

WEST BERKSHIRE DISABILITY ALLIANCE (WBDA) NEWSLETTER

August 2005, Edition 3

Website: www.wbda.org

Charity No. 11008112

WBDA - AGM

The WBDA held its second AGM in July and we now have three new executive members and a new Secretary.

A big thanks goes to the members stepping down for all the hard work undertaken during the past year. After all the official business was conducted a debate took place to establish the WBDA's priorities for the coming year.

If you know of any pressing matter that the WBDA should add to its list of priorities then please get in touch.

To view our Priorities and the Chairman's Report from the AGM go to www.wbda.org

WBDA

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The WBDA goes East

In May, the WBDA held an Open Meeting in Calcot and was rewarded with a splendid turn out of around 30. On 05/09/05, we are taking the show to **Hungerford**. A WBDA Open Meeting is coming to venue near you!

Questions for West Berks Council

The WBC regularly puts a series of topical questions to the full West Berkshire Council (WBC) Meetings. At the last meeting at the end of July we asked questions on the following subjects:

- The prolonged vacancy of the post of WBC Access Officer
- Consultation regards WBC contracted developments
- The National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions
- The Disability Discrimination Act concerning public bodies
- Expansion of the Readibus service in Newbury and the surrounding area

Look out on the website www.wbda.org for the full questions and answers. The next meeting of the WBC is on 27/09/05 – **what questions should we be putting them?**

Taxi Provision for West Berkshire

Since 1st April 2005, all new applicants for a taxi license plate in West Berkshire had to provide a fully wheelchair accessible vehicle and undertake a course of Disability Awareness Training, when such a course had been set up. All of this came about because of the WBDA's taxi survey, which has underpinned West Berkshire Councils new licensing strategy.

As far as the WBDA is aware, there has been one additional fully wheelchair accessible taxi added to the West Berkshire fleet since 01/04/05, bringing the total to seven.

Leisure Centre wins Award

Kennet Leisure Centre has just won an Inclusive Fitness Award, for its work in making their centre user friendly for disabled people. The centre's 'Activator', Lindsay Care said "I have Cerebral Palsy and am a wheelchair user, so I know that the thought of starting a fitness programme can be daunting. The upside is that once you get started, the benefits can make a real difference to the quality of your life." ***Give it a try and let us know what you think!***

REACT

The grand launch of the REACT project, a system to guide people with a sight impairment around Newbury Town Centre is planned to take place on 07/09/2005, so far around £30,000 has been raised.

Village Store & Post Office re-opens

Against the present trend and thanks to local co-operation the store and Post Office in Southend, Bradfield has reopened, next to the village hall. There is safe parking and it is **wheelchair accessible**. The store opens 7.00hrs – 19.00hrs weekdays & 8.00hrs – 13.00 Sat. The Post Office from 9.00 – 17.30 weekdays, 9.00 – 12.30 Sat.

Neurology Clinics closer to home

Professor Colin has started a Neurology Clinic at West Berkshire Community Hospital (WBCH), which is to be held all day on alternative Wednesdays. Dr Sultan attends WBCH on a Tuesday each week for a Neuro-rehabilitation clinic and Dr Chatterjee who has recently replaced Dr Hussian, undertakes a weekly Clinic which is focussed primarily on the elderly. All the above clinics are accessed through GP referrals and patients who are currently seen at the Battle Hospital site may transfer to be seen at the WBCH. For more information call your GP, or WBCH (01635 273300).

DIARY

WBDA Open Meeting

Monday, 5th Sept 2005
(18.45hrs – 20.45hrs)
John O'Gaunt Youth &
Community Centre,
HUNGERFORD

Disability Forum

Monday, 3rd Oct 2005
(18.45hrs - 20.30hrs)
Burdwood Centre
THATCHAM

WBDA Open Meeting

Monday 7th Nov 2005

Service Users make film for Green Paper

The Government has released a Green Paper on the future of Community Care for comment. Users and those who care for users of West Berkshire Community Care Services, with the help from staff from Newbury Day Centre have made a film, to gauge first hand their reactions to the Green Paper, as well as their hopes, fears and aspirations for the future. The film will be used by West Berkshire Council members and officers in their reply to the Green Paper and for general training and awareness purposes.

This newsletter has a distribution list of 1200. If you or your organisation would like to sponsor an edition of this newsletter, please contact Mick at the WBDA.