

Start: 6.30 pm
End: 8.35 pm

DISABLED PEOPLES DIVERSITY FORUM 19 NOVEMBER 2009

Present: Councillors Hird (Chair), Chera, Grimadell,
Ingall and Turner

In Attendance:

Representing groups

Ian Gosling – Derby Deaf Forum
Judi Bateman – Derbyshire Autism Services Group
Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group
Roy Jones – CamTAD
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
Noel Walsh – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Richard Williams – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Janet Warner – Derby Shopmobility
Lynn Gilbey – Derby Homes Traq

City Council Advisors

Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Manager
Yvonne Wilkinson – Head of Communications and Consultation
Mick Watts – Access Officer
Laura Butler – Constitutional Services Officer
Carolyn Wilkinson – PMP Genesis
Kathie Warsop - Customer Services Performance and Programme
Manager

31/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from George Sanders, Margaret Reeve, Pam Thompson and Christine Collingwood.

32/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair informed the Forum of two separate meetings. Thursday 10 December 2009, 6pm-8pm allowing members to raise any issues, questions around Grants to Voluntary Organisations. Also Tuesday 12 January 2010, 6pm-8pm for members to get involved in the Councils Budget process.

Mick Watts reported that he had written to Westfield inquiring about the disabled toilets having radar keys fitted. Westfield had informed Roy that they will be fitting another radar lock in the future.

33/09 Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2009 were reviewed by the Forum and approved.

Minute Number 20/09 – The Chair updated the Forum on the City Centre pedestrianised areas being used by Cyclists. Councillor Hird and Ingall have walked around the City Centre and spoke to Derbyshire Constabulary about the lack of signs and will meet with Councillor Care and David Gartside to resolve the problem.

Minute Number 16/09 – Janet Warner informed the Forum that the Shopmobility opening on Sundays had finished. They have agreed with Westfield that at present they won't be opening on Sundays. There will be a review in the future if there is a demand for the Shopmobility to be open on Sundays.

34/09 Updates on matters arising from the previous meeting

Civic Centre

Ann Webster and Andy Findlay have made contact with Melinda Hardy about the use of the Market Place for the Civic Centre.

Jury Service

Judi Bateman updated the Forum with her experience on the Jury Service. Judi reported that the facilities were very poor, there is limited access into the building with the disabled toilet being in the Judges area for the jury. Councillor Ingall requested that we invite the responsible access officer for the courts to attend the Diversity Forum to hear the view and concerns of the Forum for accessibility.

35/09 Work Programme 2009/10

The Forum considered the work programme. Item 12 Access to Cathedral Quarter and all the Lanes. It was decided to arrange a walk around and look at the access for every shop also using the facilities within the shops, such as changing rooms and hearing loops at the tills.

Roy Jones queried as to why the loop system has not been put on the work programme.

Members of the Forum suggested there be a job description for the Disabled Persons Champion, it was agreed that a small committee be set up to produce a job description which will then be brought back to the Forum for comments. One ideal will be for the Disabled person champion to report to Cabinet once a year on issues raised and also what has been done by the Forum.

Items 6 and 7 on car parking within the city was agreed that the chair would write to all the car parks asking what facilities they have and how much they charge for the disabled blue badge holders parking.

36/09 Question and Answer Session

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.

Members of the Forum had raised concern over the new street lighting that was being installed by Lighting Derby which was causing access problems to wheelchair users.

Sue Chetwyn, Nick Perry and Keith Dye attended the meeting to discuss any issues the Forum Members had. Judi Bateman informed the Lighting Derby team with the problem of access when they had dug up both sides of the street to replace the Lampposts people in wheelchairs were unable to get past, they would have to use the road to get past.

Janet Warner inquired as to why some of the new lights had not been put on once they had been installed.

Roy Jones praised the Lighting Derby team saying they have done a great job and the improvements have made it feel a lot safer when out on the streets, but couldn't understand why it took so long between the different areas to be installed.

Keith Dye apologies on behalf off the Lighting Derby team for any problems people had occurred during the street lights being installed. They would like to eliminate problems and deal with them straight away. He informed the Forum that their standards had improved over the last two years.

Noel Walsh requested that they meet with the Derbyshire Association for the Blind as to where the best place for the barriers to be placed when installing the new lights.

Agreed to contact the Lighting Derby Team if any problems occur.

37/09 Working for the Council

The Forum considered the 2008/09 equality employment statistics. The statistics covered recruitment and selection, workforce profile, training and development, disciplinary, grievances, improving employee performance and moving forward with equality aims and objectives.

The Forum welcomed the statistics and also raised the question of disabled people perhaps feeling uncomfortable speaking about their disability with their employer. Ann Webster confirmed that some people were reluctant to tell their employer of their impairment but since the disable people at work form had been

produced much more people have come forward. Also Managers are much more aware of informing employees of the disability at work programme.

Forum members were encouraged to contact Ann Webster if they had more information or questions.

Agreed to note the information received.

38/09 Derby Direct Telephone Service

Kathie Warsop attended the Forum for a discussion on the Derby Direct telephone Service. She informed the Forum that they are currently doing a review on the process and on the facilities that are already in place.

Most Forum members stressed that they would like Derby Direct to have direct numbers like it used to have instead of one number. Most felt that they were on hold for a long time with no one answering. Kathie Warsop confirmed that the statistics for November so far were that the phone was answered in 52 seconds.

It was noted that there should be a direct number for blind people to use, and if a call back could be introduced as it's difficult to write the number down. Also that the use of SMS Text Messages be used to remind people of their appointments or collection times if arranged.

Forum Members were encouraged to contact Kathie Warsop if they had more information.

Agreed to note the information received.

39/09 Open Spaces

Carolyn Wilkinson attended the Forum for a discussion on the adequacy of existing open space, sport and recreation facilities within the city. The aim was to find out what facilities were available, what improvements could be made and what new facilities could be introduced.

The Forum's main concerns were lighting within the parks and walk ways around the open spaces, the lack of toilet facilities available at the parks, also that there are no play facilities for disabled children.

Some members raised the question of the facilities at Moorways for disabled people always being unusable and never being fixed.

The Forum felt that Markeaton Park needs Safety barriers put up around the water features, as it is very dangerous for blind people, also the use of colour on walk ways to help people find their way round the park.

Forum members were encouraged to contact Carolyn Wilkinson if they had more information or questions.

The Forum agreed to contact Carolyn if they wanted or had more information.

40/09 International Day of Disabled People

Ann Webster informed the Forum that it had all been booked and sorted. The Mayor will attend at 11am to officially open it. The event would be called 'In the Know' with representatives from, Derby Homes, CAMTAD, Shop Mobility, DAB and the Derby City Council.

Agreed to note the update.

41/09 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.**

42/09 Date of next meeting

The Forum agreed that Janet Warner, Judi Bateman, Lynn Gilbey and Roy Jones would attend the next pre-meeting, on 17 December 2009. The next Forum meeting would be held on 21 January 2010.

Minutes End.