

DPDF – Project Group Minutes 11 February 2008

Present

Trevor Ford
Roy Holmes
Janet Warner
Angela Neill
Judi Bateman
Andy Finley
Christine Yates
Tim Proctor
Terry Quinn
Marta Hancock
Nancy Pountain
Ann Webster – DCC
Mick Watts – DCC

Apologies

Marion Edge
Pat Fletcher
Peter Maidens

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

Matters arising

Mick confirmed that work had started on the street work upgrade of Alvaston District Centre.

It was confirmed by Mick that Ian Morgan, Commercial Director of Trent Barton would be attending the next group meeting.

Ann informed members that the Equality and Human Rights Commission has supporting a legal case for reasonable adjustments against the Arcadia group. Group members would be briefed on the outcome of the case when available.

Mick commented that he had not had the opportunity to consider the taxi access issue at the Spot, but would for the next meeting.

Cityscape materials palette

Mick had circulated details of the materials palette taken from the Cityscape Public Realm Strategy. Also, circulated at the meeting was information about a public exhibition titled “Transforming Streets and Squares” and a draft landscape design for the area adjacent the Quad building.

Members were generally supportive of the material palette much of which had been used in previous public realm projects. Members did however express major concerns about the use of sett type carriageway material similar to that used in East Street. Members felt that setts and the necessary pointing between them did not provide a satisfactory surface not only for wheelchair users but other older and disabled people. Members commented that they were basing their comments on their experience of the East Street sett material; if a trial area of the material detailed in the palette was available they could then base their views on use experience. It was agreed that Mick would make Cityscape and the Council’s, Public Realm Board aware of the groups concerns.

Members discussed the landscape proposals for the area surrounding Quad. Concerns were expressed about the proposed sett material on the carriageway route. Without having the benefit of a trial area members felt that again because of their experience in East Street a sett material wasn’t acceptable. Mick would inform the scheme design group of members concerns.

Shared space – Guide Dogs executive summary

A summary of the trials of different delineators for possible use in shared space environments was circulated. The trial research concluded that of the seven delineators used by both visually and mobility impaired pedestrians only two of the delineators warranted further more detailed research. These were the central delineator and the slope profile.

Early thoughts in relation to the Castleward shared space proposals was that a 30mm kerb along with colour contrasting kerb, carriageway and footway would be used. The Guide Dogs research however had concluded that a 30mm kerb had recorded fails for both visually and mobility impaired people.

Members suggested that for them to be able to make a judgement on the appropriateness of shared space delineators it would be

helpful to visit a location that already had shared space streets, and that a trial area of the Castleward proposal be made available for testing and comment. Mick agreed to forward members' comments to the Castleward lead officer.

Parking issues

Mick had circulated an email which detailed three areas in the City Centre where concerns had been raised by other road users about Blue Badge holder parking, they were:

- London Road adjacent Wilkos and Argos
- Babington Lane opposite Waterstones
- Top of St. Mary's Gate

Members were supportive of better structure to Blue Badge holder parking in the City Centre. Mick commented that proposals were being considered in relation to amendments to the traffic orders in the three locations. When the proposals were worked up Mick would bring them back to the group for consideration.

Obstructions in shops

Members had asked that this item be included on the agenda because of their concerns about the internal layouts of some shops which restricted access for disabled people.

Mick commented that he felt initially this was an issue between the disabled customer and the service provider. He felt that if possible the disabled customer should raise any access concerns directly with the shop manager in person on their visit and follow this up with a letter containing recommendations for change. If this approach failed to deliver an improvement then members should let Mick know and he would contact the service provider, and again recommend adjustments. Mick commented however that he had no power to require shop adjustments; this would have to be an issue for the disabled customer under DDA legislation.

Nancy as Chair of Derby Access Group agreed to put this issue on the agenda for the next group meeting.

Any other business

None

Date, time and place of next meeting

14 April 2008, 2:00pm, Meeting Room 2, Council House.