



# FAREHAM ACCESS GROUP

DISABILITY DOESN'T  
STOP US!

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTER No. 83  
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Farewell from the  
Disability Rights  
Commission



Bert Massie, Chair,  
Disability Rights  
Commission (DRC).  
The DRC closes at the  
end September to make

way for the new Commission for  
Equality and Human Rights (CEHR),  
established under the Equality Act  
06, which opens on 1st October 07.  
*Source:- September DRC Email Bulletin*

**West Street FAREHAM**  
Fareham Borough Council is  
intending to make major  
environmental improvements.  
Following earlier public consultations  
and the adoption of the 'West Street  
Vision' document in 2004 FBC has  
allocated £325,000 to start the work:  
[Department for Communities and  
Local Government](#) (this is an  
external hyperlink).

Fareham Access Group has been  
asked to comment on the Plans and  
the proposed layout. Nick Adams is  
working up the detailed design and  
is looking into the provision of flush  
entrances to shops where this can  
be achieved within the scheme.

*Source:- Mike Tartaglia-Kershaw, FBC  
Landscape Architect 19.07.07*

**If you would like to view these  
drawings/plans contact Lorraine,  
please see top of Newsletter.**

Lord Ashley's Independent  
Living Bill 04.07.2006  
is available on the parliament web:  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200506/ldbills/122/2006122.htm>) and in print from The  
Stationary Office

[http://www.tso.co.uk/](http://www.tso.co.uk)  
For accessible formats of the Bill  
(including word and Easy Read)  
please contact Parliamentary  
Support Officer: 020 7543 7049  
Text Phone: 020 7543 7022 or  
[rebecca.pooler-lunse@drc-gb.org](mailto:rebecca.pooler-lunse@drc-gb.org)

**Lord Jack Ashley  
writes:**



Throughout my  
Parliamentary  
career, I have  
fought for all

disabled people to have the same  
choice, dignity, freedom and control  
as every other citizen. These are the  
central principles of 'Independent  
Living'.

New and Refurbished  
public toilets in the  
Fareham Borough. There are [21  
sites in the borough](#) of which a  
number have facilities for people  
with disabilities on site. See FBC  
website under the A - Z click on T.  
Some toilets are closed or closing  
and a new block at Cliff Rd, Hill  
Head. 07.08.07 met with Angie & Ian  
to check out the Plans and the layout  
details/height, etc.



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

Another barrier for Blue badge drivers.

Entry barriers are becoming an increasing problem for many disabled drivers. So many car parks these days has an entry barrier. Taking a ticket out of a machine and putting either a ticket or token in on the way out is



pretty much impossible. Like many new developments there is no blue badge parking near by so that is not an option either. With the advancement of electronic and hydraulic driving controls, more severly disabled people

are able to drive but, are unable to enter car parks with barriers. The problem is on the agenda of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC)

*Source:- excerts from Helen Smith's article, DN disabilitynow October 07*

**Have you experienced difficulties when trying to use these types of barriers? Contact: 023 9238 8049 or: [lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk](mailto:lorraine@farehamaccess.org.uk)**



## BLUE BADGE DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING SCHEME



Transport Minister Rosie Winterton announced on 13.09.07 a series of changes to update the Blue Badge disabled persons' parking scheme and make it tougher on fraud. These changes which come into force on 15th October 07, include:

- Extending the scheme to children under two who, because of their specific medical conditions need to travel with bulky medical equipment or be close to a vehicle for emergency medical treatment. This will include children who suffer from hip dysplasia.
  - Amending the design of the badge, including the addition of a hologram, to help prevent fraud and aid enforcement.
  - Extending the scheme to include people with severe disabilities in both arms who drive non-adapted vehicles regularly but are unable to operate parking meters, such as people with Thalidomide-related disabilities.

Rosie said: "The Blue Badge Scheme gives many disabled people the freedom to get to work, do their shopping and access vital services.

Regulations in full at Office for Public Sector Information: [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)

Public Enquiries: 020 7944 8300. Dept for Transport: <http://www.dft.gov.uk>

*Source:- Richard Sturgess, F & G Access Officer*

**Directgov ..... keep up to date with what is going on .....**

Is the place to turn to for the latest and widest range of online public information, see: [www.direct.gov.uk/disability](http://www.direct.gov.uk/disability) and find Blue Badge parking bays on the interactive map at: [www.direct.gov.uk/bluebadgemap](http://www.direct.gov.uk/bluebadgemap)

Carers: [www.direct.gov.uk/carers](http://www.direct.gov.uk/carers)



The next Fareham Access Group Meeting is Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at the Portchester Parish Hall for an 11.15am start & finishing at 1.50pm.

Come and enjoy the FREE light lunch and chat with others.

Details of the group's first Christmas lunch outing will be available.

Our **Guest Speaker will be a surprise!**



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

Queen Alexander Hospital, Portsmouth.

**Within the Rehabilitation Centre is the Hydrotherapy Department** where there are issues concerning the reception desk, see the March/April Newsletter. Negotiations have continued since February and resulted in a meeting on 19.08.07 with a nucleus of prominent people to discuss the problems. There is more to come on this and possibly before and after photographs!

Buildings for healthcare are buildings for people – patients, visitors and staff. The most successful achieve an atmosphere in which patients feel more relaxed and the workforce more content. Put quite simply, in well-designed buildings, people smile more.

**Fareham Easy Access Trail = FEAT Surface for path.**

Sadly, the Big Millions Lottery bid was turned down on a technicality but the steering group has not faltered and the vision is still very strong.

Richard & Lorraine visited the Petersfield Lake Millennium path on 16.09.07 which seems to meet the requirements we want and the FEAT path will be even better due to the lessons learnt from this one.

The path width here is 1.2 metres wide with a defined edge. Even the narrowest section for the FEAT path will be 1.8 metres wide.

**Path surface:** Preferably not gravel - this is often used for 'wheelchair friendly' surfaces, but it can be bumpy for the chair user and very hard work for the pusher. If it must be gravel, thin is much better than thick.

*Source:- Clare Chilcott, FAG member 13.06.07*



**ARE YOU LOOKING AFTER SOMEONE?**

You are invited to a special Carers evening in Fareham Shopping Centre on Thursday 15th November from 4.30pm to 8pm. Shopmobility equipment can be hired for free after 4.30pm ring Barrie Fareham *Shopmobility* 01329 228 29 29



## Unclaimed benefit for people with cancer

Portsmouth Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) and Macmillan Cancer Support have joined up to advise about the financial support they could be missing out on. They may be entitled to extra to benefits. For more help contact the Macmillan Information & Support Centre at St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth or phone: 0808 808 2020 or at: [www.macmillan.org](http://www.macmillan.org)

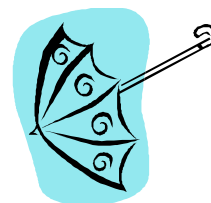
Source:- F & G News 19.09.07

## Do you have difficulty with keys?



If so, a new product designed by occupational therapists to allow you to remotely open the front door at a touch of a button is the "The Locca Access" More information at: 0845 602 2440 or [www.locca.net](http://www.locca.net)

Source:- able magazine

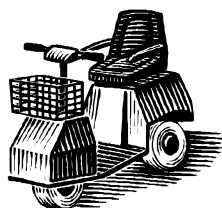


## GETTING OUT & ABOUT

### Mobility Recovery Association

Worried about breaking down whilst out on your electric scooter/wheel-chair? Peace of mind and 24 hour service at 11p per day. More info on: 023 9261 7784.

Source:- Eileen, Fareham Access Group member July 07



### New rights for disabled travellers

EURO MP Robert Evans championed a new law from 10.08 07 it is illegal for an airline, travel agent or tour operator to refuse a booking on grounds of disability.

Source:- MP Rosie Winterton - Dept for Transport, Radio 4 Disability Newsletter 10.08.07

The South West Trains booklet "Our service for passengers with impairments" explains the services they offer passengers who need help with details of the Assisted Travel

Booking service. If you need to book assistance for your journey you need to give at least 24 hours notice for assisted travel to ensure your journey can be planned.

Included is a rail map which shows step free access to the national network and is also available on line at:

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) & major rail stations. For all formats call Customer Service: 0800 52 82 100.

Source:- Accessibility Newsletter 12.05.07  
SWT offer some off peak ticket prices so look at: [www.megatrains.com](http://www.megatrains.com)

Source:- Greg, PDF Transport 05.07.07



**This Newsletter** is available electronically and other formats on request to Lorraine Tel: 023 9238 8049. Your own copy for £3.00 per annum. Your views on these or other access/equality issues are welcome.