

## Notes from the GDA members meeting – Sept 2018

Members and guests were asked to provide ideas and actions on a number of topics relating to The Accessible Town project, which aims to increase the Disability Confidence of businesses and encourage disabled islanders and carers to shop, eat out and take part in town events. These will all be considered and as many as possible included. [www.accessibletown.gg](http://www.accessibletown.gg)

### Ideas for increasing business participation to #MakeAChange

- Go out in a group and talk to businesses
- Give the businesses a list of criteria to qualify as disability friendly
- Focus on shops in the market, pilot the scheme
- Using GDA/Access for All members to spread the word
- Use Solemates as an example – video, Kim/shoes
- A personal approach
- Publicity
- Leaflets with few points of information
- Support available with a point of contact
- Good PR campaign – Chamber to add to adverts – Media campaign
- Social Clubs from businesses to come and help and have stalls e.g. raffle
- Publicise the #MakeAChange nominations and awards – PR incentive
- Hidden shopper to nominate for award
- Person/staff with purple lanyard to identify that they are disability aware
- Fluorescent lightening
- Get everyone to wear purple
- Get volunteers involved
- One person in each business as Key Worker for the project
- Best dressed window competition – great publicity for them and easy to do
- Make it personal so it's fired from within
- Get involved by donating raffle prizes
- Kite mark – start easy and add year on year

### Ideas to increase members participation in the Accessible Christmas Lights evening – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 5:30pm

- 4 W's - WHY social fun/easy WHAT meet friends, feel included, safe environment WHEN 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec and WHERE Inner market
- Vouchers
- Double divi (Co-op) on the evening
- Inform members and invites
- Transport – provide more and choices (accessible parking, buses, parking for mini buses)

- Father Christmas
- Toilet availability/portaloo - more disabled toilets – Library one very difficult to get into
- Access to shops i.e. steps and doorways to slim
- Better signage for lifts etc.
- Quiet / sensory area (library)
- Volunteers available on the night to answer any questions – to offer reassurance and assistance to GDA Members
- A few key fun activities on the night – don't overstretch but be effective and good
- Organise some "walk throughs" in town/specific shops before the 3<sup>rd</sup> to work out what's accessible and what's not. Might get different answers from a practical test than you do from thinking about it in advance
- Town church creche
- Members to be around so people with disabilities who are trying shopping alone have safety net
- Bank of volunteers to help to make sure all goes smoothly
- College of FE, Northern Trust
- Wheelchair accessible portaloo
- Get the shops in the area to open
- Do any of the hotel rooms in Moores have properly accessible toilets? Maybe they would donate one for the night and the additional space and privacy of the bedroom could make it a "changing place" of sorts with a volunteer to supervise it for the evening
- Personal invitations
- Advertising – great media opportunity
- Include the Town Church – will they do something?
- Get the buses on board – free buses on the night – late night bus?
- Competition / incentives
- Talk to us if you can't come and please let us know why
- Workshops to members
- Access inside – can't manoeuvre if too much in aisles, loose carpet or tiles, not anti-slip flooring, leaving door open when windy – get blown over
- Easy up seat
- Chairs inside & out
- Grand Raffle – with shops participating to donate prizes to boost funds for GDA

### Other points

- Getting into schools and teaching that people with disabilities are normal people
- Parking in disabled spaces stricter on giving parking tickets – prevents some people coming to town (upsetting)

- Hand sanitizers in shops, banks, restaurants, post office, cafés to prevent the spread of flu/colds and infection – a healthy island

Do you have any other ideas to support The Accessible Town project or the GDA funding?

Please email [members@gda.org.gg](mailto:members@gda.org.gg) or call Trudi 07781 163967

Shops to offer vouchers

Stalls i.e. Grow Ltd vegetables & flowers

Simple games e.g. Skittles

More accessible parking to be made available disabled only

Stop placing scaffolding on the pavements

Bag packing – helping to pack bought products

Find out more at [www.accessibletown.gg](http://www.accessibletown.gg)