

DPDF – Project Group Minutes

12 February 2007

Present

Pat Fletcher
Mr & Mrs Eccarius
Roy Holmes
Janet Warner
Angela Neal
Janice Platt
Amanda Gibson
Andy Finley
Peter Maidens
Marta Hancock
Nick Corbett – Derby Cityscape
Councillor Robin Turner
Lincoln Smithers – DCC
Ann Webster – DCC
Mick Watts – DCC

Apologies

Christine Yates
Marian Edge
Nancy Pountain
Judi Bateman

East Street Works meeting

Lincoln gave a brief presentation on the proposals to:

- De-clutter
- Re-pave
- Remove the disabled people's parking bays
- Re-locate the street traders

Members were informed that the scheme cost was £2.1million with project commencement around mid to late March with completion around September to coincide with the opening of the extended Westfield Centre.

Group members expressed concern that it appeared as though decisions had already been taken in relation to the project and that the presentation was not about consultation or involvement but rather about giving information.

Mick commented that project timescales were extremely tight and that the brief given to officers was to design a scheme that met the four bullet point objectives above. Lincoln and Mick did however comment that any views expressed at the meeting would be communicated to the project board for consideration.

Ann commented that an Equality Impact Assessment for the project should be completed. Ann undertook to raise this matter with project board members directly.

Group comments / suggestions on:

De-cluttering

Members generally supported the de-cluttering of the street, which involved the removal of the inappropriate trees, planters and remaining street furniture.

It was suggested that the new street furniture should be kept down to a minimum. There was a strong view that all the replacement seating should have both arms and backrests, and be bolted down. In relation to colour the visually impaired members commented that black and yellow provided the best contrast. Mick commented that the selected paving and proposed colour for the street furniture would comply with national guidance in relation to light reflectance values.

Re-paving

Members felt that the re-paving material, which was similar to that recently, laid at the Spot was satisfactory. Comment was made about the jointing of the material, which should be as tight and flush as possible.

Removal of disabled people's parking bays

It was explained that it was proposed that the five disabled people's parking bays in East Street would be removed. An audit of the local area had been undertaken and no apparent alternative location for replacement bays had been identified. Discussions were taking place at a senior level with Westfield about the possibility of a number of replacement free parking spaces in their adjacent basement car park. These discussions were currently ongoing.

Some group members were unhappy that the bays were being removed particularly without an identified alternative. Members

also commented that even if it were possible to perhaps have replacement parking bays in the adjacent basement car park there would be some disabled people who due to the barrier ticket arrangements and car park height restrictions who could not use it.

A number of alternative parking locations were suggested they were:

- Morledge
- Thorntree Lane
- Market Place
- Council House car park
- Area around Assembly Rooms car park
- Irongate
- Tenant Street
- London Road adjacent Westfield Centre
- London Road from traffic island to Trinity Street

It was however agreed that a number of the suggested parking locations were to far removed from East Street to be considered a reasonable replacement option. There was some agreements particularly amongst visually impaired members that the removal of vehicles just like the reduction of street furniture would be of benefit.

Some of the members also commented that free parking was not the issue, convenient and accessible parking was however a fundamental requirements.

Re-location of street traders

Members generally supported the re-location of the street traders from East Street. Suggested alternative locations were:

- Cornmarket
- Osnabruck Square

Members also suggested that the pitch size of the new trader locations should be restricted.

Additional issues

Taxi over ranking issues particularly in relation to feeder rank locations were raised along with bus stand locations adjacent the Shopmobility premises. Mick agreed to investigate these matters separately from the East Street proposals.

The control of A-boards was also raised. Mick confirmed that he anticipated that the Council might adopt a guidelines approach to the control of the boards. Mick anticipated that the guidelines if approved would be introduced at the beginning of April and over a six-month period rolled out across the City Centre.

Project Group meeting

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed subject to an amendment relating to powered scooters which should read, “Class 3 – Powered scooters with a maximum speed of 6 and 8 mph”.

Matters arising

Mick confirmed that he would raise the issue again with Westfield regarding the provision of a Changing Places toilet facility in the extended Westfield Centre. He did however comment that most of the toilet accommodation was already built.

Mick commented that he had not yet had the opportunity to progress the issue of further development of the Supporting People issue.

The issue of the purchase and use of mobility scooters was discussed. It was agreed however that there were a number of detailed matters that warranted further discussion including powered scooter use and Derby Shopmobility. Members agreed to put this matter on the next group meeting agenda.

Mick confirmed that following recent articles in the media in relation to Derby Station image issues, the opportunity had been taken to remind those leading the initiative that currently the station did not deliver independent access for disabled passengers to all the platforms. It was agreed that it was important to continue to raise the issue at every opportunity.

City Centre traffic orders

A document had been circulated which related to a consultation in relation to the standardisation of waiting restriction exemptions. Mick confirmed that the Council was currently in the process of transferring to a map based system for the purpose of introducing and identifying parking restrictions. The type and nature of the restrictions and the lengths of road affected and the times that they

apply would remain unchanged. The only noticeable change would be to formalise the facility for Blue Badge holders to park for an unlimited time in on-street pay and display areas and residents only parking zones.

Members welcomed the proposed change for badge holders which if approved would allow free unlimited parking on-street in the areas identified above. There was however a general discussion about off and on-street parking regulations. It was agreed that this matter would be an agenda item for a future meeting.

W H Smith lift provision

Mick commented and members were aware that a platform lift had been installed in the recently opened W H Smith store in the Westfield Centre. Concern had been expressed about a notice inside the lift which prohibited its use by powered scooter users. Mick was investigating why this use was not allowed but an approved inspector had agreed its installation. A second fully accessible entrance would be available in the next few months accessed through the Westfield Centre malls. Members felt it was important however to understand why the installation of such a lift was considered reasonable.

Any other business

None

Date, time and place of next meeting

16 April 2007, at 2:00pm in Meeting Room 2, Council House.