

DPDF – Project Group Minutes 9 June 2008

Present

Terry Quinn
Councillor Chera
Marta Hancock
Roy Holmes
Janet Warner
Judi Bateman
Nancy Pountain
Tim Proctor
Angela Neill
Ray Mather
Ann Webster – DCC
Mick Watts – DCC

Apologies

Pat Fletcher
Christine Yates
Andy Finley
Marian Edge
Councillor Turner

Minutes of previous meeting – 14 April 2008

Agreed

Matters arising

Mick confirmed that he continues to work with colleagues on the next phases of the Alvaston District Centre work.

Mick confirmed that he still had not had the opportunity to investigate the possibility of constructing a raised kerb in the taxi rank at the Spot. Marta commented also that there was a similar problem at the rank adjacent the railway station, and Ann confirmed that there was a similar problem at Markeaton Crematorium. Mick agreed to investigate all three locations and report back.

Councillor Chera asked if any response had been received to the letter that he had sent to the Chair of Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee regarding taxis stopping in the Victoria Street bus stops

in the evening. Mick commented that a reply had not been received and he would discuss sending the letter again with the new DPDF Chair.

It was confirmed by Mick that the traffic order on Green Lane had change to mainly on-street charging of which Blue Badge holders were exempt on 9 June 2008.

Judi asked about what progress was being made on seeking the views of disabled people about the Castleward proposals and the element of shared space within it. Members asked whether a site visit would be arranged to evaluate an in situ shared space scheme. Mick commented that he would discuss these issues with colleagues and give an update at the next group meeting.

Minutes of Arriva bus inspection – 13 May 2008

Agreed

Matters arising

Mick thanked the members that attended the bus inspection. Janet commented that in her view two main issues came out of the inspection.

Firstly, how difficult it appeared to be to dock the bus with the raised access bus stop kerb, and the difficulty some mobility equipment users had in locating themselves in the wheelchair user space, despite it complying with DDA Vehicle Accessibility Regulations. Janet felt and members agreed that the difficulty could be mainly attributed to the location of a vertical support rail. Janet reminded the group that the Arriva representative at the meeting had commented that any new buses purchased in 2009 and beyond would have the drop down rail instead of the vertical pole which should improve wheelchair space accessibility.

Carriage of wheelchairs, scooters, buggies and cycles

Previously circulated was a document provided at the bus inspection about the carriage of wheelchairs, scooters, buggies and cycles on Arriva buses. More copies of the document were being sought.

Tuk Tuk's and Rickshaws

Mick had circulated a briefing paper he had produced about Tuk Tuk's and Rickshaws which had been considered by Taxi Licensing & Appeals Committee on 23 April 2008 as part of Members consideration whether to licence these modes of transport.

The committee deferred the application for further information, but members of the forum confirmed that Mick's briefing note articulated accurately their views, which are that the Council shouldn't license either inaccessible modes of transport.

Nottingham Road cemetery access

Ray with the help of some photographs circulated by Mick described the difficulties he and other disabled and older people were encountering in accessing independently Nottingham Road cemetery.

The problems centred on having to open the cemetery gate with a RADAR key. This necessitated getting out of the vehicle travelling over a granite sett surface then getting back in the vehicle driving through the gate, and getting out again to lock the gate. Cemetery reception also has a stepped approach and there are male and female toilets but no disabled people's facility.

Group members agreed the access procedure and physical access arrangements were unreasonable. It was agreed that Ann, with Ray's help would contact the Bereavement Services Manager about EIA issues for the service. Members also asked for this issue to be put on the DPDF work programme. Mick would arrange.

Quad landscaping

Following some concerns raised at by members at the previous meeting about the Quad landscaping design Mick had secured some modifications to the design. One of the main concerns being the stone sett vehicular route, which when accessing Quad from the direction of the Market Place needed to be crossed. An accessible route across the setts had now been secured which was accepted by members as reasonable.

Nancy asked about the steps to the rear of Quad adjacent Tenant Street and the absence of a ramped route. Mick didn't know why

these steps had been incorporated but would find out and report back at the next meeting.

Any other business

Janet raised concerns about the accessibility of some of the shops at the Nottingham Road district centre. It was agreed that Mick and Janet would meet at the shops to identify areas of concern and decide what action should be taken to improve the centre's accessibility.

Judi mentioned that an induction loop hadn't been available for the Alvaston Neighbourhood Forum meeting, Mick would investigate.

Date, time and place of next meeting

11 August 2008, 2:00pm, Meeting Room 2, Council House