

WEST BERKSHIRE DISABILITY ALLIANCE (WBDA) NEWSLETTER

June 2006, Edition 6

Website: www.wbda.org

Charity No. 1108112

Housing Consultation

West Berkshire Council is currently holding a consultation on its Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy. This policy includes such things as the Council's strategy & rules for the Disabled Facilities Grant. The deadline for the consultation is 7th July 2006. The outcome of this consultation will almost certainly have a bearing on the lives of many local disabled people. To enable members of both WBDA and the West Berkshire Neurological Alliance to feed their views into this consultation the two alliances will be holding a joint meeting on the policy, at St Joseph's Church Hall, Newbury, on Thursday 22nd June, 14.00hrs – 16.00hrs. For further details please contact Mick Hutchins on 01635 49701 or email mickhutchins@wbda.org

REACT and the Greenham Gift

The REACT Project, a talking sign system that helps visually impaired people find their way around, supported by WBDA, has reached the final of the £50,000 Greenham Gift to held on 06/06/06. By the time you read this the overall winner would have been announced, but win or lose, the REACT Project has already been guaranteed £8,000 for reaching the final and WBDA would like to take the opportunity to thank the Greenham Common Trust for this marvellous local initiative and wish all the other worthwhile projects that entered the best of luck in their particular endeavour.

Mencap Changing Places Campaign

Unfortunately standard disabled toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability. Many people with profound and multiple impairments need support to use the toilet, or require the use of a changing bench where a carer can safely change their continence pad. Most toilets have no changing benches or hoists and are too small for more than one carer to assist. Many families can not go out at all, or if they do face health and safety risks when changing their loved one on a toilet floor. Mencap are campaigning to get more toilets upgraded to meet this need. WBDA is fully behind this campaign and will be lobbying hard locally to support it.

Loop and Audio Equipment

WBDA is now able to loan out a portable loop system & audio equipment to its members, and groups and organisations that come under its umbrella, enabling them to include people with a hearing impairment when they hold meetings, focus groups, seminars and other events. For more information email info@wbda.org or ring Shelly Hambrecht on 01635 523861

Accessible Vehicle for Hire

Newbury Handybus has a Mercedes Van for hire which seats up to 6 people including a person in a wheelchair. Rates are £15 per day + 15p per mile (including fuel). For further details phone Brian on 01635 37111

A Vision for the Kennet and Thames Area

In January WBDA organised a focus group for those who live in the east of the district to feed views into the above document that covers such things as community facilities, transport and health care. The results are now available on W. Berks Council's website or phone 01635 42400

The Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card

entitles the holder to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. You need to be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, or Attendance Allowance, or be a registered blind person, or a holder of a disabled person's railcard. Cards are valid for 3 years with a £5 processing fee & 90% of UK cinemas support it. Application forms are available at cinemas or online at www.ceacard.co.uk

*This was taken from an article from the free online disability newsletter Positive Aspects, to subscribe email trudy.1@ntlworld.com

Direct Payment Website

The West Berkshire Direct Payment Service has commissioned a local direct payment user to design, develop and maintain a website www.westberkshiredirectpayments.org.uk which contains detailed information and advice on direct payments. **Alternately, phone 0118 9419183**

Englefield Trust

WBDA would like to thank the Englefield Trust for their grant of £1,000 towards its core costs.

Kennet and Avon Canal Trips & Holidays

The Rose of Hungerford is a wheelchair accessible canal barge that operates a series of public trips out of Hungerford throughout the summer on weekends, Wednesdays and Bank Holidays. The barge can also be booked for private charter – for further details call 01488 683389

Alternatively, if you wanted to have a holiday on the Canal, the Bruce Trust is a registered charity which provides a purpose-built, wide-beam canal boat on the Kennet and Avon Canal based at Great Bedwyn, for hire for self catering holidays by disabled, disadvantaged or elderly people and their carers. The Bruce Trust website can be found at www.brucetrust.org.uk or phone 01672 515498

WBDA Diary - 2006

Monday, 17th July 2006

WBDA AGM

18.45 hrs – 20.30 hrs
United Reform Church
Room, Newbury

Monday, 4th Sept 2006

WBDA Open Meeting

18.45 hrs – 20.45hrs
United Reform Church
Room, Newbury

Monday, 2nd Oct 2006

Disability Forum

18.45hrs – 20.30hrs
Frank Hutchins Hall,
Thatcham

Monday, 4th Dec 2006

WBDA Open Meeting

14.00hrs – 16.00hrs
(Venue TBA)

WBDA Contact Details:

Tel: 01635 49701

E-mail: info@wbda.org

Disability Information:

For all the info you need on benefits and much more try

www.diwb.org

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.