

AGENDA

**BERKHAMSTED ACCESS COMMITTEE
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
BERKHAMSTED CIVIC CENTRE
3PM – FRIDAY 25TH JUNE 2010**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of meeting
3. Access Officer's report
4. Highway matters
5. Any other business
6. Date of next meeting

MINUTES
BERKHAMSTED ACCESS COMMITTEE
26TH FEBRUARY 2010

Those present:

John Gavin – DBC
Norman Cutting
Michelle Hall- HCC

Apologies:

Yvonne Rix
Frank Spinney – Chairman
Sally Spinney
Phillipa O'Shea – Town Council Rep.

1. Carol Daw had retired from Herts County Council Social Services and Michelle Hall is attending the meeting for HCC and JG welcomed her to the meeting.
2. JG had been chasing the access to HSBC Bank on the High Street. JG was in discussion with Carillion concerning the proposed ramp. It appears that Carillion has lost the contract and that the matter is being dealt with by Interserve FM. JG had been in contact with Len Daniels at Interserve and he had emailed him to see the progress and awaits the response.
3. JG had made little progress with the lift at Dorothy Perkins in the Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead and had been in contact with the Disability and Equalities Commission who advises that action can only be taken by an individual under the DDA and that they would have to serve notice in the County Court and take a case for their distress. JG had been in contact with a member of the Hemel Hempstead Access Committee to see if his wife would be willing to take the necessary action and was waiting on a response.
4. JG advised that the sign advising that wheelchairs are available at the Tring Tesco has now been put in place.
5. JG had been in contact with Lambert Smith Hampton who are responsible for Greenfield Road on behalf of the County Council. They intend to have the surface recovered and extend the yellow lines, JG to inspect to see if the work has been carried out.
6. JG advised that the proposed lift at Tring Museum has been started and should be completed by the summer. The lift serves most floors including the restaurants but circulation is an issue and a one-way system has had to be instituted to the upper floors due to the pinch points on the upper circulation balconies.

7. JG advised that Sainsbury had parking wardens in their shops and that these patrol the disabled bays giving tickets to those without the correct badge. The Committee agreed that it would be worth writing to the other supermarkets i.e. Waitrose and Tesco to see if they are a policy on this matter and if they would adopt the same action.
8. JG had received an apology from Yvonne. Yvonne reported problems in her wheelchair at Bakers Row as the footpath is very uneven, JG to discuss the matter with Yvonne.
9. JG had written to the administer of Blue Flag and Quality Coast award concerning their survey on access statements to beaches. Comments forwarded were:
 - a) Car parking should be close i.e. certain distance should be stated less than 10M, less than 50M less than 100M
 - b) Changing facilities for disabled people should be provided on beaches.
 - c) Provision of adapted wheelchairs suitable for moving over the sand etc. should be encouraged.
 - d) Provision of mobility scooters on long promenades would be advantageous.

Access Officers Report:

1. JG had written to the NHS PCT Trust concerning dental treatment in Tring where there are no accessible dentist, a copy of the letter is enclosed for information. The letter generally said that there are four NHS dentists and that although they don't do domiciliary visits the PCT has contracts with specialist practitioners to deliver NHS dental treatment in patients homes and in nursing and residential homes, a list of the four practitioners are on the letter from the NHS.
2. JG showed an article referring to a blind man and the amount of chairs and tables on the High Street. This matter has been an issue with the access committee for many years and after investigation it appears that that part of the High Street is owned by the shops and they cannot be forced to remove tables and chairs or 'A' boards. This matter used to be taken up by the Town Council Warden but there is a general lack of funding for the warden.

Date of next meeting: 25th June 2010