

DPDF – Project Group Minutes

13 August 2007

Present

Janet Warner
Judi Bateman
Nancy Pountain
Angela Neal
Councillor Robin Turner
Andy Finley
Marion Edge
Pat Fletcher
Peter Maidens
Ann Webster – DCC
Mick Watts – DCC

Apologies

Jon & Mrs Eccarius
Christine Yates
Marta Hancock
Amanda Gibson

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

Matters arising

Mick confirmed that the A-board policy continued to be rolled out across the City Centre and have an impact on reducing the number of board's on-street. Ann commented that a large board was being placed in the Wardwick. Mick would ask highway colleagues to investigate.

It was confirmed that an Equality Impact Assessment was still to be done for the Alvaston District Centre upgrade proposals.

Janet commented that the public disabled people's toilets in the Westfield Centre do not have RADAR locks. Mick commented that Westfield did not support the installation of the locks. This issue would need to be taken up directly with the Centre management.

Accommodation strategy

Mick briefed members about the Council accommodation strategy particularly in relation to some very initial thoughts regarding the public areas of the Council House. Members commented that it was important that any programme of adjustments to the building delivered also improved accessibility for visitors / customers. Mick commented that this would be a key consideration in any building adjustments. Members felt if possible that all the public areas such as meeting rooms, Mayor's rooms and all reception areas should be at ground floor level. There was an appreciation however that moving the Council Chamber to the ground floor would be difficult. Improvements to the vertical circulation within the building was also considered key to a successful project. Further more detailed points were raised which Mick agreed to consider and take forward to the internal working group.

Shared Space

Mick raised the issue of the principle of shared space streets and the issues that arise from the proposed use for disabled people. Members expressed concerns about the idea of street without kerbs and how particularly visually impaired people would orientate themselves within the streetscene. Mick commented that usually there would be a small difference in level between the footway and the carriageway and a change of surface material and colour at this point. Members still had concerns about whether these shared space level and colour differences would be sufficient to delineate between footway and carriageway, and whether drivers would respect the space.

Members felt that if shared space was being considered for the first time in the City then to understand better the principle and make meaningful comment it would be helpful to visit an existing arrangement. Also, again if the concept was to be considered for use then a trial area with the proposed material and kerblines detail would be helpful, again to enable meaningful comments and feedback to be made. Mick agreed to report member's views to colleagues and Derby Cityscape.

Review of polling districts and places

Mick had circulated a report regarding consultation in relation to a review of polling districts and places. Mick commented that the

Council were seeking views on polling arrangements and locations. Members of the group clearly had skills and personal experience in the accessibility of polling places to disabled voters. The Council were looking at possible suggestions perhaps for new polling places, which could be considered and accessibility comments on existing places. A number of comments were made which Mick would forward to electoral services colleagues. Andy also commented that further more detailed information about the consultation was available on the Council's website.

East Street

Members expressed dissatisfaction and disappointment with the East street carriageway material, which in the view of members was far too aggressive a surface making wheelchair ride quality poor and in some cases painful. Comment was made that the ride quality could only worsen further with wear and that the street had become a no go area for some older and disabled people. Mick commented that he would ensure the strong views of the group were reported to the project board.

Members asked about understanding better what happened to the comments that they made at Project Group and DPDF meetings. How were these comments fed into the Council decision making process? Mick said that he would invite the Council's Head of Communications and Consultation to the next meeting.

Any other business

Andy reported that he had concerns about some of the internal arrangements for disabled customers in the Derbyshire Building Society's new premises in East Street. He asked if this could be put on the agenda for the next group meeting.

Date, time and place of next meeting

8 October 2007, 2:00pm, Meeting Room 2, Council House