

Start: 6.30pm

End: 8.35pm

DISABLED PEOPLES DIVERSITY FORUM 6 MARCH 2008

Present: Councillor Chera (Chair)
Councillor Turner

Representing groups

Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group
Roy Jones – CAMTAD
George Sanders - CAMTAD
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
Noel Walsh – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum
Pat Fletcher - EMASH
Edith Storer – EMASH
Sarah Fletcher - DCIL
Judi Bateman – Derbyshire Autism Services Group
Janet Warner – Derby Shopmobility

City Council Advisors

Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Manager
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Chris Gregson - Constitutional Services Officer
Dawn Robinson Ruane – Strategic Lead Community Cohesion
Alison Wynn – Head of Policy, Performance and Communications
Christine Durrant – Assistant Director, Highways and Transport
Christine Collingwood – Consultation Support Manager

Also Present

Helen Burdon – BSL Interpreter
Mary Walters - BSL Interpreter

65/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Grimadell and Webb, Andrew Auld – Head of Communications and Consultation, Mick Watts – Access Officer, Kully Raju – Transportation Engineer, Policy, Rachell Bastiker – Derby Deaf Forum and Margaret Reeve – Derbyshire Autism Services Group.

66/07 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

No late items were introduced by the Chair.

67/07 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

68/07 Notes from Previous Meeting

The Notes of the meeting held on 17 January 2008 were reviewed by the Forum and approved with an alteration to the list of those present to change Pat Fletcher's group to DCIL, and to correct the spelling of Andy Findlay on the last page.

69/07 Work Programme

An updated Work Programme was distributed to the Forum and noted. Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer - advised that the Forum meeting of 5 June would concentrate on the items Disabled children: access to education and Disabled children and housing.

Noel Walsh – Derbyshire Association for the Blind - asked if an invitation to the next meeting could be sent to a representative of a group working with visually impaired children. Pam Thompson agreed to invite a representative and to ask Noel for a contact address after the meeting.

The Forum considered whether to hold their next meeting at the Joseph Wright Centre. The Forum agreed that this should be done if accessibility requirements, including a working Loop system, were met.

70/07 Updates on matters arising from previous meeting

57/07 – Concessionary Travel Pass

The Chair reported that he had sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Transport, raising the concerns of the Forum about the new Travel Pass scheme. He reported that no reply had been received to date.

Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum – said that the communication difficulties Deaf people face on buses had not been adequately addressed in the letter. Noel Walsh – Derbyshire Association of the Blind -reported that he had attended a meeting with local MPs where the Travel Pass was discussed, but did not find the meeting constructive. Noel informed the MPs of the lack of response from the Secretary of State for Transport.

Christine Durrant - Assistant Director, Highways and Transport – advised the Forum that her department was in the process of issuing the new cards. She asked that any difficulties be reported.

Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group - reported that three people had come to her because of problems obtaining signatures from GPs that are needed for the new pass. Nancy Pountain and Pam Thompson agreed to raise this issue with the PCT.

71/07 Deaf Forum

The Forum received a presentation from Alison Hicking on behalf of the Derby Deaf Forum. She reported that Derby Deaf Forum had written letters to Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council and MPs in Derbyshire regarding communications problems for Deaf people using buses. Derby City Council had responded, but had stated that there was nothing the Council could do.

The Forum discussed the loss of free travel before 9.30am. The Forum agreed to formally write to the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation requesting changes to the timings of Council Services and meetings so they can be accessed with free bus travel. Ann Webster also suggested publishing an article in Council Life raising awareness amongst City Council workers of the changes.

72/07 Draft 2008/09 Highways and Transport Work Programme

The Forum received a presentation by Christine Durrant - Assistant Director, Highways and Transport - on the draft Highways and Transport Work Programme.

Forum Members asked how schemes were chosen from each ward. Christine advised that Neighbourhood Forums, Neighbourhood Boards and other local groups were consulted to find the top priorities in each ward. She encouraged Members to become involved in the process by joining local groups or by contacting Members of Neighbourhood Boards.

The Forum agreed that parking on pavements was an issue that greatly impacted on disabled people. The Forum agreed to write to the Chief Constable requesting that illegal parking on pavements and at The Spot be enforced more strictly and also about cycling on pavements and spitting.. The letter would also include examples of parking offences committed by police officers. Ann Webster agreed to draft the letter for the Chair, so he could send it out.

The Forum thanked Christine for her presentation, and agreed to invite her to future meetings.

73/07 Community Safety Partnership

The Forum received a presentation from Dawn Robinson Ruane – Strategic Lead Community Cohesion and Alison Wynn – Head of Policy, Performance and Communications giving a general overview of the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

The Forum thanked Dawn and Alison for their presentation.

74/07 Open Discussion

Alison Hicking introduced the Louder Than Words Charter. This was a programme run by the RNID promoting accessibility for Deaf people in services the workplace and in services can lead to the award of a Charter Mark.

The Forum agreed that Ann Webster would prepare a report on Louder Than Words to submit to the Assistant Director Group and the Equality and Diversity Task Group with the support of the Forum.

75/07 Date of next meeting

Pam Thompson advised that the date of the next pre-meeting had not yet been set. Pam would contact Members to agree representatives at a later date.

76/07 DPDF Project Group

The Forum received the minutes of the Project group for 11 February 2008.

77/07 Induction Loop

The Forum received a written update from Mick Watts – Access Officer regarding the Loop system in Meeting Room 2 at the Council House.

NOTES END