

# **DPAC – Project Group**

## **Meeting held on 15 May 2006**

### **Present**

Judi Bateman  
Cordell Jackson  
Christine Yates  
Peter Maidens  
Marta Hancock  
Nancy Pountain  
Councillor Robin Turner  
Ann Webster – DCC  
Mick Watts – DCC  
Stephen Gaskin – DCC  
Ian Butler – DCC

### **Apologies**

Trevor Ford  
Marian Edge

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed

### **Matters arising**

Mick commented that he was not aware if the proposed changes to a number of bus stands had taken place. He will report back at the next meeting.

The Mickleover library design comments would where possible and reasonable be incorporated in the project build.

Ann commented that she would contact a representative of the Central Derby Primary Care Trust to discuss certain accessibility issues in relation to the design of the new resource centre in Coleman Street. Judi and Nancy would forward to Ann details of their design concerns.

It was agreed that a representative of Derby Cityscape should be invited to attend a future meeting. Mick to arrange.

Ann reported that she still had concerns about the condition of the footway in the Morledge. Mick would arrange for a highway inspector to contact Ann and visit site.

### **Cycling issues**

Mick welcomed Stephen and Ian from the transportation section. Ian confirmed that following representations from Derby Cycling Group and approval by Cabinet in Feb/March 2004 the traffic order in the Derby Promenade (St. Peter's Street/Cornmarket/Irongate) was to be amended.

The amendment would be for an 18month trial period and allow cycling in the Promenade before 10:00am and after 5:00pm. Members voiced strong objections and concerns about the amended order, which had been agreed despite concerns they had raised about the safety of disabled pedestrians. Peter felt strongly that his safety and that of other disabled people, particularly visually impaired people was being put at risk by the amended order. He felt that the Promenade would now be a no go area for many visually impaired people. Members supported this view, and felt that the Police would not have the time or resources to enforce the new order, which could lead to an increase in unlawful cycling activity outside of the trial order times.

Ian commented that the order was likely to come into force towards the end of the year. He wanted to encourage disabled people to report any accidents/incidents/near misses etc. so that they could be recorded and considered when deciding whether the order was to be confirmed. Mick asked members to channel any comments/observations through him.

The issue of the accessibility of the national cycling network in the city was discussed. To minimise the unauthorised use of the routes particularly by people riding motorcycles barriers had been incorporated in the route design. These barriers were restricting the accessibility of the routes to wheelchair and powered scooter users, and indeed were not effective in restricting unauthorised use. Sustrans the national cycling organisation recommend that barriers should not installed, something supported by group members. It was agreed that Mick would facilitate and internal working group meeting to consider what action was to be taken about the existing barriers, and that no new barriers would be

installed until the existing situation had been resolved. Mick would keep members informed.

### **QUAD access update**

Mick had circulated the notes of a meeting he had attended with a representative of Q Arts and the project architects. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and agree some of the details in relation to disabled people's use of the building. Mick commented that many of the points raised by group members at previous Quad meetings had been incorporated in the design. Mick was confident that the building would be an exemplar of accessibility. Construction work was due to commence around October with completion towards the end of 2008.

### **Lift determination**

Mick had previously circulated a copy of a determination letter received from the ODPM. The determination related to whether a lifting device should be installed in a new two storey building in Derby. Mick and his Building Consultancy colleagues considered that reasonable provision could only be delivered with a lift, the applicant had disagreed stating that in their view the installation of a lifting device was unreasonable. Both parties had agreed to seek a determination from the ODPM and abide by the decision. The ODPM had decided that the installation of a lifting platform was required to deliver compliance with the Building Regulations. It was hoped that the determination would have far reaching implications for the installation of lifts.

### **Night time bus access**

Ann reported that she had been contacted by a local bus company who were concerned about taxis parking and picking customers up in Victoria Street, which was preventing buses docking with the bus stands. Such a practice was making access onto buses difficult for older, and disabled people. Following consultation with colleagues it was apparent that this arrangement had been in place for some time with the objective of assisting customer's access taxis quickly in the late evening. It was agreed that Mick and Ann would discuss this with the Chair of taxi licensing when that portfolio had been allocated.

### **Building Regulations**

Mick informed members about an example of inconsistencies in the interpretation of Building Regulation guidance in relation to the

installation of a lifting device. Two premises have installed mezzanine floors over 300m. sq. One mezzanine using Derby Building Consultancy services will have a lifting device, the second mezzanine using an approved inspector will not. This situation has arisen because of different interpretations of Building Regulation guidance. Mick felt that the approved inspector had interpreted the guidance incorrectly but he could not require a lift to be installed. Mick's manager would write to the ODPM drawing their attention to the situation, but that was about all that he could do.

**Any other business**

None

**Date, time and place of next meeting**

Special meeting – 13 June 2006, Meeting Room 2, Council House

Scheduled meeting – 24 July 2006, Meeting Room 2, Council House