

Start: 6.30pm
End: 8.35pm

DISABLED PEOPLES DIVERSITY FORUM 4 SEPTEMBER 2008

Present: Councillor Hird (Chair)
Councillors Grimadell, Turner and Webb

Representing groups

Judi Bateman – Derbyshire Autism Services Group
Toni Shepherd – Derbyshire Autism Services Group
Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group
Roy Jones – CAMTAD
Pat Fletcher – East Midlands Arthritis Self Help
Sarah Fletcher - DCIL
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
George Sanders - CAMTAD
Edith Storer – EMASH
Noel Walsh – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Janet Warner – Derby Shopmobility

City Council Advisors

Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Manager
Christine Collingwood – Consultation Support Manager
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Mick Watts – Access Officer
Michael Kay – Environmental Health Manager
Steven Lee – Planning Officer
Maggie Fennell – Chair DCC Disabled Employee Network

15/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chera, Alison Hicking and Pauline Hough.

16/08 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair informed the Forum that Item 9 (Deaf Forum, Update) would be replaced with an update from the Derby Disabled Employee Network.

Christine Collingwood informed the Forum that Andrew Auld, Head of Consultation and Communications, would be leaving Derby City Council on 5 September 2008. Christine would be replacing Andrew on the Diversity Forums.

17/08 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

18/08 Notes from Previous Meeting

The Notes of the meeting held on 5 June 2008 were reviewed by the Forum and approved with no amendments.

19/08 Updates on matters arising from the previous meeting

03/08 – Late Items Introduced by the Chair

It was confirmed that the 'Derby Goes Pink' event on Bass Recreation Ground would be on hardstanding materials

57/07 – Concessionary Travel Pass

Chris Hegarty provided an update on the concessionary travel plan. The Forum had received an update in January about the changes from the local concessionary scheme to the national scheme, and as a result a number of positive changes had been made for the introduction of the new national scheme in April. These included expanding the criteria for concessionary travel to people who were unable to get a driving license. The scheme had now been running for 5 months and the Forum were invited to give views on how the scheme was working. Any further comments could be passed through Chris Hegarty on chris.hegarty@derby.gov.uk or by calling 01332 641736

The Forum noted that the major problem they were facing was that the pass could not be used before 9:30am and after 11pm. This caused problems for people trying to get to appointments first thing in the morning. Chris Hegarty noted that this was a problem, but that they had to abide by the times set by the Department for Transport. The Forum felt it would be useful to have information on the bus timetables regarding eligibility of cards on the services.

The Forum noted that not all buses were fully accessible, but it was reported that by February all Arriva buses would have low floors. The Forum also reported problems that had been experienced by the hearing impaired, as the buses had no hearing loops and the reflective surfaces making lip reading difficult. There were also problems for the visually impaired as bus drivers pulled away from stops too quickly and there were limited stop announcements on most services. It was agreed that there was an identified need for more disability awareness training for the bus drivers, and Ann Walker agreed to contact Roy Godfrey to arrange this. It was noted that CAMTAD would be more than happy to be involved with any projects for the hearing impaired.

It was reported that the yellow taxis in the city would be willing to carry any passengers waiting at bus stops going into the city centre for £1 per person. It was agreed that Councillor Hird would investigate this and report back to a future meeting.

09/08 Disabled Children: Physical Education

It was reported that Gurmail Nizzer had been contacted regarding this item, and an update would be provided at a future meeting.

Agreed to note the updates

20/08 Work Programme

An updated Work Programme was distributed to the Forum and noted.

Pam Thompson advised that there had been some workshops held to go through the work programme, and the updated list included the aims and objectives of the suggested items. It was reported that the programme was not set in stone was open to amendment as appropriate. It was noted that meetings with three scheduled presentations may find that some items slipped due to time constraints, and Forum members were asked to identify their priorities to ensure that these were covered. It was noted that project group could also address issues of concern. It was decided that the transport item could be deferred to the project group for them to report back.

Councillor Webb reported that Item 13 on the work programme (Council offices refurbishment, reception and lift) had been through Cabinet and it was clear that the Forum needed to be actively involved before the design stage was complete.

Agreed:

- 1. To note the work programme**
- 2. To consider priorities for the work programme**
- 3. To consider any items that could be delegated to the project group for consideration**

21/08 Eastern Fringes

The Forum received an update from Steven Lee, Principal Planning Officer regarding the City Centre Eastern Fringes Area Action Plan. It was reported that the Action Plan was concerned with regenerating 65 hectares of the city centre through 8 character areas. Work had begun in 2005, and two consultations had been held. Now the plan had progressed to the preferred option, and further consultation was being held on this. The Forum had already considered the presentation, and were invited to ask questions regarding the preferred option. Feedback sheets were also made available for further comments.

The Forum asked how the plan intended to control the plan for no cars in the area, and how this would affect the people who lived there. It was reported that the plan allocated 0.75 cars per house as the area was so close to the city centre that they wanted to encourage other methods of transport. The Forum expressed concerns about the predominance of multi-storey car parks as these were inaccessible to many disabled people. Steven Lee reassured the Forum that Derby City Council had strong policies regarding accessible housing and parking, so he was confident that they would be able to fulfil the needs of the community.

The Forum also raised concerns regarding the plans for shared surfaces, as these areas had been pedestrian only in the previous plans and shared surfaces posed real problems for them. Steven Lee agreed to take back the concerns regarding shared surfaces.

Agreed:

- 1. To note the update**
- 2. for the Forum to express their discontent with the shared spaces identified on the action plan**
- 3. for further comments to be sent to Steven Lee via the feedback forms**

22/08 Transport: Rickshaws and Tuktuks

The Forum received an update from Mike Kay, Environmental Health Officer, regarding the proposals for rickshaws and tuktuks in the city. It was reported that that Taxi Licensing and Appeals committee had decided to recommend that rickshaws and tuktuks be licensed in the city, subject to operators complying with the existing conditions for either Hackney Carriages or private hire vehicles. This would all depend on how operators wanted to be licensed, and they would have to comply with the standards for which ever one they chose. No approaches had been made from potential operators at the time of the meeting. The Forum asked if there had been any indication as to whether they would be able to use pedestrianised areas. It was reported that this was currently unclear, but any further information would be reported back to the Forum.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the update**
- 2. to receive further information on the use of pedestrianised areas as it became available.**

23/08 Deaf Forum

The Forum agreed to defer this item to a later meeting.

24/08 Working for the Council – Employment Statistics

The Forum received the employment statistics for the Council for the period April 2007 to March 2008. It was noted that the Council would be interested in getting referrals from disabled people and this could be done via the job seekers register for disabled people.

Agreed:

1. to note the update
2. to receive a further update in November

25/08 DPDF Project group Minutes

Resolved to receive the Project Group minutes for 9 June and 11 August 2008.

26/08 Open Discussion

The Forum were invited to pass any further comments regarding the previous consultations to Christine Collingwood.

13/08 Information on Forum Workshop

Pam Thompson advised that a workshop would be held for Forum Members in July. The aim would be to review progress made so far, and look for ways to improve the efficacy of the Forum. Members were asked to contact Pam with possible dates. The consensus of Members was that it would be preferable to hold the workshop over one or two evenings.

14/08 Date of next pre-meeting

The Forum agreed that Nancy Pountain, Janet Warner and Sarah Fletcher would attend the next pre-meeting, at a date to be confirmed. .

To be signed by the Chair of the next Ensuing Meeting