

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cross Party Group in the  
Scottish Parliament on Disability  
Held on 6 June 2012**

**Present:**

George Adam MSP  
Robert Allan, DG Voice  
John Ballantine, SATA  
Bob Bennett, Perth & Kinross Access Group  
Gary Clark, STUC, CWG  
Stephen Cruickshanks, Renfrewshire Access Panel  
Annabelle Ewing MSP  
Joe Fitzpatrick MSP  
Susan Grasekamp, Scottish Disability Equality Forum  
Laura Gibson, ACPS  
Keith Irving, Living Streets Scotland  
Denis Johnston, Researcher – Fiona McLeod MSP  
Robert MacBean, National Autistic Society  
Michael McMahon MSP  
Neil McPhee, work experience – Annabelle Ewing MSP  
Jackie Maceira, Scottish Disability Equality Forum  
David Nicholson, National Autistic Society  
Patricia Osborne, Brittle Bone Society  
Grace Robertson, the Action Group  
Kate Sanford, Quarriers  
John Sutherland, Leonard Cheshire  
Karina Williams, PASDA

**Apologies**

Jackie Baillie, MSP  
Margaret Ellis, Phoneability  
Stan Flett, SATA  
Maddy Halliday, The Stroke Association  
Josie Isles, Contact A Family  
Faye Keogh, Turning Point Scotland  
Siobhan McMahon MSP  
Terry Robinson, SATA  
Marianne Scobie, Glasgow Disability Alliance  
Ann Young, SEAG

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Michael welcomed all members and guests to the meeting.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

## 3. Annual General Meeting

### a) Annual Return and Accounts

Approved and agreed submission to Standards Committee.

### b) Election of Office Bearers

Michael McMahon agreed to remain Convener for the CPG. Annabelle Ewing agreed to stand as Vice Convener alongside Siobhan McMahon who had submitted apologies but agreed to nomination. This was supported unanimously by the members at the meeting.

- Michael McMahon , Convener
- Siobhan McMahon & Annabelle Ewing, Vice Conveners
- Kate Sanford , Secretary & Treasurer

Michael McMahon expressed his thanks on behalf of the CPG members to Kate Sanford and her colleagues at Quarriers for their continuing support of the group.

### c) Annual Subscription

Kate Sanford suggested that the Annual Subscription remains at £20 for the coming year to cover the costs of the CPG catering etc. The members agreed unanimously.

## 4. Responsible Parking Bill – Keith Irving, Living Streets Scotland, and Joe Fitzpatrick MSP

Joe Fitzpatrick gave a summary of the background and context for the Responsible Parking Bill. This Member's Bill is a continuation of Ross Finnie's *Regulation of Dropped Kerbs and Pavement Parking* Member's Bill from the last Parliamentary session. It aims to make pavements accessible for all pedestrians by prohibiting parking on the pavement and at dropped kerbs, and double parking. This should also reduce the cost of repairing pavements which can be considerable - £40m per annum in Edinburgh alone. The Bill is currently receiving cross-party support and the consultation ends on 30 June 2012.

Keith Irving advised that a similar provision has already been implemented in London and it works well. Living Streets have been campaigning for many years to improve accessibility for pedestrians, and Living Streets Scotland is leading a coalition of 18 members of the Responsible Parking Alliance, which includes Quarriers and SATA. Nearly 10% of all traffic fatalities occur when vehicles are on the pavement. This Bill will reverse the assumption that it is acceptable to park on the pavement, and will raise awareness of the difficulties caused by inconsiderate parking. Exemptions will be permitted in limited circumstances, which local authorities will have the power to determine. Lorries currently do have the right

to park on the pavement whilst unloading but this should only be if no other options are available.

Further information, including a standard response form, is available at [www.joefitzpatrick.net](http://www.joefitzpatrick.net) or [www.livingstreets.org.uk/scotland](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/scotland)

The main points of the discussion included:

- Need to balance the needs of pedestrians with those of car owners in communities.
- Need for culture and attitudinal change, including that of employers who put extreme time pressures on delivery drivers.
- There may be political opposition and case studies will be required to show the impact of inconsiderate parking.
- Need for robust enforcement – this is what makes it work in London.
- There are no statistics on injuries caused to pedestrians forced on to the road.
- This legislation will clarify the legal position, and will be enforced by police where parking is still a criminal offence and by local authorities where it is decriminalised. It will still be a criminal offence to drive on the pavement.
- Traditional council and housing association houses may not have parking areas, and a lot of poorer people live in these communities. Careful management will be needed to ensure people can still go about their business in their community.
- Guidance will be developed to clarify details of local authority discretionary power.
- The current situation where police can only act if there is a recognised obstruction will be improved. No one will have to identify themselves to report illegal parking but, as currently, this may limit the action that police can take. Illegally parked vehicles will be ticketed, so there will be no requirement for the complainant to be identified.
- An ageing population may mean more people with mobility impairments, requiring more dropped kerbs.
- Need for a comprehensive publicity campaign to change attitudes.

This CPG will follow the progress of the Bill with interest.

## **5. Subject for next meeting**

Suggestions for topics for the coming session were:

- Integration of social work and health
- Remploy
- Accessibility of buildings for wheelchair users – the standardisation of sizes

Members of the CPG are asked to send further suggestions to [kate.sanford@quarriers.org.uk](mailto:kate.sanford@quarriers.org.uk)

**6. Any other business**

No other business was raised.

**7. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 September 2012 at 6pm.