

ITEM 9

Rickshaw Assessment

4.30pm to 6.30pm Saturday, 15th November 2008-12-15

Peter and I arrived outside the Assembly Rooms on the Market Place at around 4.30. Not a rickshaw in sight anywhere. The area filled with people and a racket from the stage where local tuneless bands were performing a cacophony of what passes for "Music". Noise appalling. Met Judi and Nancy and Alan.

Eventually, the Police tell us that the rickshaw will be coming down St Peters Street starting at 4.30pm. Make our way to outside the Acropolis café by the Guildhall where Nancy could sit.

Rickshaw eventually arrives in the market Place by the Waterfall around 5.15pm in a procession with a marching band. Peter Alan and I manage to view the vehicle before it is driven off. It was only there for a matter of minutes. What happened to between 4.30pm and 6pm.

I did however manage to get close enough to assess the vehicle.

The following points should be noted:

1. The step into the vehicle is around 12 inches from the ground, making it impossible for most people with any sort of walking difficulties to access.
2. The seat was far too narrow and small for any but the smallest of people to sit on.
3. Only two small people could hope to use it.
4. There did not appear to be any noticeable safety features or anything to hold onto for the passengers.
5. I would query the stability of this vehicle.
6. No room for shopping.;
7. Definitely not wheelchair accessible.
8. The vehicle clearly had difficulties getting around the area through the crowds.
9. Conclusion this vehicle has no place whatsoever within the pedestrian area of Derby as it will serve no useful purpose. Alternatives clearly needed.

Janet Warner (wheelchair user, member Derby Disability Forum, Derby Access Group, Derby Disability Network, Trustee of Derby Shopmobility)

Rickshaw Assessment

15th November 2008 – Peter Warner carer

No mention in article in the Telegraph of rickshaw, why?

See enclosed article.

On asking the police as we had been informed that a rickshaw would be available for inspection between 4.30pm and 6pm why was it not in sight, their reply was that it would be coming down St Peter's Street starting at 4.30pm, it eventually arrived in the Market Place behind the band at around 5.15pm We inspected it before it left hastily a few minutes later.

Comments

1. Accessing the vehicle for anyone with walking difficulties would be impossible as the step was at least 12 inches from ground level.
2. Seating was not wide enough for normal adults, only for two of the most of the slimmest of people.
3. No safety bars or seatbelts visible.
4. No room for shopping.
5. Not accessible for wheelchair users
6. Query stability of vehicle
7. Difficulties in manoeuvring in crowds