

Start: 6.30 pm  
End: 8.40 pm

## **DISABLED PEOPLES DIVERSITY FORUM 21 JANUARY 2010**

Present: Councillors Hird (Chair), Chera, Grimadell  
and Turner

In Attendance:

### **Representing groups**

Judi Bateman – Derbyshire Autism Services Group  
Imraan Adams – D.C.I.L  
Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group  
Roy Jones – CamTAD  
George Sanders - CamTAD  
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group  
Edith Storer – East Midlands Arthritis Self Help  
Noel Walsh – Derbyshire Association for the Blind  
Richard Williams – Derbyshire Association for the Blind  
Janet Warner – Derby Shopmobility  
Lynn Gilbey – Derby Homes Traq

### **City Council Advisors**

Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Manager  
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer  
Mick Watts – Access Officer  
Laura Butler – Constitutional Services Officer  
Catherine Martin – DCC Transport Planning  
Rajesh Raithatha – Business Link Advises – Community Based  
Ed Green – Marketing Manager Derby Live  
Kevin Pool & Graham Price – Trent Barton  
Paul Richards & Alan – Arriva

### **Also Present**

John Emery – Sign Language Interpreter  
Mary Walters – Sign Language Interpreter

## **43/09 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Reeve, Sarah Fletcher and Pat Fletcher.

## **44/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

## 45/09 Notes from Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 19 November 2009 were approved by the Forum and approved subject to the following change:

Minute Number 34/09 – Andy Findlay informed the forum that it was the Eagle Centre Market not the Market Place to be used for the Civic Centre.

## 46/09 Updates on matters arising from the previous meeting

**Minute Number 32/09** – Andy Findlay informed the Forum that the Westfield Centre have confirmed that they now have some toilets fitted with a radar key.

### **Role of the Champion**

The Forum would like a Sub Group set up to look into the role of the Disabled Person Champion. Andy Findlay, Judi Bateman, Roy Jones and Nancy Pountain agreed to be part of the Sub Group.

## 47/09 Work Programme 2009/10

The Forum considered the work programme. It was decided that items 8, 9, 10 be considered at the next meeting of the Forum.

Mick Watts requested that item 11 for parking facilities be considered as two items, one for disabled parking facilities around the City in public places, the other for disabled parking facilities by Derby Homes. It was requested that an Officer attend one of the Diversity meetings to discuss the policy and allow the Forum members to raise their concerns with them.

**Agreed to note the information received.**

## 48/09 Question and Answer Session

A Question and Answer sheet was attached to the agenda, members were asked to use this sheet to ask questions either about issues raised at the meeting or anything else they would like to raise. The Members were advised that if they wanted their response by the next meeting then the sheets need to be submitted 5 clear days before the meeting.

A Member of the Forum had raised concern over problems with transport for disabled people which could result in them being unable to travel with the freedom that they now experienced. One concern was 75 taxis, they had been reported refusing to not carry wheelchairs, with or without occupants that could not be turned around in the taxi and secured. Mick Watts informed the Forum that an investigation was taking place by the Taxi Licensing enforcement officers

and suggested that once the response had been received the Forum could then discuss what action to take next. It was suggested that a Forum member attend the Trade meeting with the Taxi Companies to inform them of their difficulties. The Chair also suggested that Forum Members contact Pam Thompson with any future complaints they had.

Judi Bateman asked about the policy on restoring the Historic Shop Fronts within the Conservation Area of the City Centre, and if an impact assessment had taken place. Mick Watts informed the Forum that an impact assessment had not yet taken place but would be done in the next few weeks. Judi Bateman and Nancy Pountain asked to be involved in the Impact assessment.

**Agreed to note the questions and answers.**

## **49/09      Local Bus Service Providers**

Paul Richards from Arriva and Kevin Pool and Graham Price from Trent Barton attended the meeting to discuss any issues the Forum wished to raise.

Paul Richards informed the Forum of progress made since Arriva had last attended the Forum. It was reported the training for bus drivers was going well and that the use of glasses to show the difficulties people with impaired vision experienced was a success. Paul also confirmed that the poles on the buses that had caused difficulty for access had now been removed. It was noted that all drivers had attended a CPC Course as part of their bus licence.

Janet Warner asked whether wheelchair users would be able to help train the drivers. Paul Richards explained that it would be difficult as the training takes place all over the Country. Ann Webster suggested the use of training involving local disabled people to help bus drivers, they would then be able to listen to the difficulties and barriers that disabled people faced.

Roy Jones stressed the disappointment that there was still no loop systems fitted in the buses and that drivers still needed training to help those passengers that lip read. It was also felt that the bell worked best on the multi frequency because it could be heard by most people with hearing difficulties.

Judi Bateman informed Paul Richards of an incident that had happened when she was waiting for a bus. The bus arrived but the driver requested that Judi let the other passengers on first, he would then let the ramp down for her, but unfortunately there was then no space on the bus, due to a pushchair. Judi consequently had to wait for the next bus. Paul was disappointed that this had happened and would look into this incident to ensure that it would not happen again.

Kevin Pool and Graham Price from Trent Barton informed the Forum that they had included disability issues as part of their training for the last twelve years. They stressed to drivers that they wanted them to get off the bus and help people if possible. They feel that there are no barriers with the public using their buses. They reported that their buses now carry 6 Pushchairs and 1 Wheelchair with the

new buses carrying 2 Wheelchairs. They work closely with the manufactures of the buses and have their buses adapted to the specifications they need. Any Forum Members who wish to contact Arriva or Trent Barton should contact Pam Thompson for their details.

**Agreed to note the information received.**

## 50/09      Core Strategy

The Forum received a presentation on the Derby Core Strategy from Dave Brown. The Forum were given details of the core strategy and how it would set out what type of new development was needed in the City and where this would go. It was reported that the options paper would be provided to Forum members which would include topics such as housing growth, new shopping floorspace, amount of employment land, making buildings more sustainable and addressing transport issues. Members of the Forum were invited to drop in sessions at the Guildhall and could access documents on the Council's website or in Council buildings to provide their views before the consultation ended on 31 March 2010.

**Agreed to note the information received.**

## 51/09      Essential Companion Scheme

Ed Green attended the Forum to inform members of a new scheme set up which would offer free tickets for carers to all Derby Live events. Anyone interested in using the scheme would need to join as a member and provide their details to ensure that they received a free ticket for their carer when booking tickets. An equality impact assessment was going to be done involving some Forum members.

The Forum welcomed the idea which was noted would be launched in May 2010.

**Agreed to note the information received.**

## 52/09      International Day of Disabled People

Ann Webster informed the Forum that the day had been a success, even though it was very cold. Members who attended felt that it should be held at a different venue in future and maybe take place earlier in the year.

Another suggestion was to hold a festival event involving all three Diversity Forums, as grants may be available for festival events.

Councillor Grimadell asked if the event could take place at the weekend as it might attract more people to attend. Also Councillor Turner felt the Media should publicised the event more by informing people throughout the day on local radio stations.

A small group was needed from representatives of all three Forums to discuss ideas about a festival day being held.

**Agreed to note the update.**

## **53/09      DPDF – Project Group Minutes**

The Forum noted the minutes and if there are comments to contact Mick Watts to discuss them.

**Agreed:**

- 1. To note the DPDF project group minutes.**
- 2. To contact Mick Watts with any comments.**

## **54/09      Date of next meeting**

The Forum agreed that Janet Warner, Judi Bateman, and Roy Jones would attend the next pre-meeting, on 18 February 2010. The next Forum meeting would be held on 18 March 2010.

Minutes End