

PRESENTATION OUT AND ABOUT SCOOTER SCHEME

Lori Bedborough and Joanna Hughes made a presentation on the “Out and About Scooter Scheme”, a loan scheme which has been introduced in RB Kensington & Chelsea and now extended to the City of Westminster. A DVD was shown explaining how the scheme works and how it improves the lives of those with a disability. At present the scheme operates 5 days a week and those who register can book to pick up a motorised scooter. Before use they are required to undergo training. It is explained that they are only insured for use on the pavement and there is a restricted speed of 6 mph. Membership of the scheme is £12 per year and donations are encouraged. Lori said that the scheme has been running for 18 months and membership is now at 200. They would like to encourage younger disabled people to join the scheme. The scheme has a positive effect on self worth and reduces pressure on home help services. Some of the scooters are small enough to drive into taxis.

Brian Marsh spoke about the visually impaired and that tactiles are very useful on pelican crossings. Lori said that mobility scooter users are given training in how to cross the road safely using light controlled and pelican crossings. Cllr Groves said that roads should be more accessible and shelves in shops should be lowered. Lori said that this is a trading standards issue.

Ron Brown asked about access for mobility scooters on buses. Lori agreed that they have been in discussion groups with TfL who are very supportive. Generally there is a problem on bus use. TfL have promised written guidelines on scooter dimensions required for bus use.

Barbara Cronin asked about forward plans. Lori said that membership is increasing and they are looking for more key places for pick up. Their aim is to develop the scheme further. They are funded by RB Kensington & Chelsea and they are trying to get funding from companies. Donations have been made by Waitrose.

Ron Brown asked if it is only residents of RBKC who are eligible. Lori said that they do offer membership outside the Borough at a cost of £25 per year. Tourist with a disability can register for use and give a suggested donation.

Mrs Quemby asked about the training and is advice given on speed and stopping distance. Lori said that this is top of the training sheet and sometimes training can take 1 ½ hours.