

Start: 6.30 pm
End: 8.35 pm

DISABLED PEOPLES DIVERSITY FORUM 17 SEPTEMBER 2009

Present: Councillors Ingall and Turner
Cabinet Member – Councillor Mike Carr

In Attendance:

Representing groups

Judi Bateman – Derbyshire Autism Services Group (Chair)
Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group
Roy Jones – CamTAD
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
Janet Warner – Derby Shopmobility
Lynn Gilbey – Derby Homes Traq

City Council Advisors

Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Manager
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Christine Collingwood – Consultation & Engagement Manager
Mick Watts – Access Officer
Laura Butler – Constitutional Services Officer

17/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hird, Chera and Grimadell. Noel Walsh, Pat Flether George Sanders and Alison Hickling

18/09 Introductions

The Forum Members introduced themselves and informed everyone what their organisation does they also welcomed new members.

19/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

Nancy Pountain informed the Forum of a letter she had received on Changing Places Toilets. Mick Watts also informed the Forum that on 19 October 2009, Westfield are opening the first ever Changing Places Toilets on level 1 at 11am. Councillor Skelton and the Westfield Manager will open the toilet. Everyone is welcome to attend.

20/09 Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2009 were reviewed by the Forum and approved.

Minute Number 12/09 – Members wanted to know if the Rickshaws licence had been rescinded. The Forum were told it has been.

Forum Members were still concerned about people cycling in the pedestrianised areas and would like the police to stop it happening. Councillor Ingall informed the members that Councillor Hird and himself would go round Derby City Centre to make sure that it has the correct signs up informing the public that they can not cycle in the pedestrianised areas. Once the signs are up in place the Derbyshire Police will spend a full day taking enforcement action against cyclist.

Minute Number 15/09 – Mick Watts would pass on any Forum members details to Paula McDonald if they would like to contact her.

Minute Number 16/09 – Janet Warner informed the Forum that since Shopmobility had opened on Sundays for a trial period of three months they had only 15 customers in 7 weeks. Westfield have agreed to contain the trial period even though there had been a low turn out so far. Most Forum members felt that it was disappointing and thought it would have been better to trial it nearer Christmas time. Janet advised members that they had no choice for when the trial would take place as Westfield were part funding the trial.

21/09 Updates on matters arising from the previous meeting

Arriva

Mick Watts gave the forum an update from when some Forum members attended the trial of the new buses. Most members felt that the new 09 models were better as the bar is not fixed and allows easy access to wheelchair users. Driver training is the key issue and a group from the forum are working with Arriva to provide their drivers with more efficient training.

Big Screen

This item will be updated at a later meeting.

22/09 Work Programme 2008/09

The Forum considered the work programme. Items 24 to 27 still need to be discussed. If Forum members would like these items on the next work programme then it would need to be put forward at the AGM on 7 October 2009.

Agreed to consider items for next work programme.

23/09 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.

Andy Findlay raised his concern on the care of people with Neuromuscular Dystrophy. He informed the Forum that a centre had been closed down in the DRI and had been moved to the Royal Derby Hospital. From a report he had it shows that people with the impairment can survive longer if they get care from a centre that specialises in people with the impairment. He would like the Forum to contact the PCT's to find out why and how we can be provided with one of these centres.

Councillor Carr informed everyone of the hydrotherapy pool Ivy House. Councillor Ingall requested the number of people within Derbyshire that have this impairment so it can be used to tell the PCT's how many people could be helped by having a centre in Derby.

Andy Findlay asked the Forum to help find a temporary meeting place for the senior's Forum. The location needs to be central as people come from all over. He suggested in the Eagle Centre Market down the right side because there are lots of spare units. Ann Webster agreed to contact Melinda Hardy and ask if this was possible.

Agreed:

- 1. To use the Question and Answer sheet for any issues the Forum members might wish to raise.**
- 2. Contact the PCT's to arrange them attending a Diversity Forum in the Future.**
- 3. Ann Webster to contact Melinda Hardy on the use of the Eagle Centre Market.**

24/09 Jury Service

Judi Bateman informed the Forum of her experience of being called to a Jury Service. After receiving her letter she filled in the questionnaire stating that she would need to claim double the petrol as her husband would need to transport her to and from the court. Also she would need level access for her wheelchair. When Judi received her letter back from the court it said she had been excused from the Jury service. Judi contacted them to find out why. They said because she would be claiming double the fuel and she was in a wheelchair it would be easier for her not to do it. Judi was very upset by this and decided to complain further. In response they apologise and accepted Judi on to the Jury service. Judi wanted to stress to all Forum members that if someone told you, you can't do something then challenge it.

Judi will inform the Forum at a later date once the jury service has been done, how it all went.

Agreed to note the information received.

25/09 Priorities for Work Programme 2009/2010

Forum members put forward some ideas of items they would like on the next work programme, these were as follows:

1. Access to Cathedral Quarter and all the Lanes
2. Car Parking (Blue Badge Holders and Private Parking)
3. Derby Direct Telephone System.
4. Access to loop systems – What's been done and what still needs to be done)
5. Housing Allocation – How disabled people are allocated a house including those with disabled children.
6. Civic Centre
7. DVD of Derby City Councils Civic area as it can't be access by all disabled people.

Agreed to note the items for the work programme.

26/09 Deaf Forum

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

27/09 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. The Forum decided on the theme of information stands, allowing each of them to prompt their services.

28/09 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.**

29/09 Date of next meeting

The Forum agreed that Janet Warner, Nancy Pountain and Roy Jones would attend the next pre-meeting, on 22 October 2009. The next Forum meeting would be held on 19 November 2009.

Forum Members were also reminded about the Annual AGM to be held on 7 October 2009. Pam Thompson requested that everyone return their slips stating if they will be attending.

30/09 For Information: Diversity Forum Meeting Dates 2009/2010

The Forum noted the dates for the Diversity Forums.

Agreed to note the Forum dates.

Minutes End.