



Holy Ghost Parish Particular Needs Group.

Minutes of the meeting held at St. Bede's Church on 20 January 2009

Present: Jacky Tustain (JT), Dinah Kennedy (DK - chair), Geoffrey Fowler (GF), Brian Morris (BM), Fr Showri (FS), Bob Carr (BC – minutes)

1. **Apologies:** Sue McKenna (SM), Rev Monsignor Vincent Harvey (VH),
2. **Minutes** of 21 October were agreed. Action: SM > website
3. **Matters arising**
 - a. Item a (ii) the baby changing facility has now been installed in the disabled toilet plus a sign on the door. A note will be in the newsletter this weekend
 - b. Item a(iii) information about the availability of the tripod will be in the newsletter this week
 - c. The kerb marking (item d) has not yet been done, but the contract has been awarded and the contractors are only waiting for a spell of dry, frost-free weather.
 - d. The request for a diocesan Disability Adviser (item e) has been turned down. Instead the diocese is proposing a disability representative for each pastoral area council. **Action:VH** for PPC discussion
 - e. The signed service for the deaf (item 4) was appreciated and the signers were keen to do it again. It seems possible to do this once a month on the 4th Sunday 11am Mass starting on Sunday 25 January. This was agreed with **Action: GF** to coordinate and promote this. It was suggested that this could also be included in the NW Pastoral Area Catholic Directory leaflet **Action: FS** who will be attending a review meeting for this document soon.
 - f. DK and BC attended the Disability Forum meeting (item 5a). It was well attended though the venue was rather noisy so discussion in groups was difficult. Aims of the group were discussed and these saw the forum as providing a **voice** for disabled people, enabling **joint action**, providing a place to air **concerns**, providing opportunities to **evaluate service** and **joint planning**. The suggestion was that the Forum should be run by a strategic planning group, so discussion focussed on who might be on such a

group, what skills and support would they need and how could they represent the broad range of interests that make up the forum.

- g. DK has contacted Jane Halls (item 5b)
- h. JT has discussed chairs in the cloister with VH (item 7a). A couple of chairs under the table by the reception window or an old pew were suggested. **Action: FS** discuss possibilities with VH
- i. No further information available on “parking warning signs” (item 7c) **Action: SM**
- j. Additional item – poster and disability leaflet not on display board? **Action: DK** speak to Liz Murphy

4. Correspondence

- a. DK updated meeting on the CFH, now known as the CDF (Catholic Disability Fellowship). One idea coming from this event was “Welcome Bags” for children, which could be colourful with religious motifs and containing 4-5 items for the 2 – 6 year age range. Some bags could be themed to match particular times of the churches year and laminated pages showing various stages of the mass could be provided for children to follow. The committee found some of these ideas interesting. **Action: JT** to consider practicalities.

5. Health and Safety report

- a. BM is planning an audit in March
- b. The problem of car parking was reviewed, both the insufficiency of parking space generally and disabled car parking space at busy times.
 - i. GF recalled that the church building group had proposed that the grass area between Popley Way and the cloister could be strengthened with wire and used as overflow parking at busy times. Some access issues were noted in this respect, but it was suggested that this could be revisited. **Action: FS** discuss with VH
 - ii. It was also suggested that we could ask parishioners too consider car sharing. **JT** agreed to do some research on the internet to see how other churches may have organised this
 - iii. BM suggested that the number of disabled parking spaces was inadequate at events when many people were expected. Broadly these would be events like the confirmation with the cardinal where the Knights of St Columba supervised the parking. It was suggested that at such times 4 extra disabled parking spaces should be reserved, marked by a notice (**Action; BM**) and managed by KSC

6. Article for the Dove

- a. Draft article from DK discussed and amendments suggested.
Action: DK submit to editor.
- b. Discussion focussed onto the issue of children in the mass. FS proposed the possibility of a children's mass taking place at the same time as the main mass. **Action: JT** discuss this with VH/FS
- c. The difficulty of accessing people who can't come to mass (perhaps because of a disability or caring role for someone with a disability) was raised. The possibility of using SVP, who are visiting such people in their homes, was considered. An informal link between our two groups could enable us to be informed if there are particular needs that these people have that could be mediated to allow them to attend mass. **Action: BC** ask for this issue to be raised in SVP meeting.

7. Signing at Midnight Mass (See item 3(e) above)

8. Open Meeting

- a. Proposal is that we provide a display board showing what the group does to be available for 10 minutes at the end of each mass for 4 weeks in June. One or more of the group will be available to answer questions and receive any comments and issues from the congregation as they leave. **Action: DK** draft outline plan for discussion next meeting

9. AOB

- a. Lifts to mass note has been regularly put into the newsletter.
Action: GF check to see if there has been any response to this
- b. FS raised the issue of "family cards" providing a database of information on families in the parish that could be used in a variety of ways to boost the sense of belonging to the parish. There was support for the general principle and awareness that there was a huge amount of data present in the parish in all sorts of places. It was also noted that this was a huge task and raised issues of data protection. There was interest from the group, a good idea and worth exploring, but it was noted that this was beyond the remit of the PN group and should be discussed at PPC.

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday 7 May at 7.30pm

DK to book the room

