

MOLE VALLEY ACCESS GROUP

Minutes of Mole Valley Access Group held on 03 June 2015

Present:

Cllr Philippa Shimmin (Chairman)	Mole Valley District Councillor
Cllr David Mir	Mole Valley District Councillor
Cllr Paul Elderton	Mole Valley District Councillor
Derek Thorpe	Swans Club
John Howell	Westcott Resident
Lin Hulford	Bookham Resident
Hilary Porter	Leatherhead Residents Association
Heather Ward	Shopmobility Leatherhead
Maureen Walker	Leatherhead Resident
Alex Wilkie	Squiggle

Also in attendance:

Steve Tucker Jeannette Pickles	Mole Valley District Council
-----------------------------------	------------------------------

	Item	Action
1	Apologies for Absence Cllr Mary Cooper, Peter Shimadry, Janice Brown, Rosie Norris, Anel Louw, Jonny Pickering	
2	Election of Chairman Councillor Philippa Shimmin was elected as Chairman of Mole Valley Access Group for the 2015/16 Municipal Year	
3	Minutes of Last Meeting held on 08 April 2015 Agreed as a correct record	

4

Alex Wilkie – Squiggle

The Chairman welcomed Alex Wilkie from web design company Squiggle to the meeting. Squiggle had been approached to design MVAG's new website, courtesy of the funding provided by Johnston Sweepers. Mr Wilkie supplied the Group with two handouts, one which detailed the structural elements of the new website, and the second demonstrating the proposed visual layout. Mr Wilkie explained that the key element at this stage was to get the Group's agreement for the structure of the website, so that it could be built to the required specifications. The Group were therefore encouraged not to focus too much on suggestions for website content at the present time, as content can be easily added or amended at any time once the site is up and running. By agreeing the structure and getting it right first time, this would help to keep costs down and reduce the amount of editing required.

In terms of the structure, the Group suggested reducing the number of headings along the top menu, as some of the categories were felt to be too similar and could be amalgamated. Additional headings could be added as part of drop-down menus which would prevent the home page from appearing too crowded. It was suggested that the heading 'Approved Businesses' could be changed to 'Approved Premises' to ensure that other facilities in the District as well as businesses could be recognised for their efforts in making their services accessible to all. Cllr Elderton suggested that the 'Our Aims' section should be tied in closely with the Terms of Reference agreed when MVAG was set up as an outside body by MVDC.

Mr Wilkie advised that the website would be tailored for use on a variety of platforms, meaning that users could access the content through a mobile or tablet just as easily as through an ordinary computer, with the structure optimised for whichever device is used.

In terms of the visual layout, the Group were impressed by the use of sympathetic colours and text, which ensured that the site was accessible for those with visual impairment. The typeface could be altered to allow the user to optimise the layout according to their individual requirements, and users will be able to listen to articles through the built in audio function, similar to the ReadSpeaker facility found on MVDC's website. The site also contained a newly designed logo, as the previously used version was thought to be incompatible with the look and feel of the new site. The Group responded positively to the design and colour of the new logo and felt this was an improvement on the previous version. However, it was felt that the use of pictures could be more varied, as the pictures included on the design sample only demonstrated users with physical disabilities, whereas the Group felt that the site should demonstrate that it represents those with all

5	<p>Transform Leatherhead</p> <p>The Chairman advised the Group that MVDC is in the early stages of developing a masterplan for Leatherhead town centre under the project banner 'Transform Leatherhead'. The Chairman had been asked to provide a submission to the consultation on behalf of MVAG, to include any ideas and suggestions for accessibility improvements as part of the plans. The submission would be required before the next MVAG meeting in August, therefore the Chairman asked the Group to put forward initial thoughts on what improvements could be made. The Group offered various suggestions, including safer routes for partially sighted people to navigate, smoother surfaces to assist wheelchair users, general improvements to the attractiveness of the town and its surrounding open spaces, a better selection of retail units and for drainage issues to be addressed.</p> <p>More information on the masterplan and the timetable for the project can be obtained from MVDC's website at http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/transformleatherhead. The website includes a short survey with a deadline for responses of 10 July 2015, which will form the basis of a more detailed consultation later this year.</p>	
6	<p>Highways/Parking Issues</p> <p>No items</p>	
7	<p>Planning Issues</p> <p>No items</p>	
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The Chairman advised that a meeting would be taking place in the coming weeks regarding proposals for improved access to Dorking Deepdene rail station. Cllr Elderton confirmed that he would be attending this meeting, but was concerned about the costs and vulnerability of having lifts installed, given that the station is unmanned. Improved signposting and connectivity to the more accessible facilities available at Dorking Main station were also being considered.</p>	
9	<p>Dates of Future Meetings - 2.00pm - 3.30pm at Park House, Leatherhead</p> <p>2015 - 5 August, 7 October, 16 December 2016 - 17 February, 20 April, 15 June, 17 August, 19 October, 21 December</p>	ALL