

DPDF – Project Group Minutes

10 August 2009

Present

Andrew Hare
Andy Findley
Angela Neill
Councillor Maggie Hird
Janet Warner
Judi Bateman
Ann Webster – DCC
Mick Watts – DCC
Andy Smart – DCC
Mark Larder – Atkins
Paula McDonald – Derbyshire CC

Apologies

Trevor Ford
Christine Yates
Marion Edge
Marta Hancock
Nancy Pountain

Full Street Corridor

Andy explained that that the Full Street corridor project was a key part of the Derby Cityscape masterplan and Public Realm strategy. The project was developed from a design vision and is now at the detailed design stage. The detailed design is being carried out for the whole of the project, except the Council House car park and the land to the rear of the Silk Mill. Atkins is the design consultants and the council are the funding and project management organisation.

Physical work on Stage 1 of the project which started at the controlled crossing adjacent the bus station to East Street was planned to commence February 2010 and be completed by the end of June 2010. Stage 2 from East Street to the Albert Street junction being completed by the end of October 2010.

Janet stressed the importance of a Derby Shopmobility pick up and drop off point adjacent their entrance. Andy confirmed that a Community Transport bay had been included in the design.

Judi commented that as a person who accesses her vehicle at the rear on-street parking opportunities were very limited. Judi hoped there would be the opportunity to incorporate such parking within this scheme. Ann also commented that there was an absence of on-street disabled people's parking in the area and that the temporary disabled people's in Osnabruck Square had proved to be very popular.

Andy commented that it was essential that he understood the issues for disabled people arising out of the detailed design proposals. To help with this process he suggested that an EIA be undertaken of Stages 1 & 2. It was therefore agreed that the assessment would be undertaken on 17 August. Janet and Andrew asked to be part of the assessment team and Mick suggested that Noel Walsh as a visually impaired person also be present. Once completed a draft EIA document would be circulated to members for information and comment.

Integrated Emergency Management

Paula explained that she was an Emergency Planning Officer for Derbyshire County Council. Paula wanted to understand better the issues for disabled people should there be a need to evacuate neighbourhoods in an emergency. Members commented that issues such as accessible accommodation, access to medication and personal care issues would need to be considered as part of any emergency evacuation strategy. It was agreed that Paula would provide a questionnaire for member's completion, which would be circulated by Mick.

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

Matters arising

Mick confirmed that he was hopeful that more dropped kerbs would be installed this financial year than previous years. This was due to additional funding being available from Neighbourhood Board and Safe Routes to Schools budgets.

It was confirmed that construction work was soon to commence on a Changing Places toilet located in the Westfield Centre. Completion was due early October.

Mick commented that the latest information he had was that rickshaws were now not to be operational in the city.

Judi commented that she was unhappy with the access arrangements at the recently held Bereavement Services Forum, which took place at Stores Road. Mick commented that he'd contact the relevant colleague to ensure improved access arrangements were in place for the forums next meeting.

Ann commented that EIA would be undertaken of any proposals to reduce the city's CCTV coverage.

Mick commented that there were no designated disabled people's parking bays in the Ford Street car park, he would see if a number could be marked.

Any other business

Andy circulated a document titled 'Join the Big Care Debate' which was a government document about the launch of the Green Paper on proposed changes to care and support for disabled people. The consultation period for the proposals closes on the 13 November 2009 and it was agreed that Mick would circulate the document with the next Forum papers.

Ann briefed members about a couple of experiences she had encountered recently with the cleanliness of disabled people's toilets. The previous disabled users or their carers had left the toilets in a dirty state rendering them unusable. It was agreed that Mick would draft a press release from Maggie as the Council's, Disabled People's Champion about the importance of disabled people ensuring that they or their carers left the toilet facilities in a clean and usable condition for subsequent users.

Maggie commented that she had concerns about the accessibility of one of the ladies toilets in Quad. Mick asked Maggie to contact him so he could understand better the issues prior to discussion with Quad staff.

Maggie also commented that she was soon to meet the Police about cycling issues in the city centre, particularly in relation to cycling in pedestrianised areas, which was currently prohibited. Mick agreed to send Maggie an email he had sent to Councillor Care about this.

Mick had circulated a request from Derbyshire County Council in relation to membership of the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum. The Forum was a mechanism by which the authorities could understand better access issues in relation to rural environments. Jon expressed an interest in membership and he agreed to contact Ray Brown for further information.

Mick briefed members on his recent meeting at Derby station. Mick confirmed in relation to Janet's concerns about the size of the new lifts that they fully complied with regulation requirements.

Next meeting

12 October 2009 at 2:00pm, Meeting Room 2, Council House