

Start: 6.30 pm
End: 8:30 pm

**DISABLED PEOPLES DIVERSITY FORUM
19 MARCH 2009**

Present: Councillor Hird (Chair)
Councillors Chera, Turner and Webb

In Attendance:

Representing groups

Judi Bateman – Derbyshire Autism Services Group
Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group
Pat Fletcher – East Midlands Arthritis Self Help
Ian Gosling – Derby Deaf Forum
Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum
Roy Jones – CamTAD
George Sanders – CamTAD
Edith Storer – East Midlands Arthritis Self Help Group
Noel Walsh – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Janet Warner – Derby Shopmobility
P Godwin – Arriva Bus Driver
P Richards – Arriva
Roy Godfrey - Arriva

City Council Advisors

Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Manager
Christine Collingwood – Consultation Support Manager
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Leigh-Anne Francis – Housing Services Manager
Maggie Fennell – Housing Strategy Development Officer
Paul Cole – Tenant Participation Officer, Derby Homes Ltd
Judith Tee – Sign Language Interpreter
John Emery – Sign Language Interpreter

54/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Grimadell, Sarah Fletcher, Nancy Pountain, Margaret Reeve and Mick Watts.

55/08 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

Judi Bateman brought in Power Down Plugs for the Forum Members to take away with them. The Power Down Plugs will turn the power of to your appliances instead of leaving them on standby.

Pam Thompson requested that any Forum Members who wanted to attend the Personalisation Agenda Meeting on Monday 23 March 2009 should let her know so she could confirm numbers attending.

56/08 Notes from Previous Meeting

The Notes of the meeting held on 8 January 2009 were reviewed by the Forum and approved.

57/08 Updates on matters arising from the previous meeting

47/08 Welfare Rights

For information a spreadsheet showing the number of cases dealt with and the amount of benefits received.

49/08 Transports: Rickshaws and Tuk-Tuks

Pam Thompson confirmed the letters had been sent.

50/08 Deaf Forum

The Chair had sent a letter to Arriva Bus Company on behalf of the Forum inviting Mr Godfrey to attend the meeting. Mr Godfrey attended together with Paul Richards – Arriva Trainer and Phil Godwin – Arriva Bus Driver, they listened to the groups concerns about bus drivers awareness of issues affecting disabled people and suggested ways in which the Drivers could be trained. They felt that the bus drivers should be more aware of people needs, such as allowing the person to be seated before they pulled off, looking at the person when speaking to them and letting the passenger know which stop they were at.

The Forum did compliment Arriva on the new buses and Mr Godfrey informed the Forum that the second wave of 5 new buses had arrived and would be rolled out and by June 2009 all Arriva Buses would be accessible to Wheelchair users.

The Forum decided to set up a sub-committee to discuss the issues and to work with Paul Richards to help resolve the problems. The Forum nominated Noel Walsh, Alison Hicking and George Sanders to meet Paul Richards.

Agreed:

- 1. To set up a Sub-Committee comprising Noel Walsh, Alison Hicking and George Sanders to advise Arriva on training.**

58/08 Work Programme 2008/09 and Question and Answer sheet

The Forum were advised that Issue 12 on the work programme for 'Deaf and Hearing impaired Programme' was to be removed until future meetings. It was agreed that the Self Assessment Scheme and the Accessible information was to be included in the agenda for the next meeting. Pam Thompson advised the Forum that if there was anything the members wanted to add to the Self Assessment to let her know. A Question and Answer sheet was attached to the agenda, Forum Members were asked to use this sheet to ask questions either about issues raised at the meeting or anything else they would like to raise. The Members were advised that if they wanted their response by the next meeting then the sheets need to be handed in on the Monday a week before the meeting.

Agreed:

- 1. To include the Self Assessment Scheme and Accessible information on the agenda for the next meeting.**
- 2. To use the Question and Answer sheet for any issues the Forum members might wish to raise.**

59/08 Deaf Forum

The Forum received an Oral update from Alison Hicking, She stated that Deaf Forum were still looking for money for Voluntary workers on a part time basis. Alison also informed the Forum of an issue that was raised when one member from the Deaf Forum wanted to have a place on a photography course at Quad. Quad stated that the member would need to provide their own interpreter to take part in the course as Quad was unable to pay the fees. Ann Webster informed the Forum that there were many issues with the Quad and that this was being dealt with, and they were going to be given training on how to deal with all the issues.

60/08 Disabled People's Housing Project

The Forum received a Short Video and Oral presentation on Lifetimes Homes from Leigh-Anne Francis Housing Development Manager and Maggie Fennell Housing Strategy Development Officer. Lifetimes Homes was an initiative from the Government which stated that by 2011 all public housing would be build to Lifetimes Homes standards and by 2013 all new housing would be built to the standard as well. This would allow people to live in their home throughout their whole life as the Lifetime Home would adapt and change to the needs of the family. The Forum were also told of an on-going initiative of the Council, Derby Homes, Registered Social Landlords and some private Landlords who were compiling a register of all homes that had been adapted to suit people's needs from across the city so they could make sure that people were getting homes suited to their needs.

The Forum expressed interest in the Lifetimes Homes and raised issues such as the safety of the homes layout. An example was the height of plugs and switches being suitable for everyone, which could mean that they would be unsafe for children. The Forum also thought it would be a good idea if in the planning progress the developers could get different organisations involved, one Forum member stated that there was a purpose built block of flats to teach very severely disabled young people how to live and cope on their own and it was suggested that Derby Homes visit to get ideas on how homes should be.

The Forum also made a point about Wheelie Bins not being suitable for some disabled people. Leigh-Anne Francis made it clear that there were options already in place to deal with various issues and members should contact the council to arrange, for example refuse collectors to collect bins from people's gardens if they could not move them themselves.

Agreed:

- 1. To note the presentation.**

61/08 Customer Services Improvement Programme

This item was withdrawn.

62/08 Deaf and Hearing impaired people: The way forward

The Forum agreed that inaccessibility of the council house didn't currently need to be investigated as there were plans for a new council building/refurbished building. The Forum decided that they needed to look at inaccessibility of the Big Screen and would like Louise Angell – Derby Screen Manager, to attend the next meeting so they could discuss with her the main problems people had.

Councillor Troup requested the Forum to challenge the last statement made on the response from Louise Angell, about making a change with one group in mind impacted on the needs of other groups.

Agreed:

- 1. To invite Louise Angell to the Next meeting.**
- 2. To put forward problems members have with the inaccessibility of the Big Screen.**

63/08 DPDF – Project Group Minutes

These would be circulated.

64/08 Equality and Diversity Plan

The Forum was informed that Corporate Equality and Diversity Plan was being considered by the Personnel Committee on 1 April 2009. Ann Webster asked Forum members to let her know if there was anything they wanted changing. It was also pointed out that one of the points to be achieved was that the Quad building would be accessible to all members of the community.

Agreed:

- 1. To note the Corporate Equality and Diversity Plan.**
- 2. To let Ann Webster know if anything needed changing.**

65/08 Open Discussion

The Forum was informed that the International day of Disabled People Event would take place on Thursday 3 December 2009 and were asked to consider a venue and theme for the event.

Agreed:

- 1. The event would take place on Thursday 3 December 2009.**
- 2. Forum members to consider ideas for the next meeting.**

66/08 Date of next meeting

The Forum agreed that Janet Warner, Judi Bateman and Noel Walsh would attend the next pre-meeting, on 16 April 2009. The next Forum meeting would take place on 14 May 2009.

Minutes End.