

**Minute of Meeting of the Tweeddale Access Panel
held in Dovecot Court, Dovecot Road, Peebles on
Wednesday 7 February 2018 at 7.00p.m.**

PRESENT: *Michael Davis (Chairman), Spencer Cobley, Neil Collin, Mary Daykin, Frank Drummond, Callum MacDonald, Paul Nichol.*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Mags Greig (BSL Interpreter), Councillor Robin Tatler.*

APOLOGIES: *Yvonne Armstrong.*

1. Minutes

(a) The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 November 2017 had been circulated.

DECISION

APPROVED as a correct record.

(b) The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8 November 2017 had been circulated.

DECISION

APPROVED as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

(a) Eastgate Theatre

Frank advised that he, along with Michael and Callum (and Mags, our BSL interpreter) had met Sir David Younger, Chairman of the Eastgate Theatre, and one of the architects, during the Theatre's consultation weekend, to discuss their plans for extension and refurbishment of the building. Some other Panel members had attended the consultation event individually.

Provided that sufficient funds could be raised, the Theatre proposed, amongst other things, installing a Changing Places toilet on the ground floor, installing a new accessible toilet on the first floor, and improving the accessibility of the main entrance.

Mary confirmed that a number of fund-raising events would be held over the coming months. The Theatre would try to remain operational as much as possible during the works, but a three month closure was anticipated.

Robin advised that he had been appointed as the Council's representative on the Board of the Theatre and would be happy to pass on to them any queries or comments from the Panel.

He went on to invite Panel members to attend the next meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership. This would be held in West Linton Primary School on the evening of Wednesday 7 March. Members would also be welcome to visit the Burgh Hall, Peebles on Saturday 17 February, between 10.00am and 1.00pm, to see stalls set up by local organisations seeking monies from the Locality Bid Fund. Michael inquired whether the Council would provide a BSL interpreter at West Linton and Robin undertook to investigate.

DECISION

NOTED and **AGREED** that Panel members be encouraged to attend both events.

(b) **SMS Messaging Service/Contact BSL/Next Generation Text Service**

Michael advised the Panel that the article which he had written for publication in the Open Door magazine, had been shortened by the editor due to lack of space in the magazine.

DECISION

NOTED and **AGREED** that the points missed out be repeated in Michael's article describing our activities over the last quarter for the next issue of Open Door.

(c) **Panel Logo**

Frank advised that, as instructed, he had invited both Peebles High School and Borders College to participate in a competition to design a new logo for the Panel. Despite a reminder having been sent, no reply had been received from Borders College. However, Gill Geddes, an Additional Needs/Learning Support teacher at Peebles High School, had a group of Additional Needs learners whom she saw once a week and who were keen to take part. She had inquired whether the Panel had a deadline.

DECISION

AGREED that Gill Geddes be asked how long she thought the pupils might need, and whether 30 April might be a reasonable target.

(d) **Accessible Housing**

Frank advised that both Paul and he had written to the local Councillors regarding the provision of supported housing for young people in Tweeddale. Councillor Shona Haslam had offered to facilitate a meeting with Nile Istephan, Chief Executive of Eildon Housing Association, the main providers of this type of accommodation in the area.

Frank had also contacted the Citizen's Panel to ask if they would like to be involved in this meeting, and two of their members, Thomas and Alexander, had expressed interest in attending.

Members expressed their ignorance as to where ultimate responsibility lay for adequate provision of such housing, whether with the Council as policy maker and/or planning authority, or with the housing provider.

Robin undertook to draft a question for him to ask the Council's housing spokesperson on 1 March, and to circulate it for comments.

DECISION

AGREED that:

- (a) Paul ask Councillor Haslam to invite Nile Istephan to the next meeting of the Access Panel;
- (b) Frank advise the Citizen's Panel representatives accordingly; and
- (c) Robin draft a question to ask the Council's housing spokesperson on 1 March, and circulate it for comments.

3. Chairman's Report

(a) **Access Guide**

Michael advised that a Skype meeting had been held with Ian Buchanan of Disability Equality Scotland, when he, Callum, Paul and Frank had explained what the Panel wanted from the online Access Guide.

Frank confirmed that Ian Buchanan now proposed to set up another Skype meeting with Panel representatives, at which the person who would be responsible for setting up the infrastructure, would also be in attendance.

DECISION

NOTED and AGREED.

(b) Access Audit Training

Michael advised that six Panel members had volunteered for Access Audit training. Frank confirmed that this was likely to take place either locally on 21 March, or on a later date and in the Central Belt if other Panels were interested in attending.

DECISION

NOTED and AGREED that Frank ask the organisers to arrange for BSL interpretation services to be available.

(c) IT Equipment

Michael revisited the subject of disposal of old IT equipment currently held by him. Concern was expressed that previous ideas of spending money on having these machines checked over and possibly upgraded for sale would be a waste of money and result in expenditure incurred exceeding income.

DECISION

AGREED that:

- (i) if it is found to be in working order, Michael be permitted to retain the Dymo labelling equipment for his own use in return for a donation to Panel funds, and otherwise it be scrapped;
- (ii) with the exception of the new laptop and printer recently acquired for the use of the Panel Secretary, all the other IT equipment be checked over by Callum for the existence of any old files to be transferred onto a memory stick or external hard drive;
- (iii) the cleaned machines be offered by Paul to the Bridge to pass on to any of their member organisations, such as the Men's Shed; and
- (iv) any old equipment not wanted by the Bridge members be scrapped.

4. Secretary's Report

(a) Transport in Rural Areas

An invitation had been received to attend a Transport Scotland event hosted by Disability Equality Scotland on Transport in Rural Areas, to be held in the Riverbank Resource Centre, Stirling, from 1-3pm on Wednesday 28 February.

DECISION

AGREED that Callum and Michael attend, if a BSL interpreter would be provided.

(b) Streets for Everyone

An invitation had been received to attend a half day workshop by Living Streets Scotland on "Streets for Everyone", in the Melting Pot, Rose Street, Edinburgh, from 10-1 on Tuesday 6 March.

DECISION

AGREED that Frank attend.

(c) Annual Grant

An invitation had been received from Disability Equality Scotland to apply for a quarterly instalment of annual grant. Frank suggested that the purchase of a

projector and screen would be useful for giving presentations to local groups to raise awareness of the work of the Panel.

DECISION

AGREED that costings be obtained for consideration at the next meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Neil advised that the Panel had £855.39 in the bank account according to the last statement he obtained in December 2017.

6. Euan's Guide

Callum advised that he had met a representative of Euan's Guide, who had offered to come to speak to the Panel about accessibility of premises, but he had not subsequently heard from this person and did not have his contact details.

DECISION

AGREED that if the person made contact, Callum invite him to a Panel meeting later in the year, but not to the meeting when the Panel are due to meet Eildon's Chief Executive.

7. Website

Callum asked members for news, articles and suggestions as to what might be put on the Panel website. Mary put forward several suggestions, including links to Open Door magazine and details of the upcoming Council meetings discussed earlier.

DECISION

AGREED that any proposed content for the website be passed to the Secretary in the first instance for vetting before forwarding to Callum.

8. Dates of Next Meetings

AGREED that the next meeting be held in Dovecot Court on Wednesday 25 April 2018 at 7.00pm, that the next Annual General Meeting be held at the same time and venue on Wednesday 13 June, and the next ordinary meeting of the Panel being held at the conclusion of the AGM.