

Time commenced : 6.30 pm
Time finished : 8.30 pm

DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE 3 NOVEMBER 2005

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

Representing groups

Nigel Johns – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Marta Hancock – Disability Direct
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
Pat Fletcher – DCIL
Trevor Ford – DSHC
Maurice Kilminster – Derby Osteoporosis group
George Sanders – Camtad
Beverley Bowman – Derby Shopmobility
Alison Hicking – Deaf Forum
Edith Storer – EMASH
Amarjit Raju – Disability Direct

Mary Walters – British Sign Language Interpreter

City Council Advisors

Andrew Auld – Head of Communications and Consultation
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Ann Webster – Equality Standard Project Manager
Mick Watts – Access Officer
Richard Talaska – Older People's Consultation Officer
Sarah Turner – Constitutional Services Officer

31/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Webb, Martin Austin – Freedom Forum, Judy Bateman – DCIL and Pat Taylor – Derbyshire Association for the Blind.

32/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

33/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

34/05 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2005 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment:

Minute No 28/05 International Day of Disabled People to amend the last sentence to read "she advised that Mick should speak to Siobhan Gilbertson to discuss how DCIL could help".

35/05 Vision for Ageing

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Policy setting out the next steps proposed for developing a vision for ageing in Derby, in the context of the proposal to establish an Older Peoples Strategic Planning Partnership for Derby within the Derby City Partnership's City of Opportunity. The Committee's views were sought and would be reported to Council Cabinet at its meeting on 8 November 2005. Richard Talaska, Older People's Consultation Officer, advised that central government had distributed the first UK strategy on ageing which was called "Opportunity Age: Meeting the Challenges of ageing in the 21st Century". The overall purpose of the strategy was:

- to prepare effectively for the age shift which gathers pace between now and the middle of the century
- to help meet everyone's aspirations for better later lives for themselves and their families.

The three priorities for action were:

- higher employment rates for people over 50
- enabling older people to play a full and active role in society more generally – what is known as active ageing
- older people maintaining independence and control of their lives even when affected by health problems

Following consultation, a list of objectives was determined and these were detailed in the report. The Committee raised the following concerns:

- The experience of the transition from receiving support and services as a disabled person to being treated by service providers as an older person. There was a danger that this could result in less satisfactory services when people reach 60, with disability needs apparently receiving less attention. This should be explicitly guarded against in any strategic approach.
- That despite the strategic thrust towards supporting older people to work longer and to lead a more "active ageing" lifestyle generally, there would remain too many disincentives to doing this because of "benefit trap" consequences. Councillor Turner suggested that a presentation be given at a future meeting to explain these issues.

Resolved to note the report and ask that the Committee's comments be forwarded to Council Cabinet for consideration with the report.

36/05 Quad Progress

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services giving an update on QUAD. The Committee were advised that Quad was

a partnership of Derby City Council, Q Arts and Metro and the value of the project was £9.43 M plus an additional estimated £1M for the land. A plan of Quad and an artist impression of the building was shown the Committee for their comments. Ray Ripplingale, Assistant Director – Cultural Services, advised that this new building would be a contemporary visual arts, film and media venue. He had visited a comparative venue in Dundee and was stunned to realise that it was the place to be in Dundee. The benefits of Quad would be grouped around five themes.

- theme one - the galleries
- theme two – participation production and education
- theme three - cinemas
- theme four - the media pods
- theme five - the box

Beverley Bowman asked if exhibitions would be provided for visually impaired people. Ray responded that this would be guaranteed as the Quad partnership was very sensitive to the needs of all people.

Pat Fletcher commented that the plans showed steps at one side of the building so how would the building be accessed by disabled people. Ray responded that access into the building for the public would be an example of good practice and the access to the memorial gardens would be via a ramp. The affect the building would have on the gardens would be discussed with the veterans shortly. Alison Hicking asked if there would be facilities for subtitles in the cinemas. Ray commented that yes there would be as it had been designed to be friendly to all disabled people. He couldn't guarantee all archive material would be subtitled from day one. Where films were booked for multiple showings some of the showings would normally be subtitled, if they were available.

Mick Watts commented that he was a member of the Quad working group and the building would be fully and independently accessible to everyone. The Quad Project Director, Peter Mount had meet representatives of this committee's project group on two occasions, and at those meetings given a commitment that the building would be an exemplar of accessibility. Once input had been received from organisations on the sunken garden and adjacent landscaping, a design would be drawn up. Ray Ripplingale added that they wanted a landscape scheme all around the Quad building and hoped that it would be an area that would be extensively used by everybody.

Alison Hicking asked if the building would include visual fire alarms. Mick Watts responded that the detailed building regulations submission had not been considered yet. This would be submitted in January/February next year and the means of escape for disabled people would be included, and considered. Nigel Johns asked that before the final design was signed off, could it be brought back to the Committee for their consideration. Mick Watts responded that when detailed drawings were available a further meeting of the project group would be called to consider, and comment on them. The building would have to comply with the Building Regulations which now includes guidance on design issues that met the needs of a whole range of impairments.

Ann Webster suggested that it would be useful to hold the International Day of Disabled People 2008 event in the Quad building.

Resolved to note the update.

37/05 Equality and Diversity Action Plan

Ann Webster thanked members of the Committee for their comments which had been reported to the Equality and Diversity Steering Group who had then taken these comments into their departments for responses. The responses would come back to the Committee in January.

38/05 Deaf Forum

Alison Hicking advised that there was concern that over the last six months more and more companies had started providing communication services. Some of these companies just used anyone who could sign and there were issues of confidentiality. There were different levels of BSL interpretation and level 2 was only the equivalent of a GCSE. This was not suitable for an interpreter. The Deaf Forum was trying to educate people of the difference between an interpreter and a communicator and they were focusing on this at the moment. Alison also advised that they had a visit from Cordell Jackson from the hospital which wasn't a positive meeting as they had on-going issues. Ann Webster responded that Adrian Piggott had taken on the role of the Equality and Diversity Manager at the PCTs and would give him Alison's details as it would be useful for him to attend a meeting of the Derby Deaf Forum.

Resolved to note the update.

39/05 International Day of Disabled People

Mick Watts advised that the event was being organised with Disability Direct and there would be a roadshow outside the Playhouse on 2 December 2005. He was arranging the meeting with Disability Direct to discuss the detail of the roadshow.

40/05 Minutes of the DPAC Project Group – 26 September 2005

Temporary Bus Station Arrangements

Mick Watts said that Shopmobility was still operating in the coach park of the old bus station. New accommodation was to be built in the Eagle Centre basement car park but would not be available until March 2006. Beverley Bowman added that getting to the current premises was very difficult as access was through the River Gardens and people felt very vulnerable using this route. Users were also concerned about having to move to interim accommodation if the new accommodation wasn't ready but they had to vacate their current accommodation because the bus station was being demolished. Beverley added that staff were feeling quite vulnerable and it would help if security could be improved in the area. There were panic buttons but they still didn't feel too secure. Mick Watts advised that he and Council colleagues were aware of these issues and was trying to resolve them. Beverley asked if it was possible to have extra policing in the river gardens throughout the day. Ann Webster advised that she would take this issue

up. Trevor Ford added that it was frightening to walk down through the River Gardens as there were no signs to Shopmobility and also taxis were unable to get into the coach park to pick up and drop off customers. Mick commented that he would look at the signage issue, and that there had been no changes to the pick-up and drop off arrangements for Shopmobility customers.

41/05 A-Boards

Councillor Turner advised that he had attended a meeting with Jonathan Guest, Director of Development and Cultural Services, Councillor Repton, Member for Planning and Transportation, Mick Watts, Access Officer, Pat Taylor and Nigel Johns from Derbyshire Association for the Blind. Views that had been expressed at this meeting were that not enough work had been done yet as there had not been a City Centre Manager for two years although there was now one in place. Next year with the de-criminalisation of parking coming to the Council, they would take on extra responsibilities and there would be more staff and more opportunity to deal with things the Police were not doing at the moment. They also believed that relationships with private organisations would be affected. They said they would look at a pilot scheme next year which should improve the situation with A-Boards.

Nigel Johns added that the understanding was the Council did not have a policy and he felt that if they were going to come up with the idea of a pilot there had to be a policy in place first. A lot of work needed to be done and there was no indication of how long a pilot would be and it seemed like the Council had no intention of introducing a zero tolerance approach to A-Boards. It was their belief that the city centre manager was in favour of keeping A-Boards and wanted to know if this was the case. Derbyshire Association of the Blind's approach would be to continue to support members of their group in any legal action they wished to take. He remained unconvinced of the policy and the intention to have a zero tolerance approach and he was looking for commitment from decision makers at the Council.

Pat Fletcher commented that disabled people were sick of A-Boards in the city. It was time that this Committee was listened to.

Nigel Johns stated that they should find out the views of the City Centre Manager and invite them to the next meeting of the Committee. Mick Watts responded that the Committee could invite the City Centre Manager to the meeting but it was not the role of City Centre management to determine policy on this issue.

It was suggested that Councillor Repton be invited to the meeting. Nigel Johns asked if the Committee could ask for a time commitment for when the draft policy would be available for the Committee to consider and when a pilot would be implemented. Nigel also asked that details about asking questions at Full Council meetings be sent to him.

Resolved

- 1. to ask Council Cabinet for a time commitment of when a draft policy for A-Boards would be available and when would a pilot scheme be implemented**
- 2. to invite Councillor Repton to the next meeting of the Committee to address their concerns about A-Boards.**

42/05 DPAC Protocol

Sarah Turner, Constitutional Services Officer asked members to agree the changes to the working protocol for the Committee so that the first line read 'the Committee will recruit up to 14 community representatives from organisations of disabled people through whatever mechanism it sees fit, subject to Council approval'.

Andrew Auld reported that the Consultation and Support Team were in the process of producing a consultation strategy. At the meeting in March 2006 he would be asking for the Committee's views on the communication and consultation strategy which would include a review of the advisory committees.

Resolved to defer this item until the next meeting and to provide members with details of the current membership on the Committee.

43/05 Work Programme

Members considered the work programme for 2005/6. Pam Thompson, Consultation Support Officer updated members on changes to the work programme.

MINUTES END