

Minutes of Shopmobility Scheme

Minutes of meeting held on 8th December, 2009

Present:-	Mark Alflat	-	Director of Community Services, SDDC
	Councillor Joan Lane	-	Chair of Shopmobility
	Pat Turner	-	Secretary of Shopmobility
	Cllr. A. Hood	-	SDDC
	Cllr. J. Mead	-	SDDC

Shopmobility receive £9,500 per year funding from SDDC. Their opening hours are 10.00a.m. - 4.00p.m. Monday to Friday (closed Wednesdays). They are currently experimenting with opening between 10.00a.m. - 1.00p.m. Saturday mornings. This, however, involves extra costs with heating and lighting.

Effectively, Shopmobility have an unsecured revenue funding gap of between £3 - £5,000 per year. It was pointed out by Shopmobility that East Staffordshire Borough Council have taken over the full running of their Shopmobility scheme using Council staff.

The premises are run down which is reflected in the £3,000 per year rent. It is known that the owners of the Shopmobility premises wish to redevelop the row of shops at some stage in the future. The current lease expires in 2012 but there is a break clause for either party.

Various alternative venues have been looked at but, due to both the cost of retail rental and the logistical issue of storage, these have been difficult to find.

Shopmobility have 4 new electric scooters and 7 old ones which they are looking to sell on. They also make wheelchairs available of which they have 15, however these will shortly require replacing.

No charge is made for the use of the scooters or wheelchairs but donations are asked for. The scheme is publicised through Doctors surgeries but additional help with publicity is required. They do hold fundraising events which bring in moderate amounts. The current reserves they hold are £6,000.

In summary, the 3 issues which Shopmobility require help on are:-

1. Premises
2. Money
3. Publicity (including website development)