



FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T
STOP US!

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER No. 79
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New Laws force public bodies to cater for disabled people:

Thousands of public bodies from libraries to hospitals will have to take greater account of the needs of disabled people under a new legislation which came into force 4th December 06. The new Disability Equality Duty (DED) will affect the way around 45,000 bodies in England, Scotland and Wales run and plan their services for disabled people:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Eliminate unlawful harassment
- Promote equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons

Take steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled persons more favourably than other persons.

These statutory duties, as outlined above, are intended to assist public authorities to promote disability equality and thereby adhere to the terms of the DDA.

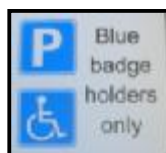
"This is a step-change away from individual disabled people having to complain about discrimination after an incident has taken place."

Source:- Press Association 04.12.06



A vision of an equal society - where human difference is celebrated - a reality.

The new legislation will mark a shift from the reactive duties of the DDA towards a positive duty to actively promote equality of opportunity for those people with a disability. *Source: H PCT NHS Disability & Equality Strategy Personnel 29.11.06*



BLUE BADGE

SCHEME The three reasons for inspection:

- a). Where the holder has deliberately misused the badge.
- b). Where a person other than the badge holder is misusing the badge and the badge holder is not present.
- c). Where the badge has been stolen or fraudulently altered or is a fraudulently created document.

For more info on this & other aspects of the Blue Badge Scheme is available on: 020 7944 2914 or email: blue.badge@dft.gis.gov.uk

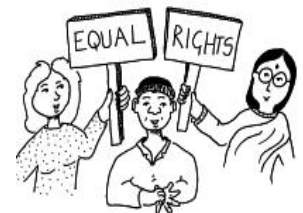
The badges can be inspected in the Fareham & Gosport car parks if they are administered by the Local Authority, (FBC, GBC or any other public car park in the Country owned and run by the local Council) but not in privately owned car parks like the ones provided by NCP, Tesco's, Sainsbury or any other shop, business or service provider.

Kindly provided by Richard Sturgess, Access Officer F&G 02.02.07

The Disability Equality Duty affects all public bodies -
The law says they must now actively promote disability equality.
View and download from the DRC Website: <http://www.drc.org.uk/>

On 16th January Dr Ian Barrett, Equality & Inclusion Consultant came to talk to members about the FBC Disability Equality Strategy. Lorraine had difficulty in finding it on the FBC website; okay, so I may not be the brightest PC user on the block! So I contacted FBC Nick Read, who listened to my problems and acted to improve the site (straight away) and make it more user-friendly! Log onto: www.fareham.gov.uk click on the A – Z and then look under D – Disability, E – Equality or I – Inclusion. So; lots of options there, thanks to Nick. For a hard copy phone Ian on: 01329 824 416.

Real Life for people with disabilities can be quite different though!



Petersfield Lake, an ideal place to visit and enjoy but the Sunday before Christmas the wheelchair accessible toilet could not be opened with the RADAR key and no information where there were any others. The other ladies & Gents toilets were not closed. GREAT!

Chichester Cathedral attended a concert by the West Sussex Youth band and had contacted them beforehand to explain specific requirements but problems over where allowed to sit due to Fire & Rescue and then Health & Safety legislation given as the reasons. GREAT!

Oust and Squire Pub/Restaurant, Fareham, for an evening meal with friends and well planned to accommodate us on the lower level easy access and accessible toilet nearby. Like many people who want to settle the account and pay using a card (and not let it out of sight) but that facility is up two/three steps on the next level. GREAT!

You must have such tales of your own; contact details on front page.



Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Programme

Government consults on improving support for disabled people to live independently at home. Proposals to widen the scope and improve the delivery of the “Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Programme” by making the application process more flexible, easier and quicker are being consulted on from 18.01.07 to 13.04.07.

The Government’s proposals to improve programme delivery’ can be downloaded from the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505528 or Tel: 0870 1226 236, Fax: 0870 1226 237, Textphone: 0870 1207 405, email:

communities@twoten.com quoting the title and product code: 06 HC 04325 of the publication, and your address and telephone number.

Source: - Communities and local Government website: <http://www.communities.gov.uk>

Fareham Access Group became constituted on 2nd October 1996 and our 10th Annual General Meeting (AGM) is Wednesday 7th March 2007. A Celebration at The Octogon Lounge, Ferneham Hall starting at 11.30am till 1.45pm.

We shall begin with the AGM business including an update on the Fareham Easy Access Trail (FEAT). Around 12.15pm the **PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY** will be acting a short play about disability equality issues which will be followed with a light healthy lunch when comments will be taken on any of the issues.



Anyone who pays the subscription for this newsletter is invited

BUT Please phone Lorraine: 023 9238 8049 or email

lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk when named Invitations will be issued because of numbers for catering.



Review of Disabled Parking provision in Fareham Town Centre Car Parks

The Council is looking at ways to charge **some** or **ALL** of the Fareham resident Blue Badge Holders in **ALL** their car parks. Some FAG members have been involved in the consultation of the key issues. The aim of the consultaion paper is to present the key issues identified by the recent survey of Blue Badge Holders in Fareham. A package of proposals and **your** Feedback forms (with 12 options) and Comments box will be put to Councillors in early April.

It was not made clear that all members of FAG who are Blue Badge Holders could be included. Lorraine voiced her concerns to Arnold Brown and Ian Barrett at FBC over such an important issue not reaching enough people. You will now recived it either via email or a hard copy. The time scale will need to extended from 15th February so these can be sent back. Phone Ian on: 01329 822 455 or email: ibarrett@fareham.gov.uk for more information.

Expert Patient Programme at Stubbington **NHS**

Fareham and Gosport	Stubbington	19 th Feb – 26 th March	11am – 1:30pm	Crofton Community Centre	Tina Coulter	01329 226 110
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A break when Tea/Coffee are provided but please feel free to bring any sandwiches etc with you. *Source:- Tina Coulter co-ordinator tina.coulter.ports.nhs.uk*



Scooter News All class three mobility scooters have to be registered with the DVLA whether they are used on the road or not. Class three being scooters which can do up to 8mph. The form they have to fill in is a 55/5 for a used scooter, and 55/4 for a brand new one. If anyone has problems with forms please contact Fareham Shopmobility on: 01329 28 29 29 as we can help them with the form filling.

Source:- Barrie Hill Shopmobility 04.12.06



An Atlas for disabled people

Gowrings National new road Atlas for Blue Badge holders gives details of accessible car parks, beaches, shopmobility, journey plans and much more. Price £16.50. More information ring: 0870 444 5435.
Source: - FAG member Gill from Yours magazine January 07

The Apollo cinema in Fareham Problems reported to FAG when using the voice recognition telephone line. Neil, the manager gives this reply: "The voice recognition system asks if you have any 'special' requirements, if you answer in the positive it gives you the opportunity to speak to a member of staff. Should you wish to speak to a manager; the staff can transfer you to me or one of the others. When testing the system I always use the option of using the keypad as it has difficulty with my Scottish accent. We have a staff member in from 9am to 9pm to answer any queries or deal with any problems or specific requirements that guests may have.

Martin Conquest See: www.martinconquest.com

The Conquest is the UK's first mass-produced high performance tricycle that can be driven from a wheelchair and will provide mobility to former disabled motorcyclists and aspiring disabled motorcyclists. Tel: 0161 351 0324

TYPETALK – New ScreenPhone scoops award

Exclusive in RNID Products, the ScreenPhone has all the features of an amplified telephone with textphone capabilities. Working through Typetalk, the ScreenPhone allows users to switch between text and voice at the touch of a button. Call: 0870 789 8855 or Textphone: 01733 238 020 website: www.rnid.org.uk/shop
Source: - TYPETALK Update magazine autumn 06



OUCH Disability Web Magazine Save money, with disability concessions.
As a disabled person, do you know about all the concessions you can get? Don't be embarrassed to ask? The top ten disability concession tips - from half-price angling licences to free directory enquiries, talking phones to toll exemptions on bridges/tunnels and much more!
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/closeup/freestuff.shtml>



I think to receive the newsletter via email is a good idea and anything that can save on paper, postage, admin and time is an added bonus.
Source:- What a great idea from Clare, FAG member 16.01.2007

This Newsletter is available via email, 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 are welcome.



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Newsletter March / April 2007 – January / February 2008

Telephone: 023 9238 8049 Email: lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk

Website: www.farehamaccess.org.uk

SIX BI-MONTHLY COPIES

- Ø Newsletter special option of £3.00 for six bi-monthly copies
- Ø An opportunity to raise awareness about disability issues
- Ø The option of submitting articles to the editor

Fareham Access Group value your annual contribution for the Newsletter as this contributes towards the cost and effort of collecting the articles and preparing each edition. This provides the Access Group with a small income that helps it to continue to raise awareness about inclusion and equality. Therefore we kindly request that the Newsletter is not routinely copied or sent on to others without prior arrangement. Therefore we invite all readers to contribute to the newsletter by registering and sending a contribution of £3.00 pa (6 issues) or by arrangement at extra cost for multiple copies.

Please complete the Form and return with your remittance to the address below. Please make Cheque payable to Fareham Access Group. (Sorry no Postal Orders).

- **Donations are gratefully accepted and appreciated.**

Send to: Mr. Richard Herrington, Treasurer, Fareham Access Group, C/o 13 Bayly Avenue, Portchester FAREHAM PO16 9JU Tel: 023 9238 8049

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The Newsletter is available electronically; standard & large print hard copy and other formats on request. Please circle or state which you would like .

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