

DPDF – Project Group Minutes 14 April 2008

Present

Marian Edge
Terry Quinn
Councillor Turner
Councillor Chera
Shelley Parker – Louder Than Words Campaign
Ian Morgan – Trent Barton
Marta Hancock
Roy Holmes
Janet Warner
Judi Bateman
Nancy Pountain
Ann Webster – DCC
Mick Watts – DCC

Apologies

Tim Proctor
Peter Maidens
Christine Yates
Pat Fletcher
Andy Finley
Angela Neill

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

Matters arising

Mick updated members on the Alvaston District Centre work. Nancy commented that the work to date was excellent, but asked if yellow bands were to be added to the bollards as discussed at the EIA meeting. Mick would find out.

Mick commented that he had still not had the opportunity to consider and investigate the taxi access issue at the Spot raised by Marta some meetings ago. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Ann and Mick stated that they had both attended one meeting relating to the “Transforming Streets and Squares” initiative lead

by Derby Cityscape. At both meetings Mick and Ann had articulated important principles and commitments given to disabled people by the Council about future public realm initiatives. They would both monitor the progress of these discussions and keep group members briefed.

Bus use and disabled people

Mick welcomed Ian Morgan, Commercial Director, Trent Barton to the meeting. It was suggested by Mick that the two issues that needed to be considered were the bus wheelchair space size and orientation and the management of the space.

Ian started by confirming that all the buses used on local services in the City complied with the DDA Vehicle Accessibility Regulations. Indeed some members had taken up an invitation by Trent Barton to try one of the buses out, and the feedback from this trial had been generally positive. Some disability etiquette and guidelines had been distributed at the trial meeting to Marta and Mick agreed to circulate these to all group members.

Members did however raise concerns about the wheelchair space and grab rail orientation on the new vehicles purchased by Arriva and recently launched in Derby Market Place. Members raised concerns as to whether the wheelchair space complied with the accessibility regulations. It was agreed that Mick would contact Arriva with the objective of facilitating a meeting and vehicle inspection.

Ian explained issues in relation to the management by the bus driver of the wheelchair space. One occasions when a wheelchair user wanted to get on the bus and the space was occupied by a buggy / shopping trolley etc. the driver would request that the items be removed from the space, and in the vast majority of cases this was sufficient to vacate the space. If this request was however ignored the driver was in a very difficult position and unfortunately it may be the case that the wheelchair user could not travel on the bus. Ian agreed that this was not a particularly satisfactory situation for the disabled passenger but the driver had little option. The good news was however that such incidents were very infrequent.

Shelley confirmed that she and Ian would have discussions outside of the meeting about deaf people's issues and bus use and the 'Louder Than Words Campaign'.

Blue Badge holder parking – Green Lane

Members considered a proposal to amend the Traffic Regulation Order in Green Lane. The proposal was to remove the current double yellow line provision and replace it with Pay & Display parking except for the bottom of Green Lane which would be designated for Blue Badge holder parking. Mick confirmed that badge holders were exempt without time limit from Pay & Display charges. Group members raised no objection to the proposal.

RADAR keys

Mick raised the issue of perhaps charging for the issuing of RADAR keys. Currently, disabled people living in Derby are issued one key free of charge; outside the City the purchase price of the key is levied. There was no pressure this financial year to implement charging but Mick was seeking member's views on the possibility of charging in the future.

Generally, members felt that whilst non-disabled people had free access to public toilet provision so should disabled people and no charge should be made for a key.

Shared space – Guardian article

Mick had circulated an article from the Guardian newspaper about how in the journalists view shared space streets cut accidents and reduce traffic. Members strongly disagreed with the article. It was felt that shared space creates safety concerns for disabled people, particularly visually impaired people. Nancy referred to the recent research commissioned by Guide Dogs about delineators to demarcate pedestrian paths in a shared space environment. The research concluded that only two of the delineators tested, the central delineator and a slope profile warranted further investigation. Mick commented that he had raised his and member's reservations with colleagues and Derby Cityscape about the principle of shared space. It offered particular challenges to urban designers in delivering safe pedestrian environments for disabled people. Mick agreed to keep the group briefed on developments.

Any other business

None

Date, time and place of next meeting

9 June 2008, Meeting Room 2, Council House