

### Minutes of General Meeting

<b>Date</b>	23 July 2019
<b>Time</b>	10.00-12.00
<b>Venue</b>	Stoke Town Hall

Agenda topic	Action				
<p>Attendees:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pam Bryan</li> <li>• Geoff Bryan</li> <li>• Stephanie Wood</li> <li>• Phil Woodward</li> <li>• Fred Rushton</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mick Jones</li> <li>• John Burgess</li> <li>• Jo Coulson</li> <li>• Lesley Smith (Access Officer Stoke City Council)</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Apologies received from:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simmy Akhtar</li> <li>• Rita Dale</li> <li>• Jennifer Pardue</li> <li>• Winston Green</li> <li>• Rob Lamonby</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eileen Bloomfield</li> <li>• John Beech</li> <li>• Mike &amp; Pat Dixon</li> <li>• John Walmsley</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pam Bryan</li> <li>• Geoff Bryan</li> <li>• Stephanie Wood</li> <li>• Phil Woodward</li> <li>• Fred Rushton</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mick Jones</li> <li>• John Burgess</li> <li>• Jo Coulson</li> <li>• Lesley Smith (Access Officer Stoke City Council)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simmy Akhtar</li> <li>• Rita Dale</li> <li>• Jennifer Pardue</li> <li>• Winston Green</li> <li>• Rob Lamonby</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eileen Bloomfield</li> <li>• John Beech</li> <li>• Mike &amp; Pat Dixon</li> <li>• John Walmsley</li> </ul>	
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<b>1. Attendees and Apologies</b>					
Geoff welcomed members. Apologies noted					
<b>2. Accuracy of minutes of 21 May 2019</b>					
Minutes were accepted as true record of meeting of 21 May 2019  Proposed John Burgess Seconded Phil Woodward					
<b>3. Matters arising from meeting of 21 May 2019</b>					
All matters arising on agenda					

<p><b>4. Maple West</b></p>	
<p>Pam reported that Carla Gater (Stoke Council) is setting up another meeting which will possibly be on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019. Work is now going ahead</p>	
<p><b>5. Blue Iris</b></p>	
<p>Lesley reported that there has been little progress with the partnership bid for funding to develop and sustain Blue Iris. However she is still carrying out outreach and sending out badges.</p> <p>Jo reported that she and Rob are meeting weekly to update Blue Iris facebook pages.</p> <p>Mick and John Burgess offered to help out with outreach where possible.</p>	
<p><b>6. Museum Parking</b></p>	
<p>Lesley reported that the proposed drop off point to the front of the Museum in Bethesda Street has not been approved by the city council on cost grounds. The 5 parking off-street parking bays accessed off Warner Street will be going ahead as part of the Spitfire Exhibit and area improvements</p>	
<p><b>7. Bid to get more Blue Badge bays in the City</b></p>	
<p>Lesley has met with Ian Tamburello and David Stubbs from Highways to discuss the potential demand as a result of the extension of eligibility for Blue Badges.</p> <p>Although they will not be getting any funding from Central Government to meet additional needs and are unable to anticipate future demands, both agreed that the city council will deal with over demand as issues arise. A disabled parking bay costs around £4,000 including traffic regulation orders.</p> <p><b>Action: Lesley asked members to report any issues around over demand to evidence needs for more bays.</b></p> <p>Phil reported he had been speaking to a traffic warden in Buxton. In this area if you are not parked in a disabled person's parking bay you have to pay. Blue Badge holders who do not need the wider bays therefore have to park in them.</p> <p>Members discussed issues around blue badge parking. Blue badge rules are not standard across the country and vary between local authority areas. Geoff said that some authorities (Brixham) require free tax disc – but these aren't issued any more so how can disabled people comply? Pam has taken these disparities up at Parliamentary level but there is not a lot of interest in the issue from MPS who all replied that it is up to local councils.</p> <p>Pam also advised members that STAND needs to keep a careful watch on car parks and make sure that there is no reduction in numbers of bays, that they are not moved to inaccessible or useless places and that any payment systems are accessible. Fred agreed that authorities seem to be disengaged from disabled people and are sneaking things through without consultation and then disabled people have to struggle with the consequences of these actions.</p> <p>Mick asked if end bays of standard rows could be used by disabled people and marked for their use. This was discussed and as this would be a non-standard bay it would not be</p>	<p>Members</p>

<p>compliant and may be unsafe.</p> <p>Lesley advised that the city council encourages people who do not use mobility aids to park in standard bays as there is no charge in standard bays for blue badge holders and this leaves wider bays free for those who need them.</p> <p>Pam showed members a sunflower lanyard that has been developed so that rail staff are alerted to the fact that someone has a hidden disability and may need help. It is being trialled in other areas (not Stoke). Pam said it seems to be working well but it is very easy to get hold of and could be open to misuse. Phil said the lanyard advertises disability and many disabled people don't want to be identified but the group agreed that people can choose whether to wear it or not. Lesley said she would advocate careful use as the lanyard could mark people out as vulnerable for unscrupulous people. Mick said it would help prevent people being challenged. Jo said she had been challenged while in her car as she was told she is "too young to have a disability."</p>	
<p><b>8. Hospital Parking update</b></p> <p>Pam thanked Jo for the link to the Hospital Trusts' Equalities Officer as this has got Mike Brown from the Trust talking to her again. Pam and Mike should have met last week but Pam cancelled due to a family bereavement and she has to rearrange.</p> <p>Pam has had a call from the Sentinel saying that the Trust has offered 30 minutes extra parking for disabled people to allow them to unload and load from the car. STAND had a agreement with the Trust that this should be an hour. Pam asked the reporter how the system will work in the light of current difficulties getting a refund and the reporter didn't know. This is question that Pam will be putting to Mike Brown.</p> <p>At a recent visit to the hospital, Pam was unable to reach the high window for a refund so the member of staff came round and was very helpful. But the fact is the system was brought in without consultation and without an access audit or Equality Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Steph reported that she can't even get her car under the barrier to get her refund. Also she spoke to a warden last week and from now on there will be no refunds at all and there are no signs on the machines to say this.</p> <p>Pam will ask Mike Brown for some clarity on how this will work – how do people get their extra 30 minutes on car parks H and I? Is it an automatic concession at point of payment?</p> <p>Pam asked members to let her know their experiences so that she can gather evidence and feed back to the Trust at the meeting with Mike Brown.</p> <p>Members discussed the difficulty that many people are having understanding and operating the payment machines. Mick asked if it would not be sensible to have a payment station (s) in the hospital so there are people around to help. Pam agreed this was a sensible idea.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>Members</p>
<p><b>9. Age friendly Environments</b></p>	
<p>John Burgess and Mick Jones had volunteered to attend this group but there have been no meetings to date.</p>	

<p><b>10. Any other business</b></p>	
<p>Phil reported some issues getting in touch with Parking in Regent Road. It was ringing for 30 minutes before anyone picked up. He asked for a Blue Badge renewal form as his badge expires in November and there is a 12 week processing period. He thinks people should be allowed to apply 12 weeks before their badge running out so that there is no delay and no gap between badges.</p> <p><b>Action: Lesley to contact Mike Clarke to establish renewal process</b></p> <p>Lesley shared information about a new support project for people with disabilities living in Springfields, Trent Vale, Boothem and Oakhill delivered by Disability Solutions</p> <p><b>Action: Lesley to email details to Pam for sharing with members</b></p> <p>Lesley invited STAND to send a representative to a meeting of the North Staffordshire Disability Charity Forum.</p> <p><b>Action: Lesley to email details to Pam</b></p>	<p>LS</p> <p>LS/PB</p> <p>LS</p>
<p>Exec – 30 July at Disability Solutions, Hartshill</p> <p>General – 17 September 2019 10.00am at Civic Centre Stoke</p>	