

DPDF – Project Group Minutes

6 April 2009

Present

Andrew Hare
Andy Finley
Angela Neill
Marta Hancock
Janet Warner
Pat Fletcher
Judi Bateman
Nancy Pountain
Ann Webster – DCC
Mick Watts – DCC

Apologies

Marion Edge
Christine Yates
Peter Maidens

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

Matters arising

Mick confirmed that a listed building application had been submitted for the new platform lift at the museum.

It was confirmed that the City Centre manager had been contacted about the rickshaw flyer in the city centre newsletter. The manager had commented that the intension of the flyer had been to promote advertising opportunities, and not the service itself.

Mick commented that the design work on Phase 1 of the Castleward proposals was continuing. A further meeting of the Shared Space Working Group would be convened shortly to discuss the design and proposed material.

Mick informed members that he was looking at other options in relation to the funding on dropped kerbs. These included Neighbourhood Board and S106 agreement funding routes.

Group members would be kept informed of developments with these possible funding streams.

Changing Places toilet update

Mick had circulated information about Changing Places toilet design. It was confirmed that a meeting with Adult Social Service colleagues and representatives of Westfield had taken place about the possibility of a facility being incorporated in the Westfield centre. This initial meeting had been positive and a possible location identified. A follow on meeting would soon be held to hopefully agree location, design, costs etc. and agree the way forward to construction.

Group members were supportive of this initiative and the possibility that a second facility should be incorporated in any new or refurbished council accommodation.

Rickshaw update

It was confirmed that rickshaws had been approved for use as private hire vehicles with some amendments. The private hire approval required users of the rickshaw to obtain a ticket from city centre outlets like the TIC or Westfield prior to use.

It had also been confirmed that an 18 month experimental order had been approved which would allow rickshaws to use pedestrianised streets. Objections to the order could be made in the first six months of the 18 month period which ended on 9 October.

Members were disappointed that despite the representations they've made and the comments on the proposal in the Equality Impact Assessment rickshaws had been licensed and apparently approved for use in pedestrianised areas.

It was agreed that an invitation would be extended to both the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation and the Assistant Director Highways and Transport to attend the next meeting of the forum to discuss rickshaw issues. This would be discussed and hopefully agreed at the forum pre-agenda meeting.

Any other business

Mick circulated a picture of the proposed bus station seat. Members commented that the seat should contrast visually with the buildings floor and that arms were required on the seat ends.

Andrew raised the matter of the shopper hopper bus and whether the service was to continue. Mick commented that the service had only recently been launched and was operating for a trial period of 12 months. The service was currently free to use and operated on a continual loop connecting both ends of the city centre.

Cathedral Green visit

The meeting relocated to Cathedral Green to comment on the nearly completed work.

Generally, members express satisfaction with the design and completed work. Judi commented on the bands of small element paving across the footway which delivered a lesser wheelchair ride quality than larger element or seamless paved surfaces. Something which hopefully would be appreciated in future public realm work.

Marta observed that the surface of the bridge itself contained loose fine aggregate. Mick felt this was a consequence of the surface being recently laid and that any loose material would soon dissipate from the bridge surface.

Members expressed some concern about the flood bank on the Stuart Street side of the bridge. The bank which had to be retained in its current location and at its present height had resulted in gradients steeper than desirable. Some adjustments had been made to the gradients to bring them within national guidance but they remained particularly challenging for manual wheelchair users. Mick comment that unfortunately the options for change were extremely limited but he would continue to monitor its usage by disabled people.

Date of next meeting

15 June 2009, 2:00pm, Meeting Room 2, Council House