

**Minutes of the  
Central Beds Access Group Meeting  
14<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
Priory House  
Chicksands**

Present	Roy Storey	CBAG
	Ian Kelly	CBAG
	Mary Walsh	CBAG
	Steve Nash	Aragon Housing / CBAG
	Jean Bird	Guide Dogs for the Blind / CBAG
	Seema Jassi	Aragon Housing
	Gary Quilter	Manager Park Projects Ampthill TC
	Simon Knock	Greensand Trust

- 1 Welcome and Introductions  
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the guests.

- 2 Apologies Received
- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Peter Keates       | CBC Building Control                                |
| Jon Balaam         | Greensand Trust                                     |
| Rex Skinner        | CBAG  |
| Clare Harding      | CBC Corporate Policy Advisor (Equality & Diversity) |
| Alexe Rose         | Greensand Trust                                     |
| Martin Usher       | Access Officer/CBC CBAG                             |
| Sally Aspinall     | CPPC / CBAG   |
| Simon Daize        | Beds Police / CBAG                                  |
| Charlotte Bonser   | LINK / CBAG   |
| Lorna Walker       | CBAG  |
| Susan Childerhouse | CBC Head of Public Protection / Safety              |
| Jo Bellamy         | CBC, Policy and Performance CBC                     |
| Clare Harding      | CBC Corporate Policy Advisor (Equality & Diversity) |
| Keith Quantrill    | Representative of Flitwick Town Council             |

3. To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010 were agreed as a true and accurate record, amendments to the report from Charlotte Bonser and date change in the report from Jo Bellamy agreed.

a) Matters Arising

Answers to questions raised by group members at the July meeting and received from Jo Bellamy was read out in her absence

- 4 To receive an update on the Equality Act and work ongoing – Clare Harding CBC Corporate Policy Advisor (Equality & Diversity)

Although Clare was unable to attend due to a full diary of meetings, Clare had sent a document for the Access group to comment upon. The issues contained related to SME's (Small & Medium size Enterprises) The chairman explained to those present that he had answered that unless the larger enterprises, (train and bus companies) ensured access then the SME's position would remain especially in areas such as Central Bedfordshire.

Clare is to take this important factor to the appropriate Forums.

4 b. To receive an update linking Access Statements to Licence applications.

A Report relating to the Scottish Law (previously circulated) was discussed and although members felt it has too many loopholes it was agreed that it was at the least a starting point. It is hoped that the review currently ongoing of the English licensing laws does not follow a similar path.

Susan Childerhouse had sent the group the latest on dates for some changes to the licensing laws. The changes will not be enforced until 2012.

5. To welcome Simon Knock, Community Development Officer who will represent the Greensand Trust on the Access Group.

Simon explained that he had only been in post a few months and had a lot to familiarise himself with. Simon explained that a new park, adjacent to Stockgrove Park was well under way but at present there were issues relating to highways that needed sorting out. The Woodland Centre on the A6 near Clophill has similar problems.

The Chairman welcomed Simon and thanked him for his report.

6 To welcome Gary Quilter, Ampthill Park Projects Manager, Ampthill Town Council.

Gary thanked the group for the invitation and went on to give a short history of his previous work projects.

Gary is looking forward and very pleased to be involved with Ampthill Park and the wonderful innovative issues taking place.

Ian informed Gary that the access group had previously met on a number of occasions, with Officers and Members of Ampthill Council to discuss access within the landscape and offered assistance if Gary felt it necessary. Gary thanked the group for this offer.

The Chairman wished Gary the very best in his new appointment and thanked him for his update.

7 To receive an update Charlotte Bonser of the Bedfordshire LINK's

Charlotte, due to a heavy program of meetings on the day was unable to attend. Charlotte had sent copies of the latest edition of the LINK Newsletter which were given out to members present. The back page contains a "Question & Answer" article on the Central Beds Access Group. Thanks are to be sent to Bedfordshire LINK's for raising the profile of the Group.

8 To receive Group Members concerns about access issues in their areas.

Members were updated on the new seating at the Manor Land Park, Flitwick. It was explained that two phone calls had been received from members of the public complaining to the group about the positioning and general condition of these seats. These concerns were reported to Martin Usher. Martin has met with the Town Clerk of Flitwick and the problems are to be remedied. The seats will be reduced in height and positioned in the bays built into the path. The rough edges are to be removed and the corners are to be made safe, rounded off. The barbed wire, it is hoped, will also be removed.

Simon informed the group that he had as yet not visited the site but hoped to so in the near future.

The Chairman explained that he had spoken to Councillor Quantrill who because of a prior engagement in Bedford was unable to attend the meeting, but he too was to visit the Park.

9 Correspondence received since the Agenda was set.

Diana Blackmun, CBC Service User Engagement Officer had sent information relating to 'Full of Life' - a week of celebrations, partnership with Aragon Housing, and assisted by members of the Older Peoples Reference Group (OPRG) we are planning a whole week of activities and events for older people across Central Bedfordshire, called 'Full of Life' which is a celebration of older people and the contribution they make to society. The week of events begins on Monday 27th September 2010 and culminates in the Festival for Older people on Friday 1st October 2010 which will be held at the Village Hall Flitwick.

Caroline Romans, CBC Project Officer - Access Development, Countryside Access had sent out a consultation document entitled, "More People Walking forms the Walking Strategy for Central Bedfordshire".

Finally as mentioned Clare Harding had sent out, 2012 LEGACY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE: INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE BUSINESS. Improving messages to SMEs: The case for the disabled customer.

All documents have been forwarded to access group members for the comments.

10: Questions  
There were none

11: Date and venue of next meeting.

The next meeting will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010, Room 13, Chicksands

The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.15 p m