



FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T
STOP US!

JULY / AUGUST 2007 NEWSLETTER No. 82

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



Fareham Easy Access Trail - FEAT

Fareham Access Group aim for an inclusive society where **everyone** can enjoy country walks, experience the beauty and wonder of nature and relax a little from the daily stress of living with a disability or long term illness.

The aim of the steering group is to upgrade the footpath at the Cams Hall Estate by the Delme roundabout in Fareham, but to do that we need **YOU** to show **YOUR** support. Please complete the very short Questionnaire.

It is available on the Fareham Access Group website:

www.farehamaccess.org.uk and Paul; I will include an article in our FCA hardcopy newsletter; and the enews - hyperlinked to the questionnaire. So it will go out to the membership in hardcopy and the e-newslist which is about 500.



Fareham borough to get to and from the Fareham Access Group meetings every two months.....

Please. Portchester Community School can help train, examine and certificate drivers as can Fareham & Gosport Community Transport, I believe. Thanks to HCC Adult Community Services Fareham Access Group has some cash available to make a donation for a driver. It could be you already have this extra driving qualification any way and might consider helping us to spread a little happiness to others. Please contact Lorraine: 023 9238 8049 or email as above.

Source:- Lorraine Herrington, FAG Management Team Leader

The new Disability Equality Duty (DED) came into force on 4th December 2006. The DED aims to bring about changes in the way our society treats disabled people. To ensure all public bodies – such as central or local government, schools, health trusts or emergency services – pay 'due regard' to the promotion of equality for disabled people in every area of their work. There is lots more on:

www.officefordisability.gov.uk and page 3 of this newsletter. Check the level of compliance of YOUR local councils with their (DED) on:

www.dotheduty.org

Source:- Portsmouth Disability Forum



URGENTLY REQUIRED.

People who hold a valid vehicle driving licence and in good health who would be willing to undertake the MIDAS (mini-bus drivers awareness scheme) to enable them to drive a community minibus for people with disabilities within the

Real Life for people with disabilities can be quite different though! Terminology is important too! It can send out the wrong message about how people with disabilities are seen and perceived.



Bad Language!

Here are just some examples: the disabled, handicapped, special, dear, wheelchair bound, etc, etc..... let Lorraine know your dislikes.



How about this for a Disabled Persons Parking Bay situated in a cliff car park on the Isle of Wight? Perhaps a risk assessment is required? If you know where there are disabled person's parking bays not required any more please inform you local council.

Blue Badges

Responsibility for the issue of Blue Badges was transferred to the Chief Executive's Department on 01.06.07. The new contact centre for HCC in Fareham opened on 27.06.07. Shirley will be the contact from here and looks forward to meeting FAG in the future tel: 01962 847 349, email:

shirley.thorne@hants.gov.uk

Source:- Shirley Thorne, Corporate Customer Services Manager,

Poor Access for people with disabilities older people and families

There are a great number of cases where disabled people have won cases against service providers alleging discrimination under the Act. They are listed on the website of the Disability Rights Commission (DRC): www.drc-gb.org You may be interested to know there is also a step by step guide to taking County Court action under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) that can be downloaded from the same Disability Rights Commission website.

Source:- Richard Sturgess F & G Acces Officer 28.03.07

Employers to boost their 'Disability Confidence'

'Realising Potential' are a partnership project between the National Employment Panel, the Employers' Forum on Disability and Jobcentre Plus. There are 6.9 million disabled people of working age in Britain, one fifth of the total working age population. Estimates are based on 'the number of people with a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity, and who have a significant difficulty with day-to-day activities'. Textphone: 020 7238 0788

Source:- Department for Work And Pensions Website: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk> 05.07.07

The next Fareham Access Group Meeting is Tuesday 11th September at the Portchester Parish Hall, 11am for an 11.15am start & finishing at 1.50pm. Come and enjoy the FREE light lunch and chat with others.

Our **Guest Speaker is Joanne Complin; FBC Travel**

Concession Officer who will bring us up to date with the latest information on what is available to assist with travel costs.

Get involved with local access issues effecting people with disabilities and raise ay of your own problems.


Remember there are some red and/or Blue Polo shirts for "summer" available at £11.00 in most sizes. Hopefully, sweatops will be available too to view at this meeting.



The Disability Equality Duty (DED) will help public bodies become more efficient and save money because it involves providing services that disabled people need. Those who fail to meet their new legal duties risk facing us in court; see www.dwp.gov.uk

Some departments don't seem to be aware of this legislation but are willing once prompted!



 Fareham Access Group is involved with many equality and inclusion issues within the Fareham borough:

1. The new development within Fareham Precinct.
2. The new redevelopment for West Street in Fareham Town Centre.
3. The improved and new toilet blocks.
4. Improving access to Polling districts and Polling Stations.

On any of these issues and others you know about, Lorraine, of Fareham Access Group: 023 9238 8049 lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk is a contact.

Update:

No.1. 'You will note that they have allowed for unisex access toilets with a choice of either left or right hand use'. (Please note, this was requested from Fareham Access Group). *Source:- Pam Gillard, Centre Manager.*

No.2. Waiting on the Plans before further involvement. Aiming for as much improved access to shops and the area for inclusion of people with disabilities. Any comments please contact Lorraine.

No.3. New toilet block at Cliff Road, Meon shore by sailing club on accessible footpath which runs along in front of Beach huts. Great news as there has never been any accessible toilets in this particular area. *Source:- Angie Ostler, FBC Performance & Monitoring Officer.*

No.4. All Fareham Borough Council Polling Districts and Polling Stations available via email request to Lorraine (as above). People without email the facility and are Fareham residents can contact: Sally Sarling, FBC Election Services Officer direct line on: 01329 824 587 to request a hard copy.

Quality Enabling Devices Ltd (QED)

Have launched their new website at: www.QEDonline.co.uk. For a Catalogue phone: 023.9258 0600. Premises at Heritage Way, Gosport if necessary.



LookUp a new website and telephone service created by SeeAbility and the Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) to answer your questions about eye care and vision for people with learning disabilities: www.lookupinfo.org or phone FREE on landlines to: 0800 121 8900 Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm.



RADAR 2nd edition of Get Mobile

An independent guide for disabled people thinking about purchasing a mobility scooter and/or powered wheelchair. Written by Douglas Campbell, Chairman of Mobilise who says: “As a powered wheelchair user I know how important it is to make the right decisions when buying mobility equipment. The guide is published **FREE** by RADAR with kind support of the Motability 10th Anniversary Trust. Obtain a copy from the RADAR Office, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London, EC1V 8AF Tel: 020 7250 3222, Minicom: 020 7250 4119 & email: radar@radar.org.uk

Source:- RADAR publishes Get Mobile 2007/8 on 05.07.07

Hampshire News:- From April 2007 the Adult Social Care service was integrated with Older people Service to ensure a consistent approach to the provision of service for vulnerable adults irrespective of age.

Source:- press release, HCC in Direct payments Newsletter July 07

Fareham Community Action (FCA) Telephone Numbers Change

The main number: 01329 231 899 remains unchanged but others had to change with the installation of the new telephone system. All with the prefix of the Fareham code 01329:= Volunteer Bureau; 223 140, Information Coordinator; 223 145, Home Helps; 223 143, Dial-a-Ride; 223 151, Advocacy; 223 149.

Source:- FCA email bulletin 11.07.07

This Newsletter is available electronically, in standard & 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/equality issues are welcome.