



Your voice Your connections Your Network

INFORMATION NOTE February 2010

This Information Note has details of the following items:-

- 1) Cycle Shrewsbury – relevance to people with disabilities, and latest projects
- 2) Disability Life – a new supplement being launched by the Shropshire Star

Please contact the information supplier if you need further clarification about any of the items.

1) Cycle Shrewsbury

Cycle Shrewsbury has relevance for people with disabilities in several ways.

Infrastructure - although the focus is cycling, lots of the new facilities also benefit other non-motorised users such as new and improved crossings, traffic free paths (Greenfields Recreation Ground has opened up new opportunities for a local woman on her mobility scooter) and other new facilities (e.g. Telford Way footways/ cycle tracks)

Events - the annual Shrewsbury BikeFest and October's 'freewheel' event at Shrewsbury Town Football Club included try out sessions of bikes for all (by Quest88 who have a range of bikes for people with disabilities)

Cycle training - we can fund additional cycle training for children or adults. The Shropshire Council cycle training team have already undertaken sessions with pupils at Severndale School in Shrewsbury

We would also be keen to promote other local opportunities for cyclists with disabilities such as use of the cycle track at Shrewsbury sports villages and future opportunities to try tandems, tricycles and adapted bikes

The main projects that are being implemented in the next few months are new signalised crossings for pedestrians and cyclists at Welsh Bridge and Old Potts Way (Asda), and improvements to the crossing facilities at Roman Road/ Longden Road island.

Details of these are shown on the following Website pages (Please get in touch if you have any comments):

Welsh Bridge

<http://www.cycleshrewsbury.co.uk/about/network/schemes/welsh-bridge>

Old Potts Way

<http://www.cycleshrewsbury.co.uk/about/have-your-say/crossing-improvements>

Roman Road

<http://www.cycleshrewsbury.co.uk/about/have-your-say/crossing-improvements>

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2) Disability Life – a new publication

The Shropshire Star newspaper are producing a supplement entitled **Disability Life** which will include the latest news and product information, Accessibility, Hotel & Holiday features, Sports news from our Paralympians, Shopping for the Disabled and up to date motoring news & reviews.

The publication is due to be launched with an 8-page supplement on Tuesday 23rd February 2010.

It will reflect and promote the following perspective:-

People with disabilities are entitled to equal rights. In their daily lives, they continuously battle exclusion and restriction to their full participation in society, facing discrimination, abuse, and poverty.

There are many types of disabilities and many degrees; visible or hidden; temporary, permanent or unpredictable; cognitive, developmental and many others.

People with disabilities are entitled to equal access to education and employment.

There are big challenges for the future, and ones that are being addressed by various organisations.

As full citizens, people with disabilities are entitled to equal rights. In their daily lives, they continuously battle exclusion and restriction to their full participation

in society, facing discrimination, abuse, and poverty.

There are many types of disabilities and many degrees; visible or hidden; temporary, permanent or unpredictable; cognitive, developmental and many others. Some groups find the following definition helpful. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), defines disability as the outcome of the interaction between a person with an impairment and the environmental and attitudinal barriers one may face.

People with disabilities are entitled to equal access to education and employment, equal rights to parenthood, property ownership, political rights, and legal representation.

Presently, there is no internationally binding convention specifically devoted to the rights of people with disabilities. However, in December 2001, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/168, establishing a committee to consider proposals for an international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of people with disabilities. A treaty on the rights and dignity of people with disabilities would create legally binding human rights obligations specific to the needs and situation of people with disabilities.

A human rights perspective to disability requires society, and especially governments, to actively promote the conditions for all individuals to fully realize their rights. "Reasonable accommodation" (the necessary modifications without a disproportionate burden) must be made to ensure persons with disabilities the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Accessibility is a major issue for people with mobility impairments, but the concept of universal design can create more opportunities for participation in society. Universal design is inclusive; it sees people with disabilities, older people and children, as part of - not distinct from – society.

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