

ITEM 5

Time Commenced: 18:35
Time Finished: 20:35

DISABLED PEOPLE'S DIVERSITY FORUM 9 SEPTEMBER 2010

Present:

Councillor Hird (in the Chair), Councillor Lowe

Representing Groups:

Andy Findlay	Muscular Dystrophy Campaign
Roy Jones	CamTAD
Nancy Pountain	Derby Access Group
Liz Freeman	Disability Direct
Richard Williams	D.A.B.
George Sanders	CamTAD
Noel Walsh	D.A.B.
Lynn Gilbey	Derby Homes TRAQ

Representing Derby City Council:

Pam Thompson	Consultation Support Officer
Ann Webster	Equality and Diversity Manager
Mick Watts	Access Officer
Christine Collingwood	Consultation Support Manager
Tara McKenna	Transportation Engineer
Catherine Martin	Transport Planning Project Officer

In attendance:

Stuart Orrell	Turning Point – Derby Learning Disabilities Forum
Roy Godfrey	Arriva Area Manager
Paul Richards	Arriva Training Manager

13/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker, Turner and Chera, Judi Bateman, Janet Warner, Alan McConville, Sarah Fletcher and Pat Fletcher.

14/10 Introductions

Members of the Forum were welcomed and introduced themselves.

15/10 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

16/10 Minutes of the previous meeting – 1 July 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2010 were agreed as a correct record, subject to:

Christine Collingwood being added to the attendance list.

17/10 Updates on Matters Arising from previous meeting

72/09 DPDF Involvement in development of the Bus Station

Mick Watts outlined the access audit of the bus station and associated problems that had arisen from this study. He reported that he was now working with the bus station management and the bus operators to make the necessary adjustments where reasonable and practical. He added that he was encouraged that bus travel is now generally more accessible than it had ever previously been.

The Forum noted that some bus station staff displayed a lack of awareness of disability issues and it was reported that Ann Webster and Mick Watts would be providing disability equality training shortly which should address this.

Representatives from Arriva Buses agreed that staff etiquette towards disabled people was an issue and stated that Arriva is committed to improving the education of its drivers as part of its training. It was explained that some of their older buses are not yet DDA compliant, having wheelchair spaces but not ramps, but that the company is working to ensure that all buses are DDA compliant by 2015, as required by the legislation. It was added that Arriva would treat any individual complaints seriously and that bus tickets should be kept as a record to allow Arriva investigate the complaint.

Matters Arising

Members of the Forum were informed that the Disabled People's Diversity Forum does not have a matters arising agenda item - however, provision is made for this under the Questions & Answer item, when Forum members have an update or wish to request an update or further information on specific items.

Members agreed that on this occasion it would be helpful to consider the minutes of the previous meeting in turn and receive any updates that could be provided.

20/09 Signage for Cyclists in pedestrianised area

Ann Webster reported that she had requested to view the posters advertising the campaign and was disappointed that there was no reference to disabled people; however she had been able to correct this.

71/09 Royal Hospital Access Issues

Mick Watts reported that he had sent a letter to the hospital as requested and a representative had attended the last Project Group meeting.

73/09 Review of Loop Systems

Roy Jones reported that there were still concerns about the sound enhancement systems at Derby Theatre and that he and Mick Watts would liaise on the best way to resolve this.

03/10 Equality and Human Rights Commission Consultation

It was reported that the Equality and Human Rights commission had visited Derby and two members of the Forum had attended the consultation.

06/10 Work Programme 2009/10

Ann Webster reported that she would bring a review of the work done on the Equality and Diversity Plan to a future meeting. It was added that the plan was produced following the Leadership manifesto commitment to 'offer support for disabled people across all council provisions and services along with working in partnership when forming policy'.

09/10 Premises in the City Centre and Cathedral Quarter access

It was reported that Mick Watts and Melanie Allen had placed an article in the newsletter produced by city centre management which is circulated to city centre businesses, reminding them of their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act. Concern was expressed about the apparent lack of progress in implementing reasonable adjustments across city centre businesses.

Agreed:

- 1. That the Chair would write an open letter to city centre businesses about the DDA and the requirement to implement reasonable adjustments.**

18/10 Work Programme 2010/11

It was reported that the 2010/2011 work programme was being formulated and Pam Thompson would circulate this to members of the Forum for comment and suggestions.

Agreed:

- 1 . Pam Thompson to circulate the 2010/11 work programme to members of the Forum.**

- 2. Forum members to send suggestions and comments on the work programme to Pam Thompson.**

19/10 Project Group Minutes

Mick Watts presented the minutes of the project group meeting from 9 September. Roy Jones requested further details on the project group.

Agreed:

- 1. Mick Watts to provide Roy Jones with details of the Project Group.**
- 2. The Forum noted the minutes from the project group.**

20/10 Question and Answer Session

A question on direct payments and personalisation was withdrawn. Pam Thompson suggested that the Director of Putting People First attend a future meeting to update the Forum on this subject.

Agreed:

To invite the Director of Putting People First to a future meeting to update the Forum on personalisation.

21/10 Local Transport Plan 3

Members received a presentation from Catherine Martin and Tara McKenna on the new Local Transport Plan consultation. It was reported that the plan would be broken down into 4 themes: Active Travel, Public Transport, Traffic Management and Asset Management. The forum was invited to submit feedback on the plan via a form at the back of the papers and a volunteer to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment on the plan was sought.

It was reported that officers were unsure about how much funding would be made available for the project since transport funding was being cut by national government. The forum expressed concern that the consultation document was not in an easily understandable format and was difficult to read. It was requested that a summary of the document be produced so that members of the Forum could provide feedback.

Agreed:

- 1. To request that a summary of the document be produced in an easy to understand format.**
- 2. Forum Members to submit any feedback on the Local Transport Plan to Catherine Martin and Tara McKenna.**

22/10 Role of the Champion

Andy Findlay updated the Forum on the role of the champion and how to make this role more accountable. It was noted that this would be considered as part of a wider review of the forums and champions.

23/10 Voluntary and Community Sector Reference Group for Grant

Members were briefed about the reference group and asked to consider whether they would be able to help with representatives from the other forums assess and comment on the grant review.

24/10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 18 November 2010 at 18.30.

It was agreed that Nance Pountain and Roy Jones would attend the next pre-meeting, at 2 – 3.30 pm on 21 October 2010.

NOTES END