

Time commenced : 6.30 pm
Time finished : 8.35 pm

**DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
21 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Present: Councillor Turner (in the Chair)
Councillors Chera, Liversedge, Rawson and Troup

Representing groups

Judi Bateman – DCIL
Beverly Bowman – Derby Shop Mobility
Pat Fletcher – DCIL
Marta Hancock – Disability Direct
Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
George Sanders - CamTAD
Trevor Ford – DSHC
Pat Taylor – DAB

City Council Advisors

Andrew Auld – Head of Communications and Consultation
Sarah Turner – Constitutional Services Officer
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Colin Stewart – Contract Development Officer
Mick Connell – Senior Assistant Director – Adult Social Services
Mahroof Hussain – Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer

Also Present

Mary Walters – BSL Interpreter
H Blunden – BSL Interpreter

15/06 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harbon, Maurice Kilminster – Derby Osteoporosis Group, Edith Storer – EMASH, Martin Austin – Freedom Forum, Amarjit Raju – Disability Direct and Mick Watts – Access Officer.

16/06 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following items as a matter of urgency:

Cycling on St Peter's Street – This issue needed to be discussed to advise members of the meeting of the Environment Commission on 25 September – Minute Number 27/06 refers.

Derby Cityscape – Public Realm Strategy, Public Consultation Plan September/October 2006. The Committee considered a report tabled at the meeting from Cityscape on the Public Consultation Plan for the Derby Cityscape – Public Realm Strategy, which proposed dates for specific consultation with the Equality Advisory Committees. The following members of the Committee

volunteered to take part in the consultation events: Nancy Pountain, Trevor Ford, Marta Hancock and Judy Bateman.

Disabled Persons Rail Card – Councillor Turner announced that there would be a 25th Anniversary of the Disabled Persons Rail Card celebration and asked if a member of the Committee would like to attend. Marta Hancock volunteered to attend.

17/06 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18/06 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2006 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/06 Review of Home Care Services and Charges

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services regarding the Adult Services and Health Commission's review of home care services and charges. Mahroof Hussain, Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer, asked the Committee to nominate two representatives to give evidence on behalf of the Committee at a special meeting of the Adult Services and Health Commission on 29 September.

Resolved to appoint Marta Hancock and Trevor Ford as the Disabled People's Advisory Committee's representatives at the special meeting of the Adult Services and Health Commission on 29 September 2006.

20/06 Assistive Technology Strategy

The Committee considered a report on the Derby preventative technology grant strategy for 2006-9. The Derby Preventative Technology Grant Strategy would fund the future development of this service. A strategy was essential in order to ensure that a proper process was in place to deliver the aims of the project and to manage the investment plan appropriately.

Mick Connell, Senior Assistant Director - Adult Social Services, reported that the development of Preventative Technology was seen as an opportunity to enable older people and adults with disabilities to remain more independent at home for longer. The service would be provided through Care Link. People would have to be assessed to check their eligibility. Equipment would be provided to all those who met the eligibility criteria. The first six weeks of the service would be free but after that individuals would pay Care Link a weekly fee.

The objective was to initially support 720 people during this period, although sensors would not be imposed on anyone. Firstly the Council would need to establish how best to meet an individuals needs.

A member of the Committee asked if the service was available if you were currently using another service provider. Mick Connell responded that the Council were currently working with Care Link, however he did think that in future the Council would have to tender for the service. He hoped that the Council would still be able to provide equipment to individuals that wanted to stay with their current provider.

Resolved to note the report.

21/06 Highway Winter Service

The Committee considered a report on the strategy for the provision of the Highway Winter Service to enable the Council to maintain the highways for which it is responsible during periods of adverse weather.

Colin Stewart, Contract Development Officer, advised the Committee that he had met with Ann Webster, Nancy Pountain and Judy Bateman, and they had looked at the equality impact of the service. This raised a few issues and they also recognised that there were needs through the Social Services Department and the NHS. It was suggested that staff and service providers in these areas should be provided with details of who to contact in episodes of bad weather. Colin advised that he had contacted the NHS and Social Services but had not yet received a response.

Nancy Pountain added that Ann Webster, Judy Bateman and herself were going to produce a list of questions and answers relating to key issues that could come up. They were also going to discuss the possibility of compiling a register of vulnerable people and service providers that would need safe access.

Councillor Liversedge asked if unadopted roads would be treated. Colin Stewart responded that unadopted roads would not be treated by the Council as until the roads were adopted by the Council they remained the developer's responsibility.

A member of the Committee asked if there would be a points system and would the Council need a list from Shopmobility or Derbyshire Association for the Blind detailing how many people will need to visit each premises over the winter. Colin Stewart responded that there was no facility to meet individual needs or the needs of individual groups. Colin added that he would note the Committee's comments and issues when looking at the future development of the service.

Resolved to note the report.

22/06 Postal Voting

Members of the Committee asked for an update on the Council's postal voting arrangements and for details on the new Electoral Administration Act. The Committee had made comments on postal voting in 2004 and had yet to receive a response to the concerns raised.

The Committee were advised that if they wanted to see the content of the Electoral Administration Act they could access it on the Electoral Commission Website at www.electoralcommission.gov.uk.

Pat Taylor advised that Derbyshire Association for the Blind were working with the RNIB formulating a response to the Act.

Resolved to ask the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services to attend a future meeting to address the Committee's comments and concerns.

23/06 Update on Proposals to Change the Three Equality Advisory Committees

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services giving an update on the proposals to change the three Equality Advisory Committees.

Pam Thompson, Consultation Support Officer, advised the Committee that the proposals to change the three Advisory Committees to three Equality Forums were agreed by Council Cabinet on 1 August 2006 and then by Council on 13 September 2006. The Advisory Committees had been successfully deconstituted and were now operating as Equality Forums. The Committee were asked to nominate 4 or 5 members to form a working group to discuss the new working arrangement. Pam Thompson advised that she would put together the key working protocols and the working group could discuss and change what needed to be changed. This would then be considered by the Committee at the next meeting and once agreed, referred to Council for approval.

Pam reported that Councillor Turner had been appointed the Champion for Disabled People and that the extended membership of the Disabled People's Equality Forum would include representatives for learning disability and mental health.

Resolved to appoint Judy Bateman, Trevor Ford, Marta Hancock, Pat Taylor, Beverley Bowman and Nancy Pountain to working group to discuss the new working arrangements for the Disabled People's Equality Forum and to consider the new guidelines and protocol at the next meeting of the Committee.

24/06 Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum Update

Judy Bateman and Nancy Pountain advised the Committee that the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum met on 16 June 2006 and discussed the following:

Rights of way improvement plans progress
Open access land in the County
Greenways in the County

The next meeting would be held at Arboretum Park on a date to be arranged.

25/06 International Day for Disabled People Update

Nancy Pountain advised the Committee that the International Day for Disabled People would be held on 1 December 2006. It was hoped that the event would be held outside Sainsbury's in the Eagle Centre. The theme for the event would be

'You Can just Do It!' the idea being that the event would focus on famous people who were disabled. They wanted disabled people from Derby and Derbyshire who had achieved something to attend the event. The event would also be supported by Derby Association for the Blind and the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services. The Mayor, Councillor Ahern, and his wife would also be invited to open the event. The event would include a tombola and face painting for children. Any other suggestions would be welcome. It was hoped that funding for the event would be granted from the Co-op.

Resolved to note the update.

26/06 Deaf Forum

Alison Hicking advised the Committee that in July there was a problem with Goldcards as bus drivers were asking Deaf people where they were going. This created problems for the Deaf community as the main reason for cards being issued in the first place was the communication difficulties. The Deaf Forum had met with Arriva who had passed the issue to the Council.

Suggested ideas for solving the problem were for each bus to have a route map so that the Deaf person could point to where they were going, and for Deaf people to have different coloured stripes on their Goldcard so that drivers would automatically know they were Deaf. Arriva have said they would take on board these comments. Alison agreed to report back to the next meeting on this issue.

Alison advised the Committee that discussions were still ongoing with the Health Authorities regarding interpreters. There was a meeting of the Deaf Forum on 22 September, it was hoped that someone from PALS and the PCT's would come.

Alison advised that the second information day would be May 2007.

Resolved to note the update.

27/06 Cycling on St Peter's Street

Councillor Turner provided the Committee with a copy of a letter to the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Community and an email response regarding the Committee's opposition to the proposal to permit cycling in St Peter's Street for a trial period.

Councillor Turner stated that he was not happy with the response received. The Environment Commission had agreed to scrutinise this issue at its meeting on 25 September. Councillor Turner asked for two volunteers to attend the meeting with him to put forward the Committee's views on this issue. Nancy Pountain and Pat Taylor volunteered to attend the meeting with Councillor Turner.

28/06 Work Programme

Members considered the work programme for 2006/07. Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer, updated members on changes to the work programme.

A member of the Committee asked for the following item to be discussed at the next meeting:

Loop System at the Crematorium.

Minutes End