

ITEM 5

DPAC – Project group minutes 2 October 2006

Present

Roy Holmes
Pat Fletcher
Christine Yates
Peter Maidens
Roy Holmes
Nancy Pountain
Judi Bateman
Amanda Gibson
Trevor Ford
Marion Edge
Councillor Robin Turner
Ann Webster – DCC
Mick Watts- DCC

Apologies

Cordell Jackson
Marta Hancock

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

Matters arising

Robin and Nancy reported that they had attended a meeting of the Environment Commission in relation to the proposed amendment to the traffic order, which if implemented would permit cycling at certain times in the Derby Promenade streets. Robin and Nancy had spoken against the implementation of the trial order. After much debate the Commission had decided not to recommend any changes to the order implementation, which would for a trial period, allow cycling at certain times in a number of city centre streets.

Focus group members felt that the Commission had not appreciated the impact implementing the order would have on disabled people. Robin agreed to continue to work for a suspension of the order. Mick commented that there may be a further opportunity for disabled people and their organisations to make their feeling know when the necessary amendment to the current traffic order was advertised.

Mick commented that he was in discussion with Westfield about lift access to the new multi-screen cinema. It was difficult to understand how customers wishing or needing to use lifts would travel from street level to the cinema's auditoria. Mick had been able to determine that an accessible route was possible, but he felt that further clarification was required from both Westfield and the cinema operator.

Members expressed some concerns about the new Eagle Centre flooring, which appear to be shiny, and slippey. Mick commented that he was currently in discussion with Westfield about this issue. He would keep members informed.

Supporting People

Item deferred to next meeting.

Design and access statements

Mick informed members of new government guidance which required most applications for planning permission to be accompanied by a design and access statement. The statement would then be considered when determining planning applications as to whether appropriate levels of accessibility were being considered. The location of the development on the site, the relationship between the building and any car park and the location of the buildings entrance where all important factures in delivering good access. The process of writing the statement should help designers understand and appreciate these important factures, and there relationships better.

Quad update

Mick reported that Council had agreed to sign the construction contract for the Quad building. Currently, site investigation work was being undertaken but it was anticipated that building work itself would start in November with completion mid 2008.

Changing Places facilities

Mick had been made aware of an organisation which was promoting the construction of changing places toilets. Such facilities where targeted at adult disabled people who may need assistance to use the toilet. The facility was larger in design with a toilet, washand basin, changing table and hoist. The facility was not currently a Building Regulation requirement so the construction of such a facility could not be insisted upon. Members did however

feel that such a toilet was needed in the City. It was agreed that Mick would approach Westfield to see if it might be possible to incorporate a changing places toilet in the Eagle Centre extension.

Any other business

Mick informed members that from the 28 September 2006 the Department of Transport had brought forward powers which allowed the checking of Blue badges by the Police, Traffic Wardens and Parking Attendants. These powers meant that the Council's, parking staff could ask to inspect Blue Badges. If it was found that the badge was being used incorrectly a parking ticket could be issued and the incident reported to the badge issuing authority. The Police where however the only people who could confiscate the badge. Leaflets about the new powers were on order and would be attached to new and renewed badge applications. Mick would circulate the information to members on receipt. Members felt that these powers where long overdue, and that all genuine badge holders would welcome a more stringent enforcement of the badge regulations.

Mick asked if members had received any information regarding a consultation on the Derby Cityscape proposals. Nancy commented that representatives of the Council's equality groups had received an invitation to attend a consultation event on 10 October 2006 between 2-4:00 pm in Meeting Room 2 at the Council House. Mick also extended an invitation to focus group members who where not members of the equality group.

Ann informed members of her discussions with the City Centre Manager regarding accessibility issues at Lime, a city centre trader. Ann, and other disabled people had raised a concern that a high street trader had not implemented permanent adjustments to their premises to make them more accessible to disabled customers prior to trading. Disabled customers where currently required to ring a bell and a worker would then deploy portable ramps and assist the disabled customer into the store. The Council could not require the business to deliver permanent adjustments, but it had been agreed with city centre management that an article would be published in a future edition of the city centre trader newsletter which would provide information on the DDA and useful contact details.

Date, time and place of next meeting

11 December 2006, 14:00, Meeting Room 2, Council House