

Gosport Access Group and Disability Forum

Minutes of Annual General Meeting at Gosport Town Hall on 11th July 2016

Jim Morey (JM)	GAGDF Chair
Terry Rhodes (TR)	GAGDF Committee and GHODS
Maria Battley (MB)	GAGDF Secretary
Jeanette Perry (JP)	GAGDF Committee
Charlie Reilly (CR)	GAGDF member
Ryan Reilly (RR)	
Dawn Taylor (DT)	GAGDF member
Matt Bull (awards only)	Gosport BC photographer
Cllr Lynn Hook (awards only)	Mayor of Gosport
Richard Sykes	Hampshire CC Highways
Christine Lawrence	Shore Leave Haslar
Colin Jefferson-Jones	Shore Leave Haslar
Denise Starkie	GADSAD

1. Apologies

Tony Elbourn (TE)	GAGDF Vice-Chair
Irene Elbourn (IE)	GAGDF member
Kathy Inch (KI)	Gosport BC
Sally Vidler (SV)	GAGDF member

2. 2016 Access Awards

Excellent Access awards were given to:

- GADSAD

Disabled-Customer-Friendly awards were given to:

- Sing for Fun (- in absentia)
- The Reilly Enterprise
- Shore Leave Haslar
- The Southern Co-Operative FuneralCare (Rowner) (- in absentia)

3. Guest Speaker-Richard Sykes, HCC Highway Maintenance

JP raised several issues, including: -

- Q. insufficient provision of dropped-kerbs (for crossings) and the problems of cars parking across them
- A. HCC can paint 'H' bars across crossings to denote to drivers that they should not be park across them, but these are more a matter of 'courtesy', rather than legally enforceable

Q. Problem of vegetation encroaching onto the footway

A. Most refer to vegetation growing on private land, not the highway authority's land. If reported, HCC will issue the owners a notice to cut back the vegetation.

TR:-

Q. The problems of driveways making the pavement uneven

A. HCC cannot change existing driveways.

JM:-

Q. Condition of roads and footways and footpaths, with respect to inspection and maintenance

A. The regime varies depending on location, near schools, shops etc.

Q. Re: 'A'-boards in High Street

A. HCC can only deal with complaints received and can only take action if the 'A' board contravenes the local licensing policy.

DT:-

Q. Are details of new roads and new addresses passed on to the emergency services and map producers? (noting recent problems with new roads not appearing on sat-navs, etc. and hospital transport not knowing where to go)

A. HCC keep and update a list of streets for the emergency services to use, however it can take time for this information to be passed on to map / sat-nav companies. A big problem is that houses are not always named and numbered before they are occupied.

The easiest way to report highway faults, overhanging vegetation etc. is on-line, making sure that you have the right location and postcode for the problem

4. Minutes of 2015 AGM

Accepted as read with no modifications nor any matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report (JM)

Before I go any further, I'd like to thank the rest of the committee for all their support throughout the year, especially Terry and Jeanette for their tireless efforts – not forgetting Tony's stoicism and Maria's patience

The past 12 months has been a very busy one for the group.

In the summer of 2015 we adopted a revised legal constitution which should stand us in good stead as we plan to do more in future (e.g. applying for grants)

Consultations and projects taken part in comprise:

- Working with 'Splodge Designs' on the Conan-Doyle Exhibition,
- the 'D-Day Museum' revamp – preliminary talks with the team
- Official opening of the 'M33 Monitor' class boat in HM dockyard
- Road-testing the new RN museum (including the lift in HMS Alliance)
- Planning consultations (including Pier St. cafe)
- Format of Gosport Older Person's Forum's transport leaflet
- GBC's reception seating
- Tactile paving changes (Dept. for Transport / Guide Dogs)
- Co-Production and other HCC Adult services workshops (inc. JM, TR and IE)
- Ongoing work with Heritage Open Days

The open forum meetings have had a fairly good attendance, though unpredictable

Speakers included:

- Ashley Morgan from CAB (returned to give us an update on PIP – including a useful factsheet),
- Daniel Ball from the RN Museum outreach
- Sally Smith from 'Driving Miss Daisy'
- Denise from GADSAD
- Claire and Paul from Splodge Designs on the Conan Doyle exhibition

Social media: our facebook page is really taking off: 230 'likes', up to 1890 post reach. Great way to disseminate news and information

But how would non-social-media users prefer to receive notifications in future?

We have produced new publicity: new leaflets, updated exhibition banners / panels and a powerpoint presentation

This year we have done a lot of regional networking: HULON, SENDPO

GAGDF have had a presence at other events, including: Health Forum, Bus working group / HCC Passenger Transport Group, SWT / NR accessibility conference, HULON launch event

Initiatives that we have been involved in or are supporting include: Hate crime (inc. 3rd party reporting centre in GDC), Dementia-Friends, Surgery Signposters, 25/55 Advocacy, Gosport Bowling Club's all-weather green (success!)

Ongoing work with transport accessibility – pavements, kerbs etc. (JP), buses (helping EDDF with Xelabus)(JM). We are helping to set up a 'design reference group' along with other access groups across Hampshire and IoW to be consulted on a range of transport, housing, heritage and other matters.

Changes to Access Awards: we looked at these in great detail and the jury is still out on whether the SENDPO / WAAFA's 'Good Accessibility Scheme' model is appropriate. A system which makes local businesses more proactive and engaging would be better – we will work on this for next year

The committee decided that access awards will be given for one year only, but will be reassessed after every year

The one thing we've been doing less of is our original core function of building access in tandem with the local planning / building control departments, and solving issues with local shops and services.

My pledge is to focus on this more in the coming year, with the implementation of an 'access awareness' scheme involving buy-in from companies in Gosport and Lee.

On a sadder note, this year saw the passing of Allen Scott, a local character and disability campaigner and supporter of the group. I attended his funeral in March.

6. Treasurer's Report

Our previous treasurer David Miles retired from GVA and GAGDF in October 2015. Since then, our finances have been controlled internally by Ang Weston at GVA and not by us.

Earlier in 2016 we appointed a new treasurer (Thalia Colyer).

The plan is to take direct control of our own finances and bank account from GVA so that we can run ourselves more effectively and plan for the future.

Bank statement balance as of 19th May 2016 is £319.03 (including monies from EasyFundRaising), but we need to offset against any outstanding expenses owing to GVA, Maria or Terry.

We have also received some income from 2 table-top sales – plus attendance at HCC events where TR and JM have been paid for our time and have donated this to GAGDF.

NB Thalia was not present at our 2016 AGM, so the full financial report was made available for the September meeting and a copy is attached to this report.

7. Election of Management Committee for 2016-2017

Officers:

- Chairman - **Jim Morey**
- Vice-Chairman – **Tony Elbourn**
- Treasurer - **Thalia Colyer**
- Secretary - **Maria Battley**

Other management committee members:

- **Terry Rhodes**
- **Jeanette Mae Perry**
- **Sue Wright**
- **Dawn Taylor**
- **Charlie Reilly**

8. Any other business

Gosport Borough Council will be merging many its administrative, financial and legal services with Portsmouth Council. This has already happened with Building Control.

Possible speakers for the coming year include:

- Headway
- Optelec Ltd (perhaps better suited to Opensight)
- Smart meters
- Rainbow Centre
- 'BlueAssist' scheme
- Canine Partners
- Results of transport accessibility survey
- Helping Hooves

If anyone has any other speaker suggestions, then please let us know.

Future visit to GADSAD

JM's Transport Accessibility Survey questionnaire will close by the middle of August 2016, with the results to be published later in the year.

The next regular Gosport Access Group and Disability Forum meeting took place at Gosport Town Hall on 12th September 2016 (1:45 for a 2pm start)

The 2017 Gosport Access Group and Disability Forum Annual General Meeting will take place at The Old Railway Community Room (in the old station on Spring Garden Lane) on 10th July 2017 (1:45 for a 2pm start)