



**Havant Borough Council**  
**Access Group Meeting Minutes**  
27 March 2008

If you require this in large print or alternative format please contact Caren Ransom on **023 9244 6007** or [caren.ransom@havant.gov.uk](mailto:caren.ransom@havant.gov.uk)

1. Present/Apologies

Apologies:

Paula Eastwood	HBC Access Group
Audrey Tiller	HBC Access Group
Nora Huntley	HBC Access Group
Morris Huntley	HBC Access Group
Maisie Tucker	HBC Access Group
Tracy Ford	HBC

Present:

Councillor Terry Hart	HBC
Caren Ransom	HBC Equalities and Access Officer
J Beasley	HBC Access Group
Marian Le May	HBC Access Group
Tony Le May	HBC Access Group
C Brown	HBC Access Group
Helen Le May	HBC Access Group
Marc Le May	HBC Access Group
Val Hartridge	HBC Access Group

Councillor Gwen Blckett	HBC
Councillor Faith Ponsonby	HBC
Richard Sturgess	Fareham Borough Council
Gwyneth Fyfield	SCTC
Val Stanley	HBC Access Group
Margaret Barnes	Waterlooville North Community Board
Des Burrows	HP G/N
Hazel Bagley	Havant/Bedhampton Community Association
Jackie Taylor	HBC

## 2. Planning Issues

Talk and general discussion on Planning Issues from Robin Seamer, Building Control Team Leader.

Robin explained how planning and building regulations affect access issues with regard to planning developments

The Building Control Team at Havant Borough Council thoroughly check planning developments once they have passed through the planning stage. Part M of the Building Regulations ensures that developments comply with access for disabled ie accessible toilets, size of corridors, height of switches and sockets. The Building Control Team have the power of enforcement if Part M is not complied with but they will always liaise with the builder first to try and avoid reaching this stage.

Robin informed the group that an Access Statement should always lay out the fundamental principles of how a new development will be accessed by disabled. Richard Sturgess questioned the standard of these Access Statements and said generally these are very poor. Robin agreed and informed the group that Access Statements are often 'fitted' to building work already completed instead of the builder working to this Statement.

The DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) can follow up building grievances.

## 3. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed as a correct record.

#### 4. Matters arising (including signing off the partnership policy)

Cllr Hart had noted that Development Control was not inputting into the Partnership Policy and he wanted to see a partnership across the Council to include Community, Planners etc. CR raised para 3.3 where the wording “and other Officers as appropriate to engage with issues surrounding new planning applications, physical access and access to services” has been used. This was specifically written to ensure that such a broad remit of departments would then be responsible for policy shaping with the group.

It was raised that Point 5.33 needed to be more specific regarding the fortnightly drop-in for the Access Group. Richard Sturgess suggested it would be beneficial if officers other than Caren and Tracy attended the fortnightly drop-in group. The Access group agreed with Richard’s suggestion. Members of the drop-in group should request what officers they would like to talk to future drop-in meetings.

Caren informed the group that a draft paper was being circulated regarding the future of consultancy. It has been circulated to Managers.

Scrutiny issue to go on a future Access meeting agenda.

Cllr Hart asked the Access group if they were agreeable to adopting the Partnership Policy as a working document and to scrutinise it again in 12 months time at a drop-in meeting before a quarterly Access meeting. This was agreed.

#### 5. Matters Arising

Caren reported to the group that Judy fell and broke her arm at the recent Science Fair. She is pleased to report that Judy is on the mend and is in good spirits.

Caren thanked the Access group for all their hard work at the Science Fair. It was a very successful event and she will investigate the possibility of this being reported in the next edition of Serving You.

Cllr Ponsonby raised the issue of concessionary travel. The Borough of Havant allows concessionary travel from 9:30 am but other Councils in the County have decided to start at an earlier time. Concessionary travel is on a 3 year basis so changes cannot be made until this period has expired. After 3 years, Havant Council will have a better idea of costs.

## 5. HBC Disability Grants Scheme

Les Glass delivered a presentation to the Access group on the disabled grants that are available to disabled people in the Havant Borough.

Les gave a brief overview to the Access group on the services which Environmental Health provide: Private Sector Housing, Disabled Facilities Grants, Pollution of Air, Water and Land, Noise and Public Health Nuisances, Licensing of Pet Shops, Dog Breeding and Caravan Sites, Pest Control, Dog Control.

Disabled facilities grants are a mandatory service and Havant Borough Council has a duty to consult with Social Services in delivering this. Social Services will then recommend what is necessary and appropriate. All grant applications are means tested unless the adaptations are for a child.

The maximum grant is currently £30,000 but the Government aim to increase this to £50,000. The allocated resources for this year are £1,158,000. On average, 190 grants are approved yearly with the average grant costing £5,800.

Grants provide: flush floor showers, extra wide doors, door entry systems, ramped access, steplifts, stairlifts, wheelchair accessible kitchen.

## 6. Any other business

Caren announced that Audrey Tiller has decided to pull out of the Access group due to health problems.

Hampshire Coalition of Disabled People is meeting next Tuesday at Horndean.

Colin announced his website [www.brainshock.co.uk](http://www.brainshock.co.uk) is now up and running.

It was noted that the De la Rue building in Havant does have disabled access. This has been wrongly reported at other Access meetings.

7. Date of Next Access Group Meetings:

**15 May 2008 - 2pm**

**7 August 2008 – 2pm**

**27 November 2008 – 2pm**

**12 February 2009 – 2pm**

**21 May 2009 – 2pm**