



Inform



# Scottish Disability Equality Forum

April 2016

## SDEF Voice 31

Dear Member

Welcome to the latest issue of SDEF Voice, Scottish Disability Equality Forum members e-newsletter.

In this month's SDEF Voice, we would like your views on the current Scottish Government consultation on Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

In this month's issue:

- [Transport Engagement Events](#)
- [Open Door Member Magazine Readers' Survey](#)
- [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)
- [Benefits](#)
- [The Clyde Valley Model Railway](#)
- [Improve access in your community](#)
- [Inclusive Communication Hub](#)
- [Benefits for SDEF Members](#)
- [Your Membership Matters](#)

Don't forget to share this newsletter with friends, family and colleagues. Best Wishes

SDEF Team!

Psssst! This newsletter is available in alternative formats from <http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/sdef-newsletter/sdef-voice>



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)



[Email Us](#)



[Linkedin](#)



**SDEF**  
Scottish Disability  
Equality Forum

T: 01259 272064 E: [info@sdef.org.uk](mailto:info@sdef.org.uk) W: [www.sdef.org.uk](http://www.sdef.org.uk)  
Office 1/7, The e-Centre, Cooperage Way, Alloa, FK10 3LF

## Transport Engagement Events

### Accessible Travel Plan

Transport Scotland are working with SDEF, disabled people, transport providers and other Disability Organisations to create a plan which seeks to tackle barriers to travel for disabled people in Scotland. These issues were themselves identified by disabled people and cover all aspects of transport from accessible taxis, trains and buses, access to information and signage, hate crime, customer services and training, to accessible toilets and non-emergency transport.

Key actions to begin the work of this plan have been identified and disabled people are now being asked to give their comments on these suggested actions, how workable they are, what could be improved and any other thoughts they may have.

### Survey

The following survey will ask a series of questions about the Vision, Outcomes and Actions of the Accessible Travel Plan.

Your comments are valued and will help to guide the direction of the work of the Plan.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BM2X3MF>

### Engagement Events

We are also holding Engagement Events across Scotland to seek views from disabled people on the way forward around these issues.

Refreshments and Lunch available.

To book your FREE place contact:

Email: [admin@sdef.org.uk](mailto:admin@sdef.org.uk)

Tel: 01259 272064

Book Online: <http://tinyurl.com/jadeo94>



## Dates and Venues

28 April 2016	Dalmuir Community Centre, Clydebank
11 May 2016	A K Bell Library, Perth
17 May 2016	Carrickvale Community Centre, Edinburgh
24 May 2016	N Anderson Drive Fire Station, Aberdeen
25 May 2016	The Corran Halls, Oban
31 May 2016	Merkinch Community Centre, Inverness
1 June 2016	Southfield Community Centre, Duns
7 June 2016	Broadford Hotel, Isle of Skye

Fife event to be confirmed and details will be available shortly.

## OPEN DOOR Member Magazine Readers' Survey

Last month we launched our Open Door reader's survey. Thank you to those members who have responded. So far we are hearing you enjoy our magazine.

We are keen to make Open Door magazine interesting, relevant and useful to all our readers and there is still time for you to tell us what you think.

The feedback we receive will help us to develop the content and design. We would really appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to fill in this survey.

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/L6LQ282>

Thank you for your time.

Note: All previous issues of Open Door magazine can be downloaded from our website <http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/sdef-newsletter/open-door>



## Consultation on Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Part 2

This consultation gives you the opportunity to share your views on both the proposed guidance and the draft locality planning regulation. Community planning is the means by which people and communities can be placed at the centre of public service delivery and policy making. It is a key driver for public service reform at local level. This guidance provides additional detail to enable those who wish to participate in community planning to be able to do so.

SDEF have created a briefing document with questions, along with an Easy Read version. You can download these from:

<http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/consultations/395-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015>

### Benefits

We have recently received enquiries from people who are concerned about the process application for Personal Independence Payments (PIP).

Disability Information Scotland has produced very helpful information guides on benefits. We have provided the links below:

- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) <http://www.disabilityscot.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/DLA-HK-16.pdf>
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) <http://www.disabilityscot.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/PIP-HK-16.pdf>
- Attendance Allowance <http://www.disabilityscot.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Attendance-Allowance-HK-16.pdf>
- Benefit appeals & reconsiderations <http://www.disabilityscot.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/appeals-and-mc-2016-HK.pdf>
- Employment & Support Allowance: Making a new claim <http://www.disabilityscot.org.uk/info-guides/esa-new-claims/>
- Employment & Support Allowance: What happens after you get a decision <http://www.disabilityscot.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/ESA-what-happens-after-HK-16.pdf>



Inform

## The Clyde Valley Model Railway

The Clyde Valley Model Railway is an ambitious and unique project to create the largest, permanent, G Scale model railway attraction in Scotland.

The aim is to make it fun for all ages but especially engaging and stimulating for those with a disability. The entire area is wheel chair friendly and we will actively promote community initiatives.

Located within Dobbies Sandyholm Garden Centre in the beautiful Clyde Valley in South Lanarkshire, with its lush green hills and the world famous River Clyde running through it, the sounds, sights and scents are designed to create an experience like no other.

With over 1,000 feet of track, numerous locomotives and rolling stock, (even Thomas the Tank Engine and friends), hundreds of miniature people, cars, trees, buildings, water features and thousands of scented plants, the sights, sounds and scents will be simply stunning.

Plans are already under way to incorporate even more track, plants and automation such as Fairgrounds, Motorways, and maybe even Lanark United beating Barcelona 6-0 at Moor Park ensuring that every visit will be a different one.

As a Community Interest Company, all profits go back into the project or distributed to other charitable organisations that promote similar mission standards.

If you would like to find out more please contact:

Ken Burnside, Project Director The Clyde Valley Model Railway

Tel: 01555 661968

Mob: 07584 688355

Email: [info@clydevalleymodelrailway.co.uk](mailto:info@clydevalleymodelrailway.co.uk)

[www.clydevalleymodelrailway.co.uk](http://www.clydevalleymodelrailway.co.uk)



Inform

Do  
you

want to  
**improve access in your community**  
**Volunteer with your local Access Panel today!**

Access Panels are groups of volunteers who work together to improve physical access and wider social inclusion in their local communities. Panels are made up of disabled people, those affected by disability as well as non disabled people. You can contribute to the great work already being done to make changes to how we all access buildings and services where you live.

To find out more you can search for your nearest Access Panel by going to the Access Panel Network Scotland website - <http://accesspanelnetwork.org.uk/directory-panels/> or contact Scottish Disability Equality Forum T: 01259 272064 or E: [info@sdef.org.uk](mailto:info@sdef.org.uk)

## **Inclusive Communication Hub - What do you think?**

The Scottish Accessible Information Forum (SAIF) and the Scottish Disability Equality Forum (SDEF) have formed a Steering Group to develop an Inclusive Communication Hub for Scotland.

The Inclusive Communication Hub will be the first of its' kind for Scotland. To find out more about the purpose of the Hub go to our Inclusive Communication Hub page <http://www.saifscotland.org.uk/inclusive-communication-hub/#sthash.SLdl3mED.8udPP5Jt.dpbs>

The Consortium has produced a survey to find out your views on the Hub. The survey is available here - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B9KRGN5>

Please take 15 minutes to answer our questions.

If you would like to find out more about the Inclusive Communication Hub, please contact Morven Brooks T: 01259 272064 E: [morven.brooks@sdef.org.uk](mailto:morven.brooks@sdef.org.uk)

## Benefits for SDEF Members

We are working hard to improve the membership you receive from SDEF. As a result we have secured benefits just for SDEF Members:

- 5% Discount on product sales from Albion Mobility [www.albionmobility.co.uk](http://www.albionmobility.co.uk)
- 10% Discount on printing from CGL Printers  
<http://www.cg-ltd.co.uk/>

As a member you also receive:

- Quarterly Magazine 'Open Door'
- Monthly e-bulletin 'SDEF Voice'
- Opportunity to have your voice heard with policy consultations
- Invitation to member events

## Your Membership Matters

Below is a reminder of what we offer our members.

Please contact us if you would like to find out more.

## Support and Signposting

We answer many member enquiries and signpost them to the appropriate organisation, individual or information source.

## Networking Opportunities

We make introductions to key decision makers and contacts and make sure members have frequent opportunities to meet and network with relevant audiences. We help members make the right connections.



Inform

Your

## **views, experiences and expertise**

All our policy is formulated directly from our member's views, experiences and expertise. We believe that our members are the experts.

We respond to all relevant Scottish Government, parliamentary, think tank and other consultations.

We regularly ask our members for their views on many diverse policy issues – which then directly feeds in to our policy work and government consultation responses.

## **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM is an opportunity for members to participate in the governance and representation of SDEF. Members will be offered the opportunity to attend members meetings, and where eligible, vote in elections and to stand as candidates themselves. Support will be offered to members to enable them to fulfill their democratic responsibilities.

Currently only Full and Associate members have voting rights.

An AGM will cover:

- A report to members on the activities of SDEF over the past year
- Provide an opportunity to discuss issues arising from the report
- Endorsement of the annual report and accounts
- Reporting to members the results of the election of the board
- The appointment of the auditors for the following year
- Approval of the previous year's minutes of the AGM
- Suggested areas of SDEF work from members

We also use the AGM as an opportunity to inform members about the work that SDEF is doing from key staff members.





Inform

Information Leaflets

We provide information leaflets on the projects we are working on. You will receive a copy of our leaflets in your Members Welcome Pack. If you require any additional copies, please call the office to request this or alternatively they can be downloaded from our website. See <http://www.sdef.org.uk/index.php/sdef-resource-centre/information-leaflets>

 [Tweet](#)

 [Forward to Friend](#)

 [Share](#)

Copyright © 2015 Scottish Disability Equality Forum, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

1/7 The e-Centre, Cooperage Way, Alloa, FK0 3LP, Tel: 01259 272064, Email: [info@sdef.org.uk](mailto:info@sdef.org.uk) Website: [www.sdef.org.uk](http://www.sdef.org.uk)

[Subscribe](#) [Share](#) [Past Issues](#) [RSS](#) [Translate](#)

T: 01259 272064 E: [info@sdef.org.uk](mailto:info@sdef.org.uk) W: [www.sdef.org.uk](http://www.sdef.org.uk)  
Office 1/7, The e-Centre, Cooperage Way, Alloa, FK10 3LF

