

Time commenced : 6.30 pm
Time finished : 8.45 pm

DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE 13 JANUARY 2005

Present: Councillor Webb (in the Chair)
Councillors Hird, Rehman, Troup and Turner

In attendance: Councillor E Berry

Representing groups

Pat Taylor – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Maurice Kilminster – Derby City Osteoporosis Group
Judy Bateman – DCIL
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
Siobhan Gilbertson – DCIL
Marta Hancock – Disability Direct
Martin Austin – Disability Direct

City Council Advisors

Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer, Policy Directorate
Sarah Turner – Constitutional Services Officer, Corporate Services
Mick Watts – Access Officer, Development and Cultural Services
Ann Webster – Equality Standard Project Manager, Policy Directorate
Michael Kay – Group Leader – Health and Safety, Corporate Services
Shahid Ashrif – Housing Equalities Advisor, Derby Homes
Alison Wynn – Performance and Research Manager, Derby Community Safety Partnership
Sue Glithero – Director of Policy
Carolyn Wright – Head of Accountancy, Finance

25/04 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chera, Amarjit Raju – Disability Direct, George Sanders – CAMTAD and Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum.

26/04 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair introduced the following late item as a matter of urgency, as the consultation process ended before the next meeting of the Committee:

Consultation on the Disability Discrimination Bill.

27/04 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Webb and Troup declared a personal interest in minute number 30/04 as they were Board Members of Derby Homes.

28/04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

29/04 Draft Revenue Budget 2005/06

The Committee received a presentation from Councillor Evonne Berry – Cabinet Member for Social Care and Youth, and Sue Glithero – Director of Policy, on the Council's Vision and Priorities and the Council's Budget Proposals for 2005/06. Members of the Committee were concerned over some of the results of the Simalto Residents Survey, carried out by the Council to estimate how satisfied people were likely to be with different levels of service and Council Tax. Councillor Berry stressed that these were not Council proposals but the opinions of the 300 members of the public who completed the survey.

Areas of the survey that members were most concerned with were:

- home care charges – abolishing the maximum weekly charge so that some people would pay more
- reducing home to school transport so that it was only provided to the school which was normal for the area.

Councillor Berry stated that she would take these concerns back to Council Cabinet to ensure that they were taken into consideration. She assured the Committee that she would not support the reduction in home to school transport if this applied to children with special needs.

Ann Webster asked if disabled people had been included as a category in the sample of people surveyed. Sue Glithero advised that she would look into this and advise Ann directly.

Mick Watts asked if there was any indication in the Capital Programme of how much money would be available for access improvements. Carolyn Wright advised that £100,000 had been included in the budget for work relating to DDA. Nancy Pountain expressed concern about the level of funding included in the budget for the next financial year, particularly when £300,000 had been approved in 2004/5.

Resolved to note the presentation.

30/04 Tenants Harassment Complaints Procedure

Shahid Ashrif – Housing Equalities Advisor, advised the Committee that the Council had a new harassment procedure which was generic and no longer just for racial harassment. The Council could no longer have a policy giving special treatment for

one type of harassment or another. So far, no cases have been brought forward for any other harassment other than racial. Statistical information could be provided on details collected on the forms which could be provided to the Committee at a later date.

Resolved to note the Tenants Harassment Complaints Procedure.

31/04 Community Safety Audit – Consultation

The Committee received a presentation from Alison Wynn – Performance and Research Manager, on the Community Safety Audit. She provided members with a copy of the executive summary and a feedback form for members to send in with their comments. Alison advised the Committee that she would be attending the Disabled People's Advisory Committee Project Group meeting on 25 January to consult members in more detail. Pat Taylor advised that she would include details of the consultation in the DAB newsletter that goes out to visually impaired people.

32/04 Minutes of the DPAC Project Group – 30 December 2004

Derby Station

Mick Watts advised the Committee that the new footbridge was now in place and Ann Webster circulated a letter to members from Midland Mainline, asking for personal feedback of travel experience with Midland Mainline within the last six months. Mick asked each group to feedback individually about the new bridge and the difficulties it caused.

Ann Webster had been to a recent event where the Minister for Disabled People was a guest speaker. Ann and the Mayor Councillor Ruth Skelton, had informed the Minister's personal assistant about the issues with Derby railway station and she advised them that the protocol for writing to a minister was to write to a local MP to ask them to refer the letter to the Minister for Disabled People.

Resolved to recommend Council Cabinet to authorise the Director of Development and Cultural Services to write to the local MP on the Committee's behalf advising of the Committee's concerns over Derby Station and ask that the MP forward the letter to the Minister for Disabled People.

International Day of Disabled People

Ann Webster had sent a thank you letter to Marks and Spencer's who made everyone extremely welcome and the event had been a great success.

Connecting Derby Update

Mick Watts advised that a follow up survey would be carried out on 14 March 2005.

Green Lane, Alvaston

Nancy advised members that this issue had been raised at the Area Panel meeting and an application was being submitted for funding for lighting and improvements to the footways on Green Lane.

Alvaston District Centre crossing

Mick Watts reported that the pedestrian crossing had had adjustments to it to ensure timing was correct. Nancy advised that further adjustments were still needed.

33/04 Results of the Draft Licensing Policy Consultation

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services detailing the Council's Licensing Policy and the results of the consultation which took place during October 2004. Michael Kay advised that comments forwarded by Ann Webster for inclusion in the policy had been omitted by mistake and he apologised to Ann and the Committee for the error. Mike advised that he would be meeting with Ann on 21 January and these comments would be discussed and where appropriate incorporated in the next policy review process.

The Committee were advised that licensing under the new regime would begin in February 2005.

Nancy Pountain advised that on 1 April, Marta Hancock would be visiting pubs and clubs in the city to challenge accessibility.

Resolved to note the draft Licensing Policy.

34/04 IHT (Institute of Highways and Transportation) Accessibility Awards 2005

Mick Watts advised the Committee that Andy Smart – Project Co-ordinator for Connecting Derby, had asked the Project Group to endorse a Council submission for an Accessibility Award. The Council's submission would be for the work to Albert Street and Victoria Street. At the meeting of the Project Group there were reservations from members regarding the style and types of street furniture selected for Victoria and Albert Street. The project group asked that the full Committee make the decision whether to support a submission.

Nancy Pountain commented that the bollards were not clearly marked, they were currently silver and blended in with the footway hard landscaping and there was not sufficient contrast on the bollards. Also, the street furniture was in the wrong place for disabled people to manoeuvre around. The main concern though was the colour of furniture. Pat Taylor stated that the bollards were in her view unacceptable, silver was a bad colour for visually impaired people to see and she could not endorse this submission.

Nancy Pountain commented that Pat Fletcher and herself advised the Council when they saw the plans for the street furniture that the positioning was wrong but nothing was done about it. Mick Watts advised that members would have the opportunity to make their views known during the survey that would take place on 14 March.

Resolved to not support the submission for an IHT Accessibility Award owing to the location and design of the street furniture.

35/04 A-Boards

Mick Watts advised the Committee that, at the Council Cabinet meeting on 21 December 2004, they asked that the Director of Development and Cultural Services investigate how other authorities tackled the situation regarding A Boards.

Mick Watts had been in contact with a number of authorities regarding their approach to the control of A-Boards and goods displayed on the highway. It was clear from these initial contacts that different authorities had adopted different approaches to the issue. Details were being obtained, and would be evaluated.

Council Cabinet had also asked for city centre traders' views on this subject. It was likely that a letter would be sent out to all traders explaining the issues and seeking their views and asking what approach they would support. Pat Taylor and Ann Webster asked to see a copy of this letter before it was sent out.

Mick anticipated being in a position to be able to have a further report on the issue for Council Cabinet to consider in April.

The Committee commented that they thought these investigations were encouraging.

36/04 Work Programme

Agreed to note the work programme.

37/04 Consultation on the Disability Discrimination Bill

Ann Webster advised the Committee that she had received a further consultation document on the Disability Discrimination Bill, which focussed on extending the definition of disability and also the introduction of a questionnaire procedure, similar to the ones under the employment sections of the Disability Discrimination Act. The consultation period on these particular issues ends on 18 March and Ann circulated a copy of a press release from the Department for Work and Pensions about the consultation. She suggested that members look at the consultation document and forward any comments to her by the end of February. The press release gave full details of where to get a copy of the consultation document in a variety of formats.

MINUTES END