



FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T
STOP US!

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NEW MEASURES TO TACKLE ABUSE OF THE BLUE BADGE SCHEME



for disabled people will come into force from 29th September 2006, Transport Minister Gillian Merron announced on 05.06.2006. It will be an offence if a person refuses without reasonable excuse, to produce a badge for inspection – punishable on conviction of a fine of up to £1,000. Once the powers take effect the police, traffic wardens, local authority parking attendants and civil enforcement officers will be able to inspect blue badges as part of their other parking enforcement functions. Public Enquiries: 020 7944 800 or Dept of Transport Website: <http://www.dft.gov.uk>

Holders of a Disabled Persons Parking Badge (DPPB) should remember that parking concessions are only applicable when the badge holder is either driving or is a passenger who is in the vehicle at the time. It is **NOT** to be used as an easy/cheap parking option for non-disabled people.



Fareham residents who have the DPPB swipe parking card concession need to renew their swipe card when their DPPB is renewed otherwise the card becomes void.

Disability Rights Commission (DRC). We want a society where all disabled people can participate fully as equal citizens. See: www.drc-gb.org.uk
Source:- Bert Massie, Chairman, DRC

Nothing about us without us



A new DRC guide for disabled people on the Disability Equality duty and how to get involved in the consultation. "Making the duty work" = Guide to the Disability Equality Duty for disabled people and their organisations. For a copy, Tel: 08457 622 633 Textphone: 08457 622 644 www.drc-gb.org and www.dotheduty.org

For the first time, public authorities will be (are) involving us and our local disability organisations to help them really make a positive difference to the services and employment experiences we all receive. Compared to the individual rights focus of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995, this is clearly a huge cultural change both for public authorities and us. Source:- Bert Massie, Chairman Disability Rights Commission (DRC)

Both Fareham and Gosport are involved on this. Please let us have your views



WEST STREET PORTCHESTER Drop kerbs

This drop kerb has now been redone to the correct dimension. Peter Barty, FBC Chief Engineer says: a drop kerb/pram crossing is aimed to be flush with a tolerance inbuilt so that it is no than 6mm which is our normal requirement when we install pram crossings. A FAG letter of thanks sent to Peter Barty.

Source: Lorraine & Richard Herrington 14.06.2006

Meon Shore – Update – see the photographs! Taken 16.07.2006

Wheelchair users and people with a walking difficulty can now use this wonderful costal path overlooking the sea near Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve at Hill Head. A local group member raised



this access problem approximately 4 years ago as there was no access for them. This was a major access issue to overcome and has been achieved by Fareham Access Group actively campaigning and liaising with Richard Rowland from the Environment Agency.

You may remember there were two steps preventing access where it is now level as shown in above Photo. A number of new passing bays have been added along the walkway plus new railings. A flight of around eight steps at the other end of the walkway were not possibly to remove at this stage so you have the added advantage of walking it again by walking back! The three DPPB's will be upgraded to the correct international standard over the coming months. While in this area there is plenty to enjoy watching the ducks and swans with their young plus a wonderful array of boats and various other sea activities; followed perhaps by a visit to the Café in Titchfield Haven.



This original Newsletter page got mislaid so these photos are from a site visit later in the year on 9th October 06 at 10am with the people involved and kindly Mr. & Mrs Fareham Access Group achieved another successful

result by actively campaigning and liaising with HCC Costal Department and the Environment Agency. More details in later edition.

Source:- Lorraine & Richard Herrington 27.10.2006

Queen Elizabeth Country Park

A £10,000 grant awarded by the South Downs Substanable Developmet fund Has paid for two powered electric wheelchairs, a palm-top computer for hearing difficulties and mobile phone guided walks for partially sighted and blind people.

Source:- The Fareham & Gosport News 27.02.06

The next Fareham Access Group Meeting is Wednesday 13th September 2006 at the Portchester Parish Hall at 12noon for a 12.10pm



start and finishing at 1.50pm. Please note; the change of date due to the Management Team Leaders attending the Hampshire County Council Disability Equalities consultation at Ferneham Hall on 6th Sept in the morning followed by lunch. The public are invited from 2pm onwards to give their views on the Disability Equalities consultation, do come along. We are pleased that Vic Thorne, FBC Housing Renewal Officer has kindly agreed to come along on 13th to tell us about the Disabled Facilities Grants.

Members please see the enclosed information for the next two planned group Outings this year kindly run by Eileen on: 023 9221 0336 asap.

Apollo Multiplex, Fareham, no pleasure here if you are a wheelchair user. Members have asked that Lorraine follow this up, so watch this space!

Get involved as your view matters.

National framework for NHS continuing healthcare and NHS funded nursing care in England: A consultation: launch date 19.06.06, closing date 22.09.2006.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=29585&heading=e-mail+alert>

A dedicated Disability Rights Commission = DRC website enables people to email their views or to submit online at the disability debate website:

www.disabilitydebate.org

Jobcentre Plus, Fareham

The DPPB in their car park has become faded and does not meet the correct standards so that Blue Badge holders can not park. This venue, besides being job focused, holds many Benefit leaflets, etc;. The Government initiative to promote "Access to Work" for people with disabilities mean that Blue Badge holders need to park there. The Jobcentre Plus staff car park is maintained by Fareham Borough Council (FBC) who are willing to refurbish the DPPB. Amazingly over the past 3/4 years the Business Manager has shown a huge attitude barrier and real reluctance to get this actioned. In the end Fareham Access Group wrote to the Jobcentre Plus Chief Executive who passed it onto the local Jobcentre Plus District Manager. FAG received a letter dated 28.06.2006 for the DPPB to be re-instated.



The Dept for Transport in its publication "**Inclusive Mobility**" A Guide to Best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure states: "There should be a designated parking space for each disabled employee in addition to 6% (Min 2 spaces) of the total capacity provided for disabled visitors or users of the services provided in the building for the public. *Source:- R. Sturgess HBC*

The Warm Front team – it may be hot now but think of preparing for the colder weather. This Government funded grant up to £2700 offers energy-efficient improvements such as draught proofing, loft and cavity-wall insulation, central heating and heating repairs. To qualify for a warm front grant you need to own your own home or rent from a private landlord. Not sure, just phone: 0800 316 2814 and talk it over with an advisor. *Source:- FBC Home Energy Conservation Officer July 2006*



Gosport Borough Council

Has installed ReadSpeaker (people with disabilities) to with dyslexia, low literacy with English as a second language, see: www.gosport.gov.uk
Source:- Fareham & Gosport News 19.05.2006



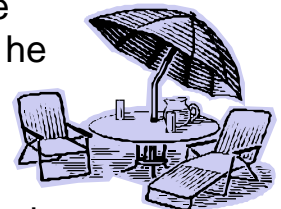
Website

(a speech enabling system to assist read their website and to benefit those levels, learning disabilities or those whose



CHILL OUT! The obstacle in Our Path.

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand!



Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

Source:- from Myra, a friend 23.07.2006

A new “**Access London Theatre**” brochure lists all audio described, captioned and sign language interpreted performances taking place across all London theatre. The guide is available in a range of formats for a free copy call: 020 7557 6751 or online: access@soltma.co.uk www.theatre-access.co.uk

Source:- BBC – Ouch Newsletter No. 138, 05.06.2006 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/news/>

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 any access issues! Contact 023 9238 8049