could help.

They use Facebook and could put on pieces on about Access.

The students said it was easy!

iii. Need to boost numbers for the 100 club to support our funds. Send Alfie a few forms.

iv. Sally: my husband Mark Tinkler is Shrewsbury Town Warden. Can contact him about disability issues in Shrewsbury. Mark can follow up on issues, such as dropped pavements. He is a member of the Shrewsbury Access Group.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Many thanks to Sally for her hospitality.

Next meeting: July 10th 2012

Cambrian Room Memorial Hall