

Start: 6.30 pm
End: 8:40 pm

DISABLED PEOPLES DIVERSITY FORUM 14 MAY 2009

Present: Councillor Hird (Chair)
Councillors Chera, Grimadell, Turner and Webb
Cabinet Member – Councillor Lucy Care

In Attendance:

Representing groups

Judi Bateman – Derbyshire Autism Services Group
Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group
Pat Fletcher – East Midlands Arthritis Self Help
Sarah Fletcher – DCIL
Roy Jones – CamTAD
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
Edith Storer – East Midlands Arthritis Self Help Group
Noel Walsh – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Janet Warner – Derby Shopmobility
Lynn Gilbey – Derby Homes Traq
Anne Hughes – Derby Homes Traq & Fibromyalgia Support Group

City Council Advisors

Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Manager
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Christine Durrant – Assistant Director, Highways & Transport
Mick Watts – Access Officer
Laura Butler – Constitutional Services Officer
Mary Walters – Sign Language Interpreter
Helen Blunden – Sign Language Interpreter
Louise Angell – BBC Radio Derby

67/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Hicking, Ian Gosling, Margaret Reeve and George Sanders.

68/08 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

Nancy Pountain informed the Forum of an article that was posted in the Nottingham Evening Post dated 13 May 2009 titled 'Disabilities ID Cards are a hit' Nancy informed members that over 1200 people had already signed up for the ID cards in Nottingham and would like to introduce them to the people of

Derby. The cards are credit card sized and would be useful for people with hidden impairments.

Agreed to consider the ID Cards on the next agenda.

69/08 Notes from Previous Meeting

The Notes of the meeting held on 19 March 2009 were reviewed by the Forum and approved with the following amendments:- Minute Number 57/08 Updates, for 50/08 Roy Jones to replace George Sanders on the Sub-committee to discuss the issues and to work with Arriva. Please note that Paul Richards from Arriva was still waiting for Special Glasses to arrive to train the drivers and would let the appropriate people know when they were ready.

60/08 the question was asked by Councillor Turner and not Councillor Troup.

70/08 Updates on matters arising from the previous meeting

Rickshaws

The forum agreed to discuss this as part of agenda item 7.

Self Assessment Scheme

This item was deferred to a future meeting of the forum.

71/08 Work Programme 2008/09

It was noted that the forum would discuss and be advised on Disability ID Cards at a future meeting from Nancy Pountain. The Forums issues and concerns around the Big Screen were to be included on the agenda for the next meeting. The Forum would consider any concerns they had, Councillor Hird would write to Jonathan Guest and Helen Osler on behalf of the Forum.

The Forum agreed to discuss item 16 on the work programme and before the meeting it was suggested that members try to ring Derby Direct using the Voice Recognition Service. Members agreed that there should be a phone number that only disabled people could use. It was noted that they would like to find out what other Local Authorities use.

Pam also mentioned that there is to be a joint Annual General Meeting of the Diversity Forums to be held in the next few months.

Agreed:

- 1. To include Disability ID Cards on the agenda for the next meeting.**

2. **To decide any issues the Forum members might wish to raise in a letter about the Big Screen.**
3. **Try using the Derby Direct Voice Recognition Service and receive an update at the next meeting.**

72/08 Question Sheet: Forum Representatives Questions

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.

Judi Bateman submitted a question which was to be discussed and answered as part of item 7 on the Agenda.

Agreed to use the Question and Answer sheet for any issues the Forum members might wish to raise.

73/08 Rickshaws

The Forum discussed the concerns on Rickshaws along with Judi Bateman's Question. The Forum wanted to know why Rickshaws had been given permission to use pedestrianised areas as they felt it was dangerous and the findings from the equality impact assessment had not been taken into account. Christine Durrant attended the meeting and informed the Forum that Rickshaws had been given an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for a maximum period of 18 months which was being monitored. The Forum was informed that the TRO could be suspended immediately if there were any accidents. The Forum felt that the TRO was advertised, licensed and subsequently allowed to use the pedestrianised areas with no consultation. It was noted that there had not been a publication period to allow the public to comment on Rickshaws and that people were unaware that they needed to complain about incidents during the trial period.

Councillor Care informed members that Rickshaws had been to help promote the Cathedral Quarter area, with the pedestrianised area being the only way the Cathedral Quarter and Westfield were connected. The Forum felt that the bus which is used to connect the two areas worked really well and felt that it was enough to connect the areas.

The Forum felt the issues should be discussed at the next meeting and for the meeting to be brought forward to allow the Forum enough time to send their views to the Council Cabinet.

The Forum suggested having an Officer from the City Centre Management team to hear their views on why they want Rickshaws in the City, also to have details on the traffic regulation order and private hire license.

Christine Durrant informed the Forum that if they had any comments on Rickshaws positive or negative to contact either Ian Butler – Team Leader Projects, Stephen Gaskin – Project Engineer and Adrian Astle – Project Engineer, they are all in Highways and Traffic, or email Pam Thompson.

Pam Thompson would contact the appropriate officers and arrange the next Forum meeting so the Forum can discuss their issues again.

Agreed:

- 1. To bring forward next Diversity Forum**
- 2. To contact the Officer as listed with any comments positive or negative**
- 3. To bring the Forums views together and produce a recommendation to Council Cabinet.**

74/08 Deaf Forum

This item was withdrawn in the absence of the Forum Member.

75/08 Disabled people's access to the Big Screen and Council buildings

Louise Angell attended the meeting to discuss any issues the Forum Members had with the Big Screen in the Market Place. Members of the Forums felt that the Screen should have subtitles on it with all programmes broadcast. They also felt the screen was in the wrong position to be viewed correctly. The Forum would also like to know why an Equality Impact Assessment had not taken place. Louise Angell agreed to take on the concerns of the Forum and report back to her department, she also informed the Forum she was happy to take material that had subtitles on it but her department did not have the technology to add subtitles to material that was already used. Councillor Turner suggested that the Council requested that all material accepted to be used on the big screen should have subtitles on it. Louise Angell told the Forum that if subtitles were used on the screen then they wouldn't be able to put the events list on the side, which is used a lot by the public.

Christine Durrant informed the Forum that she would report back to Jonathan Guest, Director of Regeneration and Community and Helen Osler with the Forum's concerns about the big screen and find out why the Equality Impact Assessment didn't take place. A report would come back to the Forum with the answers and details of who members should contact.

Mick Watts informed the Forum that inaccessibility of all council buildings was being looked at as regulations state that all new buildings and receptions

accessed by the public should have Induction Loops fitted and then it's down to the Buildings Manager to maintain them. Mick Watts had been working together with CamTAD and felt it had produced very positive results.

Agreed:

- 1. Louise Angell to report back all the Forum issues and concerns on the Big Screen**
- 2. Christine Durrant to report back to the Forum with contact details for the Big Screen**

76/08 International Day of Disabled People

The Forum agreed on the date, 3 December 2009, and the venue to be the same place as a previous year's event in the top end of the Eagle Market.

77/08 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.**

78/08 Date of next meeting

The Forum agreed that Judi Bateman, Nancy Pountain and Roy Jones would attend the next pre-meeting, on 11 June 2009. The next Forum meeting would be brought forward and will take place in late June 2009.

Minutes End.