

**MINUTES
BERKHAMSTED ACCESS COMMITTEE
2nd OCTOBER 2009**

Those present:

**John Gavin - DBC
Frank Spinney - Chairman
Sally Spinney**

Apologies:

**Yvonne Rix
Norman Cutting**

- 1. Carol Daw had retired from Herts County Council Social Services and JG had written to the manager Jonathan Hull, with a copy of the minutes asking if a representative could attend the access committee.**
- 2. JG confirmed that the car parking spaces had been altered in Lower Kings Road car park.**
- 3. JG had again written to HSBC Bank on the High Street about the lack of a ramped access but still had not received a reply. JG is to attempt to contact Carillion, if not write to the head office.**
- 4. JG was making little progress with the lift at Dorothy Perkins, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead and has been asked by the Hemel Hempstead access committee to write to the Disability Rights Commission to see if they will take this case forward.**
- 5. Tring Access Committee advised that the sign advising that wheelchairs are available at the store had not been placed as agreed with their head office and JG wrote to the head office concerning this matter.**
- 6. JG had been in contact with Lambert Smith Hampton who are in charge of Greenfield Road on behalf of the County Council, JG had spoken to the surveyor and advised that they were going to repair the road but on further inspection it had deteriorated and they had now gone out to tender for resurfacing the road and repainting the yellow lines extending them the entire length of Greenfield Road.**
- 7. JG had contacted Arriva concerning the bus route on the Manor Estate and was advised that the nearest bus stop is on London Road, Apsley.**
- 8. JG had written to County concerning the lack of crossings on Gravel Path and County replied that these are now on their maintenance list.**

Access Officer Report:

- 1. JG advised that an application had been made to provide a lift at Tring Museum, the lift does go to most floors and down to the restaurant, however the restaurant is very small and two wheelchairs would fill the area. There were also issues of pinch points at first floor where two wheelchairs or a wheelchair and a buggy could not pass.**
- 2. JG reported that a gentleman from Edgware who is disabled advised that he attempted to get into a fancy dress shop in Hemel Hempstead but fell when trying to lift his leg up the step. JG has made the shop owner aware of the alleged difficulties and advised the gentleman that access is their responsibility and not the freeholder of the property.**
- 3. JG advised that Sainsbury had a parking warden in their shops and there is a fine for those people found parking in disabled bays without the correct badge. The committee is to consider if they feel it is worthwhile writing to Waitrose and Tesco to see their policy on the matter.**
- 4. JG had received apologies from Yvonne, Yvonne reported problems in her wheelchair in Bakers Row as the road is very uneven. JG visited and that part of the pavement is the privately owned section and JG is to discuss with Yvonne.**
- 5. JG circulated the proposed A3 poster "do you have disabled access issues" trying to get more people to attend the access committee, JG is going to get these laminated and sent to the doctors surgery.**
- 6. JG had been written to by the administrators at Blue Flag and Quality Coast awards in England concerning their requirements for a beach access statement, issues are: Pre-arrival; Arrival and car parking facilities; Beach access points; On the beach; Public WC's and showers; Shop kiosk; Cafe, takeaway, restaurant attractions, i.e. rides; Activities, i.e. guided walks; Visitors Centre. Comments by Hemel Hempstead access committee was: a) car parking should be close, i.e. certain distances should be stated, i.e. less than 10M, less than 50M, less than 100M; b) changing facilities for disabled people should be provided for beaches; c) provision of adapted wheelchairs suitable for moving over sand etc. should be encouraged; c) provision of mobility scooters for promenades.**

**Date of next meeting:
8th January 2010**