

Time commenced : 6.30 pm
Time finished : 8.35 pm

DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8 June 2006

Present: Councillor Turner (in the Chair)
Councillors Chera, Harbon, Rawson, Troup and Webb

Representing groups

Martin Austin – Disability Direct
Judi Bateman – DCIL
Beverly Bowman – Derby Shop Mobility
Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group
Marta Hancock – Disability Direct
Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
George Sanders - CamTAD

City Council Advisors

Andrew Auld – Head of Communications and Consultation
Rachel Levy – Constitutional Services Officer
Neil Palfreyman – Traffic Management Engineer
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Ann Webster – Equality Standard Project Manager
Mick Watts – Access Officer
Rod Wood – Assistant Director, Human Resources

Also in attendance:

Mr Spare – Member of the Public

01/06 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Pat Fletcher – DCIL, Trevor Ford - DSHC, Maurice Kilminster – Derby Osteoporosis Group, Pat Taylor - DAB and Amarjit Raju – Disability Direct.

02/06 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

03/06 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/06 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2006 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05/06 Induction Loop Facilities at Councillor Surgeries and Area Panel Meetings

Mr Spare attended the meeting to inform the committee about his concerns regarding the availability of induction loops at councillor surgeries and area panel meetings. Councillor Turner thanked Mr Spare for attending and expressing his views to the Committee.

06/06 Decriminalization and Disabled People's Parking Spaces

Neil Palfreyman – Traffic Management Engineer, informed the Committee of the decriminalization of parking which was due to take place in Derby. It was noted that from 3 July 2006, Derby City Council would take over the enforcement of parking restrictions within the City, this would provide a staff team of 25 employees. This new team would enforce restrictions such as yellow lines, limited waiting and disabled people's parking bays.

Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group, expressed concern regarding cars parked on the pavement, forcing pedestrians to walk onto the road. Neil Palfreyman reported that the Council would not have complete power and issues such as parking on pavements would still need to be dealt with by the police. The Committee were informed that a hotline number would be set up for people to call if they wanted to report any parking incidents in the City.

Mick Watts – Access Officer, stated that in his view the Council taking over responsibility for parking enforcement was good news for disabled people as action would now be taken against people abusing disabled parking spaces.

Ann Webster – Equality Standard Project Manager, raised an issue regarding the response time when a car was reported seen parked across a dropped kerb or abusing a disabled parking space. Currently when traffic wardens were called by a disabled person they responded very quickly, Ann Webster asked if this would still happen. Neil Palfreyman reported that a call would have to be responded to within a time limit, so there should not be a problem.

07/06 Discussion Paper on the Proposed Council Consultation Strategy

The Committee received a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services regarding the proposed Council Consultation Strategy. It was noted that the main change was to suggest that the consultation process was brought 'in house' to the Council while retaining close working links with Derby City Partnership. Other changes cover reporting structures, embracing new technologies, enhanced supporting of participation and alignment with the communications and consultation strategy.

Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum stated that she felt that an important issue was not dealt with in the report. This issue was regarding the time taken for groups to translate the information given to them. In the past when there had been consultation with the Deaf community, they did not have enough time to discuss the

issue due to the amount of time it took to translate. The Council needs to take this into account and give more consultation time for translation. Andrew Auld – Head of Communication and Consultation, agreed that this was an important issue and would be made clearer in the proposed strategy.

A question was raised regarding whether members could receive information more in advance so that they could get more views from their community. Andrew Auld responded that the proposed strategy stated that members of the Committee should receive all papers 20 days prior to the meeting.

Judi Bateman – DCIL asked whether consultation information could be translated into symbols for people with learning disabilities because at the moment documents were being received but they could not be understood. Andrew Auld responded that he was aware of this problem and that it was being looked into. Ann Webster also agreed follow this issue up and report back to the next meeting.

08/06 Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum Update

Nancy Pountain and Judi Bateman updated the Committee on how the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum was made up and what was discussed. It was noted that the forum was made up of a variety of people including land owners, walkers, cyclists, horse riders and the elderly. The forum looked at many local access issues including right of way. Judi Bateman explained how the forum looks into how local issues fit in with the local transport plan and how rights of way were published. It was reported that the forum planned to hold four meetings a year but due to the amount of issues being raised they held them more regularly. The Committee were informed that the meetings were very productive and were open to the public if any other members would like to attend.

09/06 Pedestrianized Areas and Cycling

Mick Watts referred the Committee members to the DPAC Project Group minutes for an update on pedestrianized areas and cycling. It was reported that the Cabinet had previously approved the 18 month trial period to allow cycling in the Derby Promenade before 10.00am and after 5.00pm. Members of the project group expressed strong concerns with this decision as it would affect the safety of disabled people in the city centre. Mick Watts informed the Committee that an experimental traffic order would be in place for a trial period and encouraged members to keep him informed of any issues or comments so that they could be forwarded to highway colleagues and considered when the trial was reviewed.

Members expressed concerns of safety and the policing during the trial. It was suggested that a letter be written to the Councillor Wynn – Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, to express the Committee's concerns.

Agreed for Councillor Turner to write a letter to Councillor Wynn on behalf of the Committee to express their concerns.

10/06 International Day for Disabled People Update

Ann Webster reported that the working group for the International Day for Disabled People event had not met yet but were due to meet on 21 June. It was also reported that next year it would be the International Year for Equal Opportunities.

11/06 A Boards Update

Mick Watts informed the Committee that he had met with Councillor Wynn regarding A- Boards and that the outcome was positive. It was noted that Councillor Wynn supported a zero tolerance approach to A-boards and had asked officers to draft a report recommending this to Cabinet.

12/06 Deaf Forum

Alison Hicking reported that links between the Deaf community and the police had now been improved with the use of fax, email and SMS text messaging contacting service. A leaflet with information on this service was handed to the members. Ann Webster asked why the SMS contact number had not been offered to the wider community as it was a good service. Alison Hicking responded that when the service had been used in other areas, it has been abused. This is why at the moment it is only focused at the Deaf community. Andy Finlay – Derby Access Group, asked if this service could be used when ordering taxis, as Western Taxis were very interested in setting this up. Alison Hicking responded that at the moment in Derby only an email service was available but was aware that in Chesterfield a text service had been successful.

It was also noted that there was still an issue regarding the qualification level of interpreters due to certain instances, for example the hospital, non qualified interpreters were being used.

13/06 DPAC – Project Group Minutes 15 May 2006

Quad

Councillor Webb commented that the consultation disabled people had been involved in regarding the Quad project had been an example of good practice and asked how much it had been promoted. Mick Watts responded that the Council and disabled people had worked with a number of building designers on inclusive design issues, which should deliver development that not only met the statutory regulations but exceeded them.

It was noted that at the next meeting of the project group, Westfield would be attending to give a presentation. All members were invited to attend. The meeting would take place on Tuesday 13 June at 2pm in meeting room 2.

14/06 Work Programme

Members considered the work programme for 2006/07. Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer, updated members on changes to the work programme.

MINUTES END