



FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T
STOP US!

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2005 NEWSLETTER

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WHAT NOW?

On 1st October 2004 the final, Part III of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) passed, over 3 months ago; yet many service providers such as shops, banks, leisure facilities, pubs/restaurants still have physical barriers in place that prevent many people with disabilities from using a service that is offered to the public. It is not easy for people with a disability to go anywhere spontaneously! Wheelchair users, people with restrictive mobility and/or sensory impairments always have to check out all the access facilities to the venue. At the meeting on 12.01.2005 some Fareham Access Group members felt 'enough is enough', but need to follow DDA guidelines. A DDA draft letter & information is enclosed for members. If you have a local physical access barrier contact your local access group or use the contact details on page 3.

Scope is urging the government to address the confusion around the term 'reasonable adjustments' - which is what it requires service providers to make in order to comply with the law. It suggests that the Disability Rights Commission should have the power to issue penalties and enforce compliance with the law.

YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE

The reward for businesses who do take disabled customers into account is to secure some of the £50bn spent by the UK's 10 million people with disabilities.

The law has changed, but many businesses remain inaccessible.

PORTCHESTER IMPROVEMENT



No wheelchair
user access 08.04



Wheelchair user
access 12.04

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) is a civil law and interpretation of it will be determined by judges when cases are brought against service providers. Once a body of case law exists, disabled people and service providers alike will have a much clearer idea of what adjustments need to be made. *Source - OUCH! 13.01.05 Disability magazine on the web: www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/*

FBC hope to implement the regeneration Plans for Highlands Road and Crofton Lane shops in the next few months. If you are aware of any access problems there contact Lorraine on: 023 9238 8049 or Mike Tartaglia-Kershaw FBC Landscape Architect 01329 236100 extn 234

In Portchester



Several years ago the A27 outside the Portchester Community Centre Park was of insufficient width to accommodate the passage of a wheelchair user alongside a pedestrian, necessitating one or the other onto the grassed and often muddy area. Fareham Access Group (who actively campaign for the members to improve access facilities, especially in the borough of Fareham), worked with Councillor Roger Price to get this costly improvement through. A special order of works was raised from Hampshire County Council and in the autumn of 2004 it was successfully completed! *Source – Mr & Mrs Bayliss, FAG members January 2005*

A Toucan Crossing at Peel Common



The Plans to upgrade two existing cycle crossings to Toucan crossings (cycle/pedestrian) at the Peel Common roundabout (Gosport Road and Newgate Lane) is part of the Broom Way B3385 cyclist and horse riders £425.000 revamp for a shared cycle track and footway. Fareham Access Group had made a request for this crossing to be improved approximately 4/5 years ago to enable easier access for the residents and carers of a nearby Nursing Home. It may take a while, but we get there in the end! *Source – The News 18.01.2005*



How many Disabled (Accessible) Persons Parking Bays will there be at the Redevelopment of Queen Alexandra Hospital (QAH)?

Following the above question, raised by Lorraine at F & G Primary Care Trust Public Board Meeting on 24.03.04, an email reply from Glen dated 13.10.04 – The drawings show 112 disabled spaces in the redeveloped QAH, compares with 41 currently at QAH. This equates to 5% of the total number of spaces which complies with best guidance. *Source -Glen Hewlett, Director of Development & Estates Tel: 023 9228 6000 ext 3296 or Email: glen.hewlett@porthosp.nhs.uk*

25.01.05 Glen kindly replied to other queries. The areas will also be vigorously controlled. We are endeavouring to control the abuse of disabled spaces at SMH and QAH currently. Before Christmas I wrote to staff offenders personally. Two weeks ago we actually towed cars not entitled to park in these spaces off the site and their owners had to pay to retrieve them anything between £75 and £96. We are also about to launch a publicity campaign which amongst other things will highlight that abuse of disabled car parking spaces is unacceptable to Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. **Volunteer car drivers** are treated as staff thus will be entitled to park their cars in those car parks. They should not use the disabled bays. There will be a drop off zone outside the main entrance for when they are dropping off patients. It has never been Trust policy that they can use disabled bays. **Hospital transport** should use the drop off zones only. On completion of the QAH development there will be 148 disabled car parking spaces. (Another 36)!

Fareham Access Group 8th Annual General Meeting – AGM 6th April 2005

At the Portchester Parish Hall 12 noon for a 12.15 start finishing at 2pm. Pam Gillard, Manageress, Fareham Shopping Centre has kindly agreed to be our Guest Speaker. A FREE light lunch too!



There may be a PowerPoint Presentation highlighting disability/equality awareness issues prepared by members using the 'Awards for All' Lottery equipment and from attending previous training sessions.

Contact Details:

DRC Helpline Telephone: 08457 622 633 between 8am – 8pm Mon – Fridays.
Textphone: 08457 622 644 Fax: 08457 778 878 W: www.drc-gb.org or
W: www.open4all.org or W: www.drc.org.uk/whatwedo/helplineenquiry.asp

Citizens Advice Bureau (Fareham)

Telephone: 08701 264 058 Email: cab.fareham.man@freenet.co.uk
Website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Law Centres (Local law centre contact details are available from the website or 020 7387 8570) Website: www.lawcentres.org.uk

The Mobility Roadshow 2005

7th, 8th & 9th July at Donington Park near Derby. For further details call: 0870 770 3222, Email: choice@gtnet.gov.uk or W: www.justmobility.co.uk/roadshow

Countryside Mobility Trips 2005

At least one if not two offered each month. To avoid disappointment book as soon as possible. For more information contact Shopmobility: 01329 282 929 or Email: shopmobility@farehamaction.org.uk

Shopmobility available in Stubbington

A mobility Scooter and a wheelchair for hire from the Guide Hut next to the doctors surgery on Monday or Thursday mornings. For more information contact Tony Brett: 01329 668 357 or 01329 313 776

The International Festival Of the Sea = IFOS and part of the Trafalgar 200



Season is the 28th June – 4th July in Portsmouth & Southsea. Accessible buses for park & ride, flat jetties provided to enable disabled people to get as close as possible to the ships in the Dockyard and accessible toilets too! *Source – Portsmouth Disability Forum*

Holidays in Britain & Ireland 2005, a guide for disabled people at £12.00 including p&p from RADAR 12 City, Forum, 250 City Road LONDON EC1V 8AF Tel: 020 8288 6670. *Source – RADAR new bulletin jan 05*

Ongoing Access Matters



A Fareham Access Group member and others are keen to see this area at Meon Shore at Titchfield Haven made **Accessible to All**.

Action begun on 25.11.2002 with a site visit from Alan Inder, HCC Coastal Manager and Mike Mullins, The Environment Agency. The

coastal walkway is a '**no go**' area for wheelchair/scooter users or for people with limited mobility because of steps both ends. On 21.12.04 Lorraine was informed that Mike will employ consultants to design the project before March 05 with the actual work most likely to take place in the next financial year after March 05 and will benefit from funds put aside from HCC coastal budget for access and environmental improvements.



Source – Rachel Bayliss, HCC Coastal Projects Officer 21.12.04



Pay on Foot for Blue Badge Holders

28.01.05 Arnold Brown, FBC Engineering Manager kindly contacted.

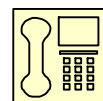
Lorraine with an update. It looks as though the scheme will come into operation in early March. Once the Swipe cards are ready there will advertisements placed in the three Car Parks concerned, Shopmobility and in the Press. Arnold has kindly agreed to inform Lorraine too, to pass onto members.

COUNCIL TAX RELIEF FOR A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY

You may be eligible for a reduction in the Council Tax Band of a property if a disabled person lives at the address. FBC have been very helpful as Lorraine explained some disabled people may not be aware of this saving. There are three possible categories and an easy to complete questionnaire. Help is available to complete and home visits are offered if getting to the Council's Offices is difficult. Contact FBC on: 01329 236 100 ask for Dept. of Finance & Resources (or Tax Dept) or E: counciltax@fareham.gov.uk & look at W: www.fareham.gov.uk

BT CHARGES

When you phone someone and a voice comes up to say "This is the BT answering service, the person you are calling is not available", etc. **YOU** are paying for that call. Even if you put the phone down immediately, you are charged the minimum fee of 5p. Not a sum to break the bank, of course, but think of the number of times it happens to you over a month/quarter – it all adds up! The only answer would appear to be that when you make a call and there is no answer within 4-5 rings, put the phone down before the voice comes on. A bit tough on those who can't get to the phone quickly, however!



Source – Les Simmons Chair New Forest Access For All

This Newsletter is available in large print and other formats on request to Lorraine Tel: 023 9238 8049. Do you like this different format? Your views on this or any other access issues please!