

## **DPDF – Project Group Minutes 11 December 2006**

### **Present**

Janet Warner  
Christine Yates  
Nancy Pountain  
Judi Bateman  
Amanda Gibson  
Marion Edge  
Cordell Jackson  
Marta Hancock  
Angela Neal  
Councillor Robin Turner  
Andy Humberstone – DCC  
Mick Watts – DCC

### **Apologies**

Peter Maidens  
Ann Webster

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed

### **Matters arising**

Mick commented that he was aware that the issue of cycling in St. Peter's Street had been discussed at Full Council and following a statement made by the Leader it was now unlikely that cycling would be permitted in the street.

Mick confirmed that groundwork in preparation for the start of construction after Christmas on the Quad project had commenced. The building was due for completion Spring 2008.

It was confirmed by Mick that he had held preliminary discussions with Westfield regarding the construction of a Changing Places toilet facility within the extended Eagle Centre. Members felt that such a facility was needed and would be a valuable addition to the centres facilities. Mick agreed to discuss again with Westfield, and to contact government about perhaps the inclusion of such a facility in future Building Regulation guidance.

Mick commented that he had met with a representative of Next the owners of the Lime building in St. Peter's Street to discuss access improvements to and within the store. A scheme, which would deliver independent access to the ground floor of the premises, was possible. Mick had encouraged such a solution but reminded members that he could not require adjustments to be implemented.

### **Supporting People**

Members welcomed Andy Humberstone, Supporting People (SP) Manager. Andy informed members that SP was a government programme to help people live more independently and to maintain their accommodation. The programme provided funding for housing related support that is usually provided by wardens in housing schemes or support workers.

Andy confirmed that the government provided a grant of around £10 million for SP services within the City, the services themselves being delivered by individual housing providers. A number of members received, and were experienced in the delivery of SP services and raised detailed concerns about the nature and quality of some specific services.

It was agreed that it would perhaps be appropriate to hold a separate meeting between recipients and providers of SP services to explore in more detail service provision and quality. Mick agreed to liaise with Andy on meeting set up details.

### **Mobility scooters**

Mick had circulated an article published in the national press regarding the expanding use of powered mobility scooters and wheelchairs, and that most users were apparently breaking the law by failing to register the scooters with the DVLA. The article had caused some concern amongst scooter users and the National Federation of Shopmobility's UK had issued a statement of clarification following discussions with the DVLA. A copy of the statement had been circulated. Under regulations there are three class of mobility equipment:

Class 1 – Manual wheelchairs

Class 2 – Powered wheelchairs and scooters with a maximum speed of 4mph

Class 3 – Powered scooters with a maximum speed of 8mph

The DVLA had confirmed that Class 3 scooters only need to be registered for road use, be licensed in the “disabled” taxation class and display a nil tax disc. It will not however be necessary to display registration plates.

Janet commented that Derby Shopmobility (DSM) were experienced and aware of the scooter registration issues. It was also confirmed by Janet that DSM assess and train all new customers prior to allowing equipment booking. Members felt that nationally Shopmobility schemes were at the forefront of best practice in relation to the use of mobility equipment. Of concern however was the lack of control and consistency in the supply of mobility equipment and the absence of any insurance requirements.

### **Station accessibility**

Circulated was information from the Department of Transport in relation to the latest round of rail stations to receive funding to improve access for disabled passengers. Improved independent access to all Derby station platforms was not on the list. Members expressed their disappointment that Derby had missed out again on the Access for All programme funding. Mick agreed to contact the department to seek clarification as to why Derby had been omitted, and seek an assurance if possible that the much need adjustments would be implemented.

### **Cycling St. Peter's Street**

Mick confirmed that as far as he was aware the proposal to permit cycling before 10:00 and after 17:00 hrs in St. Peter's Street for a trial period had been dropped. Members welcomed this and thanked Robin for his support.

### **Any other business**

None

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

A list of the 2007 meeting dates was circulated. The next meeting however was to be held on 12 February 2007 @ 2:00pm in Meeting Room 2, Council House