



FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T
STOP US!

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2006 NEWSLETTER No. 73
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Fareham Access Group
Its Inaugural meeting was
2nd October 1996 and from
those early beginnings a
newsletter formed a vital
part of the framework.



The hard copies are in
the FAG archives and by
calculating the number
of back copies; 72 were
produced. From this time
onwards we are able to issue a
number with each edition!
A bargain at just £3.00 per
annum for six copies. An
opportunity to keep informed,
give your views on access
issues AND send in articles.
For FAG members the
newsletter is part of the
membership package.
If interested in becoming a
member or to receive the
newsletter contact 023 9238
8049 or download either of the
application forms from the
group website:

www.farehamaccess.org.uk

Queen Alexandra Hospital Blue Badge Holder parking bays



This has been an ongoing campaign
with the Fareham Access Group
(FAG) as the bays in the Nightingale
car park were not marked out in the

correct dimensions, and were
therefor useless! Working with Glen
Hewlett (see Nov/Dec Newsletter),
FAG are delighted to report that the
bays are now marked correctly to the
international recognised standard
with 30 along the front of the car
park. Glen was pleased to receive a
letter of thanks from FAG 05.01.06.

*Source:- Lorraine, Fareham Access Group
Management Team Leader*



Meon Shore Access improvement

The FAG project to
make this path

'Accessible for All' began with a site
visit in 2001. Working in liaison with
Hampshire County Council (HCC)
and the Environment Agency to
install passing bays, a turning area
at one end and other associated
footpath works on top of the sea
wall. It is programmed to start the
week commencing 20th February
2006.

"Works are
estimated
to take
between
two & three
weeks,

depending on the weather and
tides. The footpath will be closed for
the duration of the works".

*Source:- Richard Rowland, Environment
Agency 20.01.06*



The Disability Equality Duty affects all public bodies - from local councils to government departments, from universities to hospitals. The law says they must now actively promote disability equality. Local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales will prepare for the major changes introduced by the new Disability Discrimination Act 2005, including in particular the requirement for all councils to prepare a Disability Equality Scheme by December 2006.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 has been amended by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. This duty will have a significant impact on the way in which all public services are run and on improving the lives of disabled people. It is part of a new breed of legislation that will serve to ensure that all public bodies build disability equality into the way in which they carry out their business.



This new legislation means that public sector bodies will have a duty to promote disability equality in all aspects of their work – similar to the Race Relations Amendment Act. From the police to health services, schools, local authorities, NHS trusts, central government, **the entire public sector** will have a duty to promote the equalisation of opportunities for disabled people.

The DRC issued the Code of Practice on the Disability Equality Duty (ISBN 0 11 703605 6) on 4 December 2005. You can download it from this website here:

<http://www.drc.org.uk/businessandservices/publicsectordutycode.asp>

See DRC Website: <http://www.drc.org.uk/>



"The Disability Equality Duty is a new way for public authorities to tackle disability discrimination in a practical way by introducing policies that actively promote opportunities and so prevent discrimination taking place. By taking an organisation-wide approach you can achieve tangible outcomes and improvements for disabled people. It will need the personal commitment from the top of your organisation and will make a real, positive change to your employees and service users."

Source:- Bert Massie, Chairman Disability Rights Commission (DRC)

OT Direct and much more!

Disabled people in Hampshire are set to benefit from £1.1m of funding aimed at giving them better access to services. **Social Services Occupational**

Therapists: www.hants.gov.uk/ In Search box type OTDIRECT then click Search which brings up a list; click on Equipment and home adaptations. OTs can assess what would help you, can loan you **equipment** and can arrange for **minor alterations** to be made to your home: for example, fitting grab rails.

Adult Services OT Direct Tel: 0845 600 4555 Fax: 01489 570 063 textphone: 01489 589 951 email: otdirect@hants.gov.uk or ssdirect@hants.gov.uk

Open Monday - Friday 8.30am – 5.30pm. Address Glen House, Glen Road, Swanwick SO31 7HD Web:

Source:- Tony FAG Member 11.01.06 in F&G news dated approximately November 05

The next Fareham Access Group Meeting is Wednesday the 1st March 2006, the 9th Annual General Meeting (AGM), 12 for 12.15pm start to 1.50pm at the Portchester Parish Hall.

Do come along, or get in touch with Lorraine: 023 9238 8049. An opportunity to have your say, and, enjoy a free light lunch! Listen and be informed with a brief presentation by Nick Birtley, Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) Manager, East Hampshire and Fareham & Gosport PCTs on the proposals regarding the future organisation of Primary Car Trusts, the Strategic Health Authority and Ambulance Trust in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Members should have more information included with this newsletter: COMMISSIONING A PATIENT LED NHS – CONSULTATION, Ends 22nd March. Also available on the web: <http://www.hiow.nhs.uk/cplnhs>
Don't forget to bring your own plate and cup and to request accessible transport from John at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting date.



Mobility Roadshow at Kemble Airfield, near Swindon

On the 8th, 9th and 10th June 2006. To find out more phone: 0845 241 0390 or visit the Website:

www.mobilityroadshow.co.uk



FBC Car Park charges

The Executive agreed the following changes to disabled parking arrangements in the pay-on-foot car parks:-

(1) Retain free parking in surface car parks for all blue badge holders but with draw non-resident concessionary swipe cards in the pay-on-foot car parks from 1 April 2006, with no further passes being issued with immediate effect;



(2) In pay-on-foot car parks, discontinuing refunds to blue badge holders with immediate effect, with free parking in these car parks to only apply to swipe card holders;

(3) Making a charge of £10 for lost swipe cards, to cover administration from 1 April 2006.

Source:- Andy Viccars, FBC Head of Engineering and Transportation, Tel: 01329 824 591 or www.fareham.gov.uk

More Disabled Persons Parking Bays (DPPB)

02.02.05: Lorraine spoke with Paul Harris, FBC car park manager requesting disabled persons parking bays in Palmeston Avenue car park and others especially around the main shopping centre and other shopping areas. Pass your requests to: 023 9238 8049

Keep warm this winter 'Cosyfeet'

Extra roomy footwear, socks and hosiery for comfortable feet and legs. Lots of useful items in the Catalogue, Tel: 01458 447 275 or website:

www.cosyfeet.com

**Carers Active Listening Line (CALL)**

Do you need information, support, to talk, other services, etc. Tel: 08000 323 456 Available 24/7 open 9am to 11pm seven days a week.

Source: – Carers Together in Hampshire

RADAR; A 2006 Guide for Disabled People, Holidays in Britain & Ireland

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) has published this comprehensive range of suitable accommodation for people with a range of disabilities. Cost is £10.00 Tel: 020 7250 3222 Minicom: 020 7250 4119. Contact Lorraine at FAG who has a copy if you would like to borrow it. Tel: 023 9238 8049 between 9.15am – 5pm.

**News Release: Housing**

Minister, Baroness Andrews said housing grants often play an important role to help disabled people remain in comfort and safety in their own homes.

"The increase will help fund the abolition of means testing for disabled children, which came into force on 31.12.2005. This decision makes it easier for families with disabled children to apply for a Disabled Facility Grant (DFG) of up to £25,000 for disability improve-ments to their

home, such as, access ramps, stair-lifts, level access showers and home extensions."

55 per cent of families with disabled children are living in or at the margins of poverty with 84 per cent of mothers of disabled children not working compared with 39 per cent of mothers of non-disabled children. Disabled 16 year olds are twice as likely to be out of work, education or training as their non-disabled peers.

Source:- Carers Autumn 05

**Disability Rights Commission (DRC) email bulletin 25.01.06**

No. 44 Online Poll: Have your say on bad service providers. We are re-launching the year long poll of Oct 04. We are keen to find out your experiences of booking & staying in hotels and using pubs, clubs, shops, entertainment venues and local council through-out Great Britain. We will look into patterns of barriers/attitudes you are facing please tell us in detail about your encounter by visiting:

www.drc.org.uk/knowyourrights/



This Newsletter is available in large print and other formats on request to Lorraine Tel: 023 9238 8049. Order your own copy for just £3.00 per annum. Your views on these or any other access issues please.