

Time commenced : 6.30 pm
Time finished : 8.30 pm

DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE 28 JULY 2005

Present: Councillor Turner (in the Chair)
Councillors Chera and Hird

Representing groups

Judi Bateman – DCIL
Howard Birchall – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group
Pat Fletcher - DCIL
Marta Hancock – Disability Direct
Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum
Nigel Johns – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Maurice Kilminster – Derby Osteoporosis Group
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
George Sanders – CAMTAD
Pat Taylor – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Rosemary Wheat – British Sign Language interpreter

City Council Advisors

Andrew Auld – Head of Communications and Consultation – Policy Directorate
Ray Brown – Senior Planning Officer – Development and Cultural Services
Mike Kaye – Assistant Director-Development – Development and Cultural Services
Rachel Levy – Constitutional Services Officer – Corporate Services
Dave Powner – Project Manager – Development and Cultural Services
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer – Policy Directorate
Sarah Turner – Constitutional Services Officer – Corporate Services
Mick Watts – Access Officer – Development and Cultural Services

In attendance:

Christian Murray-Leslie – Headway Derby City Council

01/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rawson, Troup and Webb, Edith Storer – EMASH, Amarjit Raju – Disability Direct and Ann Webster – Policy Directorate.

02/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100 (B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed that the following item be admitted as a late item, as it needed to be considered before the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

Appointment of a New Co-opted Member to the Disabled People's Advisory Committee – minute number 05/05 refers.

03/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/05 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2005 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the addition of Sara Fletcher – Derby Access group in the representing group attendance.

05/05 Appointment of a New Co-opted Member

resolved to:

- 1. Recommend Council to approve the co-option of Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group**
- 2. Recommend Council approve the list of co-options for the 2005/06 municipal year**

06/05 Equality Grants to Voluntary Groups 2004/05

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Policy detailing the grant payments to seven voluntary organisations and the current grants criteria.

Resolved to note the report.

07/05 Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The Committee considered an oral report from Ray Brown – Senior Planning Officer, on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. He advised the Committee that the plan was introduced as part of the Path Act 2000. The Act would consider how paths were used for leisure and recreational purposes but would not address issues of path maintenance. The plan was a joint scheme between the City and County Council.

Ray Brown explained that the plan had not yet been produced as it needed to go through the consultation period first. A Local Access Forum had been set up as a consultation group for both the City and County Councils, and was currently recruiting members. Ray Brown commented that currently the forum had no disabled members and he would encourage disabled people from the advisory to apply for membership.

Applications to be a member of the Local Access Forum needed to be received by the 8 August. The applications and any other information could be obtained from Mick Watts.

Resolved to note the report.

08/05 Derby Cityscape Master Plan

Mike Kaye presented a report to the Committee on the launch of the Masterplan by Derby Cityscape Limited. Council officers had had discussions with the URC and their consultants to insure that the Council's policies for planning, transport, culture and property were taken into account. The exercise integrated key proposals that Derby City Council had developed itself or in partnership with others.

Consultation on the Masterplan had taken place in February 2004, with meetings with the public and circulation of the proposals to the media. Detailed development arising from that exercise would need to be consulted on. Further public consultation would be required on the detail of the Masterplan.

Nancy Pountain stated that disabled people needed a central accessible meeting room that had adequate parking facilities and asked if this could be integrated into the plans. Mike Kaye responded that these issues had been looked into during the early stages, but he would ensure the issues raised by the Committee were forwarded to Cityscape. Mick Watts informed the Committee that a contribution had already been made toward the plan through the DPAC Project Group and that this would continue throughout the development.

Resolved to note the report.

09/05 Deaf Forum

Alison Hicking advised the Committee that after the success of the last Deaf Information day that was held in May, it was decided to hold the event every two years. Attendance was very good with over 300 people joining in the day of events.

It was noted that recently in the press an article had been published regarding the Council taking action to recognise comments that deaf people had made. This involved using a SMS messaging service to process comments. Alison Hicking asked that if anyone had any information regarding this, they could let her know.

10/05 Tactile Paving

Pat Taylor advised that at a previous meeting the Committee had recommended that national guidelines were followed regarding tactile paving within Connecting Derby and that unfortunately this had not happened. It was important that the tactile paving colour being used was right as it affected visually impaired people. It was noted that with the new buildings that had started to develop, support from the Committee was needed to ensure the right kind of tactile paving was used.

Dave Powner informed the Committee that English Heritage, which had contributed to the cost of Connecting Derby, preferred to have paving that did not stand out too much with the rest of the pavement. Dave Powner explained that it was important to remember that the paving was on trial throughout the city centre and there were currently five different types of paving. The review had not been conducted yet but any comments from the Committee would be taken to the Connecting Derby management board. It was noted that no complaints had been received yet regarding the paving.

Pat Taylor explained that visually impaired people had complained to Derbyshire Association for the Blind and that she would pass on the complaints to Dave Powner. Councillor Turner asked if it was possible to get a letter from English Heritage explaining how they would look at schemes and involve disabled people in the future. Dave Powner agreed to look into it and to take a report to the Connecting Derby Project Management Board reviewing the city centre tactile paving.

11/05 International Day of Disabled People

Pam Thompson explained that the International Day of Disabled People was approaching and asked the Committee for any ideas for a theme for the day. Also a project group for the event would need to be set up.

Mick Watts suggested a transport theme for the day. The Disabled Discrimination Act was extended the rights of disabled people to use public transport and a theme around transport would be helpful so that disabled people could work in partnership with transport providers on service accessibility issues. It was noted that any members that would like to be part of the project group were to contact Pam Thompson.

12/05 Derby Railway Station

Mick Watts informed the group that a meeting had taken place with the Managing Director of Network Rail and that he has expressed his support for improved station accessibility. A major programme of station improvements had been planned and the inclusion of lift access to the footbridge would be considered as part of the programme. Mick Watts explained that he had written to the Disability Rights Commission and he was told that the railway station involved a complex set of management arrangements which made securing reasonable adjustments difficult but they would look into it and gain legal advice. Mick Watts agreed to contact the commission now for an update. Any more information would be reported to the next meeting.

13/05 A – Boards

Mick Watts advised the Committee that a report regarding A-boards had been considered by Council Cabinet and it was resolved to seek further information about the control of A-Boards from other authorities, consult with traders and to take the findings and recommendation on Derby's approach back to Council Cabinet. Mick Watts explained that the research into other authorities and the consultation with traders was now complete.

Pat Taylor expressed concerns that people were still getting hurt because of the placement of A-boards on the pavement. As a result of this, an article had been written by Pat Taylor to be published in the Derby Association of the Blind bulletin expressing the legal support that could be provided in the case of an incident. It was noted that Pat Taylor would prefer to not publish the article but would need to if the desired zero tolerance outcome was not achieved. Mick Watts agreed to take the article to the meeting with Councillor Repton next week to gain the Council view on the issue. Councillor Turner agreed to write a letter to Councillor Repton to express the views of the Committee.

14/05 Minutes of the DPAC Project Group – 16 May 2005

Mick Watts raised an issue from the DPAC project group minutes regarding disabled people's parking in the city centre. It was noted that concerns had been raised by blue badge holders regarding the lack of enforcement of on-street disabled people's parking spaces. After investigating the matter, it was discovered that the Police felt they no longer had the resources to enforce the blue badge holder parking regulations. Mick Watts had written to the Police but had not received a response yet.

Resolved to note the Minutes

15/05 Work Programme

Pam asked that members discuss the work programme with their organisations and advise any items to be included on the work programme at the next meeting. It was suggested that future meetings focused on particular themes. If members had any ideas it was agreed to contact Pam Thompson or Ann Webster.

MINUTES END