



# FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T  
STOP US!

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2003 NEWSLETTER

Tel: 023 9238 8049 Website: [www.farehamaccess.org.uk](http://www.farehamaccess.org.uk)

## GETTING YOUR BENEFIT and / or PENSION

from your local Post



Office. If you are a wheelchair user or someone with a visual impairment you may find using the PIN PADS in the Post Office is too difficult. People are different and what may be impossible for one person is not for another.

This access issue has been raised through the Fareham Access Group News letter and 'The News.'

John Rattle (not Roger, my mistake) came on 22.10.2003. It was good to actually handle one of the PIN PADS With pressure from the RNIB changes have been made to improve use for visually impaired people.



**Richard, Lorraine & John had a site visit to the local Post Office for him see the access difficulty.**

With restricted arm movement due to a disability some folk are unable to reach the PIN PADS or even the 'dish' on the counter. John says "all Post Offices were sent a Helping Hands Pack in June 2003 along with a training brief for all staff.

As I mentioned at our meeting I cannot promise any other improvements to your local Post Office until my enquiries are complete".

Source – John Rattle email: 18.11.2003

For PIN PAD DDA Enhancements info: [www.farehamaccess.org.uk](http://www.farehamaccess.org.uk)

## PARKING BAYS IN FAREHAM FOR BLUE BADGE HOLDERS

Following an article in 'The Fareham & Gosport News' on 20 & 26 August 2003 about Fareham Borough Council spending £25,000 on a review of their Car Park signage, a request on behalf of the Fareham Access Group was put to Cllr Arthur Mandry for Blue Badge Parking



Signs to be added, so that badge holders, either residents or visitors would know

where some are.

22.10.2003 Arthur's email reply:- "I have been able to get the signage included in most of the new electronic advance warning signs which will provide information as to the numbers of spaces available at each Car Park. They will not advise on the number of Blue Badge spaces available but will indicate that spaces are provided.

These will be erected in the New Year at various locations as drivers approach the town centre. We will also provide signs at each of the Car Park entrances.

I hope that this will add significantly to the comfort and convenience of all Blue Badge Holders". Our sincere thanks to Cllr Arthur Mandry.



Source – Cllr Arthur Mandry email 03.10.2003



**Major New Builds in Fareham**

Highlighted by the **Market Quay Development** and the Hampshire County Council Access Audit Partnerships. Fareham Access Group (FAG) team leaders Lorraine & Richard have become concerned that disability access matters are often thought about too far down the line. FAG could be more effective if involved with Plans earlier. With this in mind a meeting was arranged for 23.10.03 with Alan Wells, FBC Chief



Building Control Officer. He is responsible both for the service that deals with Planning Applications & Building Regulation matters. Email:- 21.11.03 Alan felt the most appropriate time to become involved with addressing access issues is at the earliest stages of designing relevant schemes which is normally before planning permission is sought for the details of such schemes. FBC are currently undertaking work upon their pre-application service, and Alan said "Fareham Access Group will be contacted before that work in finalised". FAG thanks Allan Wells who was most supportive at 'how best to implement this new way of working together'.  
*Source – Alan Wells 31.10.2003*



**Deputy Prime Minister Office Information.** Under this guidance it confirms that Planning Departments should consult with disabled people about access.

*Source - Portsmouth Disability Forum (PDF) 01.09.2003*

**AGE Concern FAREHAM**

Aims to improve the quality of life for older people in the Fareham Borough by supporting and developing services appropriate to local needs. Situated in the Fareham Community Action building on the ground floor for easy access. The Office has a phone (& answer phone) and Fact Sheets to run an Information Centre: 01329 823 031. An Age Concern Social Club run by the members meets on alternative Mondays at the Fareham Methodist Church from 1.30 – 3.30pm. We have given out 15 Lifeline Phones supported by Age Concern and give out a number of Christmas Hampers to the lonely – elderly. We link into the Volunteer Bureau for Gardening and Transport. We do not get any funding so have to do fundraising.  
*Source – Lynda Young 17.11.2003*

**Do you care about the future of Fareham Town Centre?**

Residents can have their say at an exhibition set up at the Civic Offices from 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> December. There is a draft Fareham Town Centre Design Guide **FREE** by ringing: 01329 236 100 or by looking at the Website: [www.fareham.gov.uk](http://www.fareham.gov.uk)  
*Source – The Fareham & Gosport News*

**The FBC 'Act Now Cards'**

A member informed us at our Group meeting on 01.10.2003 they had used the FBC Act Now Card when over-hanging greenery blocked the pavement for wheelchair users. Use the Cards or use their email contact: [comps@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:comps@fareham.gov.uk)

## The next Fareham Access Group Meeting is Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2004

from 12 – 2pm at Portchester Parish Hall in Assheton Court Road in Castle Street, Portchester.



**Please do come along.**

We are a friendly easy going bunch of people who raise awareness about disability issues and aim to improve life for ourselves and others.



A Free light lunch is available.

Accessible transport on request from Lorraine:- 023 9238 8049 at least two weeks before.

We hope there will be a Presentation about the Fareham Easy Access Trail Project with photographs of the proposed trail with one of our wheelchair user members trying to use it!



We want to improve access with a decent path, seating and Information boards, etc) round the Cams Hall Golf Course. There will be an opportunity to say what you would like to see and ways to get involved. Eventually, this will be an exciting option route from Shopmobility. In the warmer days to have a picnic as you soak up the scenery and enjoy the views across the creek.

New members are particularly welcome because:- **More people, more power!**

There is a bi-monthly Newsletter with the £3.00 annual membership, or it can be ordered separately. For those Members without email the July Minutes are enclosed.

## Language!!

At our 1st October Meeting a query was raised over the use of “less able” in referring to people with disabilities.



On a personal note, I don't think anyone should be referred to as “**less able**” than anyone else.

Jane Goodwin, HCC Equality Officer who was one of the Guest Speakers, later followed it up:- “With regard to the language (“**less able**”) used in Government documents, we are not able to change those words and theoretically they would take their lead from the British Council for Disabled People”, **To follow up.**

I believe, it is this type of language that sets in place the wrong perception of people with disabilities. **Your ideas, and any feedback on this issue would be very welcome.**



## A Scooter Trip

In the July / August FAG

Newsletter there was a brief report from a group member who took FBC Officer, Mazhar Munir on a run-around Fareham shopping area on a Shopmobility scooter demonstrating how different life can be using one and coping with some of the hazards **Feedback** whether anything has actually been improved!

## New (Voluntary) Airline Code

The guidance for disabled travelers, call 020 7944 8011, Minicom: 020 7944 6100 or [www.dptac.gov.uk](http://www.dptac.gov.uk)



## **IT MAY TAKE A WHILE ~ BUT We get there in the end!**

A year ago two members of our organisation, one of whom is a wheelchair user had great difficulty getting around locally in Portchester because there were not any drop kerbs along the A27 opposite the Community Centre from the Precinct Roundabout to the Safeway Garage. FAG wrote to FBC to request these drop kerbs, **AND now, all but one is in place!**

Our thanks to FBC Officers who have listened and arranged for the work to be carried out.



Another real concern is the narrow width of the footpath outside the Portchester Community Centre. There is not enough space for two pushchairs or wheelchairs to pass other than going onto the wet muddy grass. Cllr Roger Price has kindly advised me to contact Chris Lait at FBC who is the Hampshire Highways South, Chief Engineer.  
**Watch this space**

## **Your Health Care – Do you care how decisions are made about your healthcare?**

F & G NHS Primary Health Trust welcome all members of the public to their bi-monthly public meetings. You will be able to hear what is going on and have the opportunity to ask questions. The first of 2004 is on Wednesday afternoon starting at

2pm. St John's Centre, 7 Church Road, Locks Heath.

## **House of Lords calls on the Government to publish a Disability Bill**

The House of Lords recently debated with Government plans for a disability bill. Lord Jack Ashley of Stoke used a DRC briefing to call on the Government to include a Disability Bill in the next Queen's speech. The Government again committed itself to publishing a draft disability bill this year and to pass legislation in the course of this parliament.

*Source – Disability Rights Campaign  
(DRC) Email Bulletin No. 23*

On 08.11.2003 Lorraine spoke with Mark Hoban MP for Fareham to know the latest about the Disability Bill from the Queen's Speech on 26<sup>th</sup> November. He was very helpful and kindly sent this email:

*"A draft Bill will also be published responding to a review of the law relating to disabilities as part of my Government's Programme to extend the rights and opportunities of disabled people."*

**More information in the next edition.**

**The Next edition is January & February 2004.** 023 9238 8049 or [lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk](mailto:lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk)