

DPDF – Project Group Minutes 16 April 2007

Present

Pat Fletcher
John and Mrs Eccarius
Janet Warner
Angela Neal
Andy Finley
Peter Maidens
Marta Hancock
Nancy Pountain
Judi Bateman
Christine Yates
Marion Edge
Councillor Robin Turner
Ann Webster – DCC
Mick Watts – DCC

Apologies

Amanda Gibson

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

Matters arising

Mick commented that work on de-cluttering and re-paving East Street had just started with work due to be completed towards the end of September.

Mick confirmed that following the group's strong views about the loss of the five disabled people's parking bays four temporary bays had been created in Osnabruk Square. Members felt that the temporary replacement bays would be a help to some disabled people, but it was important to review the parking provision for Blue Badge holders in the East Street, Morledge area particularly following the completion of the new bus station and associated highway work. Mick gave an assurance that this review would happen in consultation with group members.

Derby Shopmobility

Janet distributed information about Derby Shopmobility and gave a brief presentation on the work of the organisation. Janet confirmed that the organisation had nearly 4000 members and over 20 pieces of mobility equipment. The organisation was part funded by the Council and generated further revenue through charging and donations. Westfield had also agreed to provide some funding for the organisation.

A-boards update

Mick confirmed that the Planning Control Committee on the 22 March 2007 approved a guidelines approach to the control of A-boards. Mick stated that he felt that the guidelines would have a significant impact on the number of boards out in the City Centre. The guidelines would initially be rolled out throughout City Centre streets and their effectiveness monitored. Businesses with A-boards had received a letter asking them to remove their board if they felt it did not comply with the guidelines. A couple of weeks would be given for businesses to comply following which Council staff would visit the business and initially request their removal. If the board continued to be displayed and did not comply with the guidelines it would be removed.

Members felt that it was clearly too early to judge whether the approved approach would be effective. It was felt that it would be evident by the number of boards' on-street in a few months. Following a question Mick commented that if Members had concerns about boards obstructing the footway outside of the City Centre they should contact him.

Cathedral Green

Mick thanked Ann and project group members for their help in undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment for Cathedral Green. The assessment process had resulted in some amendments to the proposals to make it more accessible to disabled users.

Concern was expressed about possible amendments to the design of Full Street, which currently appeared not to be part of the Cathedral Green proposals. Mick gave an assurance to members that when proposals were available for Full Street he would consult members for their views.

Platform lifts

Mick had circulated a message from Stannah Lifts in relation to the 'No scooters' note in one of their lift installations in a City Centre store. The apparent reason for such a restriction was because it was not possible to conduct a product risk assessment against scooters of unknown speed, capacity and weight and therefore their use was excluded in both their product and within the harmonised EU standard.

Some members commented that despite the notice they have seen powered scooter users using the lifting device. Mick commented that if users had concerns then they should raise them directly with the store management concerned.

East Street update

See matters arising

Lime, St. Peter's Street

Circulated by Mick was a drawing produced by Next property services, which detailed proposed access improvements to the Lime store. The proposed improvements were a result of Ann raising this issue with Next.

Beacon status

Mick had circulated a paper in relation to a possible Council beacon status application in the next round for improving accessibility. Member's felt that some significant improvements had been made by the Council towards providing full inclusion and accessibility but that there was still some way to go. Mick felt that any application without the support of disabled people themselves lacked credibility. In light of the comments made it was felt that an application at this time was not appropriate.

Any other business

Judi raised the matter of the public consultation process in relation to the Alvaston District Centre improvements. Judi was concerned that she had not been made aware of the consultation despite making representations to the Council. Mick was not aware of the consultation strategy for the proposals but promised Judi that he would arrange for a colleague to contact her and seek her views.

An Equality Impact Assessment for the proposals would need to be undertaken. Ann would arrange the detail of this but clearly the input of Judi and Nancy into this important project was required.

Date, time and place of next meeting

11 June 2007, 2:00pm, Meeting Room 2