

ITEM 4a

Time commenced 6.00 pm
Time finished 8.10 pm

ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION 25 SEPTEMBER 2006

Present: Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)
Councillors Afzal, Care, Carr, Hird, Ingall, Poulter, Rawson,
Tittley and West

Also present: Councillor Wynn, Cabinet Member for Planning and
Transportation
Councillor Graves, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Direct
Services
Councillor Turner, Chair of the Disabled People's Advisory
Committee
Mrs Pountain, Member of the Disabled People's Advisory
Committee
Mr Taylor, representing Derbyshire Association for the Blind

32/06 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Travis.

33/06 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

34/06 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

35/06 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2006 were confirmed as correct record and signed by the Chair.

36/06 Call-In

There were no items for call-in.

Items for Discussion

37/06 Performance Eye

The Commission was asked whether there were any Performance Eye indicators they wished to consider in further detail at the next meeting.

Resolved to inform the Overview and Scrutiny Officer of any items Members of the Commission wished to look into in further detail before the next meeting of the Commission.

38/06 Retrospective Scrutiny: Consideration of the decision to proceed with applying new Traffic Orders to St Peter's Street

Councillor Turner, the Chair of the Disabled People's Advisory Committee asked the Commission to consider requesting the reversal of the decision to proceed with new traffic orders that would allow cyclists to use St Peter's Street and other identified pedestrianised streets between the hours of 5pm and 10am.

Councillor Turner argued that to allow cyclists on these streets would cause problems for both the disabled and elderly users of the streets and expressed concern that the decision had been taken through officer delegation rather than by Council Cabinet. Mrs Pountain and Mr Taylor voiced their concerns over cyclists using these streets. They drew attention to the hazards already faced by elderly and disabled people and argued that allowing cyclists to use these areas would increase the levels of anxiety for more vulnerable sectors of the general public. They commented that cyclists were already using the roads when they shouldn't be. They said that the use of the roads was not being policed and pointed out that near misses and the fear of being knocked over caused stress to disabled and elderly people.

Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer explained that the proposal, which was to allow cyclists to use the streets only in the morning and evening when they were already open to service vehicles, had come about following extensive research. He said that the proposed amendment would give cyclists a safer access route between the north and the south of the city during peak traffic times. As service vehicles could already use these routes in the morning and evening, it was thought appropriate to allow cyclists to use this route as well. The decision had been taken based on current Government guidance, which proposed allowing cycling in pedestrianised areas, and that a trial for 18 months had been agreed starting after Christmas.

Resolved for the Commission to investigate the issue further and prepare recommendations to the Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation before the order is made and the trial commences in January 2007.

39/06 Cityscape

The Commission considered a presentation from David Marshall, Director of Development at Cityscape on the proposed changes to the Cityscape Masterplan, which was due to go out for public consultation shortly.

Resolved to note the presentation

40/06 Cycling England

The Commission considered an oral report from Tony Gascoigne on the status of the Cycling England initiatives in Derby. He reported that the focus for Derby was to encourage young people to continue to cycle beyond the age where many normally stop using their bikes, and he gave details of the projects which had been carried out so far. These included 600 extra cycle stands that had been installed in Derby Schools to encourage pupils to cycle to school.

Resolved to note the report

41/06 Assessment Criteria for Council Supported Local Bus Services

The Commission considered a report from Chris Hegarty, Senior Public Transport Co-ordinator on the Assessment Criteria for Council Supported Local Bus Services. The Commission were asked to consider the proposed assessment criteria for Council supported local bus services.

A member commented that the proposed criteria did not fully take into account the needs of people living in hilly areas. Chris Hegarty responded that the final decision on implementing the criteria would be made by members and therefore would always take Members local knowledge into account.

Resolved to note the proposed assessment criteria for council supported bus services

42/06 Work Plan – Draft Scoping report and timetable for the Environment Commission’s review of Public Art

The Commission received a report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services on the draft scoping report and timetable for the Environment Commission’s review of Public Art.

Resolved to agree the draft scoping report and the timetable for the Commission’s review of public art

43/06 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items.

44/06 Responses of the Council Cabinet/ Council Cabinet Members to any reports of the Commission

The Commission received a minute extract from the Planning and Transportation Cabinet Member meeting on the Commission’s review of sponsorship.

Resolved to note the report

45/06 Matters referred to the Commission by Council
Cabinet/Council Cabinet Members

There were no items.

MINUTES END