

DPDF – Project Group Minutes 8 October 2007

Present

Janet Warner
Judi Bateman
Nancy Pountain
Councillor Robin Turner
Councillor Prem Chera
Marion Edge
Pat Fletcher
Peter Mount – QUAD
Mikk Campbell – DCC
Mandy Small – DCC
Ann Webster – DCC
Mick Watts – DCC
Andrew Auld - DCC

Apologies

Amanda Gibson
Andy Finley
Christine Yates
Peter Maidens

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

Matters arising

Mick confirmed that the Equality Impact Assessment for the Alvaston District Centre upgrade work would take place at Alvaston library on 12 November, Nancy and Judi had agreed to attend.

Mick confirmed that as part of the accommodation strategy upgraded lift provision within the Council House would be a key objective. Lift provision in the Council House is an agenda item for the next DPDF meeting and Mick would update Forum members at the meeting on the accommodation strategy and improved lift provision.

Group members commented that they had read an article in the media that suggested that the Castleward project lead by Derby Cityscape would be using cobbles as one of the project materials. Mick confirmed that this wasn't the case. A review of the approved public realm palette of materials was being considered in light of experience gained on the East Street project.

It was confirmed that work had now been completed on East Street and that the strong views expressed by Group members were being considered following the completion. Lessons would be learnt which would hopefully benefit future public realm projects.

Quad update

Peter updated members on the latest in relation to the Quad project. Members expressed their continuing support for Quad and the excellent levels of accessibility that should be delivered following the extensive consultation the Quad project team had had with disabled people. Peter confirmed that the centre should open summer 2008. Prior to the opening Peter agreed to try and arrange a site meeting, subject of course to H&S issues.

Members expressed an interest in perhaps holding the 2008 International Day of Disabled People event at Quad. Peter gave members a contact to discuss this further.

Parking enforcement

Mikk and Mandy outlined to members the current position in relation to parking enforcement. It was explained that the Council was taking a more pro-active stance to the enforcement of the Blue Badge regulations. A considerable number of fines had been issued to people abusing the BB parking regulations. Members expressed their support for the difficult job that Parking Attendants have in enforcing the regulations. Mandy explained that measures were being considered in relation to issuing advisory notices to BB holders whose vehicles are causing an obstruction to other road users. Members asked if this could be extended to people parked over dropped kerbs. This would be considered.

Members also asked if a more rigorous approach could be taken to the visual inspection of BB's. Mikk and Amanda agreed to consider the implications of such an approach.

Mick outlined some amendments to the BB regulations, which take effect from 15 October 2007. The changes are:

- Extend eligibility to children under the age of two
- Extend the eligibility criterion for people with severe disabilities in both arms
- Allow for badges to be issued for a period of less than three years
- Change the design of the badge
- Modernise the regulations

Members were generally supportive of the changes to the BB scheme detailed above.

Consultation and involvement issues

Following a query at a previous meeting Andrew explained to members what happened to and suggestions / recommendations they made at group meetings. It was generally accepted that Mick and / or Ann would take forward any matters raised by group members. If the issue needed to be passed to another officer again Ann / Mick would organise. Councillor Chera as Chair of DPDF and the Council's, Disabled People's Champion could also if required take issues to his political colleagues and relevant Cabinet member if necessary. Important project group issues could also be referred to the main Forum for further discussion and consideration.

Public realm update

Mick informed members that an internal meeting had been held to consider any lessons learned from the East Street public realm project. The meeting had identified and recorded the concerns raised by disabled people about material selection and footway gradients amongst other things. The concerns identified in the report minutes would be considered by the Council's, Public Realm Project Board. Mick agreed to keep members briefed on the outcome of the boards deliberations.

Accessible bus use

Janet had raised a number of issues in relation to accessible bus use and disabled people. The concern centred on the use of the buses designated wheelchair space by non-disabled people. It was agreed to extend an invitation to Trent Barton to attend the groups next meeting.

Any other business

None

Date, time and place of next meeting

10 December 2007, 2:00pm, Meeting Room 2, Council House