

## **DPDF – Project Group Minutes 10 December 2007**

### **Present**

Janet Warner  
Mr & Mrs Eccarius  
Angela Neill  
Judi Bateman  
Councillor Robin Turner  
Marion Edge  
Andy Finley  
Christine Yates  
Tim Proctor  
Terry Quinn  
Marta Hancock  
Ann Webster – DCC  
Mick Watts – DCC

### **Apologies**

Nancy Pountain  
Pat Fletcher  
Peter Maidens

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed subject to the addition of Marta Hancock, John Eccarius and Angela Neill to the present list.

### **Matters arising**

Mick confirmed that the EIA for the work at the Alvaston District Centre had been completed. A draft would be circulated to Ann, Judi and Nancy for comment.

### **Parking enforcement**

It was confirmed by Mick that following the last group meeting Parking Services colleagues had responded positively to the suggestion of members to be more proactive with Blue Badge enforcement and parking advice. A decision had been taken to launch a Better Parking campaign, which would be timed to coincide with the International Day of Disabled People on 3 December 2007.

The launch of the campaign had received coverage in the media and in the first week of the campaign over 100 advisory notices had been issued to badge holders. Also, a more robust approach was being taken to suspected abuse of the Blue Badge holder scheme. Members expressed their support for the actions being taken, which it was hoped would deliver improved parking options and location accessibility for all disabled people.

### **Travelling on the bus**

Mick had circulated an email sent by the Commercial Director of Trent Barton. The message outlined the company's position in relation to the use of the wheelchair space on their buses. Members appreciated that it could be difficult for drivers if the wheelchair user space was occupied by a buggy, but some members felt that driver could be more pro-active in getting the space vacated. Members referred to the guidance contained in the DRC document "Avoiding Disability Discrimination in Transport". Janet commented that not every Trent Barton bus was accessible as detailed in their email the Red Arrow and Trans Peak buses were not. Janet also commented that she felt that the signage on the vehicle asking for the wheelchair space to be made available on request should be larger. Andy commented however that in his view Trent Barton was one of the better transport providers.

Members expressed the view that they would like to discuss these important issues with a Trent Barton representative, and perhaps even try one of the company's new vehicles. Mick would discuss this request with the company.

### **Concessionary travel**

Circulated previously by Mick was a Department of Transport document about the new concessionary bus travel arrangements coming into force from 1 April 2008. The new arrangements will allow people over 60 and eligible disabled people in England free off peak travel on all local buses anywhere in England.

Historically the Derbyshire concessionary travel scheme had always been more generous than the national minimum. This was to change however with the new national scheme where the authorities in Derbyshire would be offering the national minimum use criteria. The result of this change was that some disabled people who previously qualified for concessionary travel no longer would. Free travel would from the commencement of the new

arrangements be available between 9:30am and 11:00pm Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and public holidays. Concessionary travel by train would no longer be available.

Members expressed their concern about the reduced eligibility criteria, reduced operational hours and removal of train travel. Mick agreed to take these issues forward with Council, Public Transport Unit colleagues.

### **Rickshaws**

Mick informed members that following discussion on this item at the last meeting of DPDF he had been seeking advice from other local authorities who operated a rickshaw service. The responses were:

Leicester – no response to enquiry

Cardiff – service been in operation some time, soon to be extended no problems encountered

London – Transport for London were currently awaiting the results of a High Court case to determine which definition pedicabs (rickshaws) should operate under. TfL did however feel that currently they felt that pedicabs should hold a public service vehicle operators licence issued by the traffic commissioners.

Mick didn't know the Council's current position on this issue and would take advice accordingly and report back to group members.

### **Any other business**

Mick had circulated an article regarding the outcome of a legal case between Holland V Arcadia. The case related to DDA reasonable adjustments in the Stafford, Dorothy Perkins and Burton stores. The case didn't go to court as Arcadia had installed lifts in the stores 3 days before the trial date. Ann commented that she was aware that a lift installer had been commissioned by Arcadia to install lifts in all their stores. Members felt that the case may have not gone to court but it appeared as though a positive outcome to store accessibility had resulted.

Members raised concerns about retail premise accessibility in relation to goods displays. This matter being a particular problem at Christmas when displayed goods levels increase. Mick advised members to initially raise this matter with the store management, and copy him in to any correspondence. If this failed to secure an improvement Mick could give advice on further courses of action.

Marta raised a problem in relation to taxi use at the Spot. Because of the absence of a full height kerb ramp gradients into taxis were steep. Mick agreed to visit site and report back.

**Meeting dates 2008**

Had been previously circulated.

**Date, time and place of next meeting.**

11 February 2008, 2:00pm, Meeting Room 2, Council House