

DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
3 NOVEMBER 2005
MINUTE EXTRACT

41/05 A-Boards

Councillor Turner advised that he had attended a meeting with Jonathan Guest, Director of Development and Cultural Services, Councillor Repton, Member for Planning and Transportation, Mick Watts, Access Officer, Pat Taylor and Nigel Johns from Derbyshire Association for the Blind. Views that had been expressed at this meeting were that not enough work had been done yet as there had not been a City Centre Manager for two years although there was now one in place. Next year with the de-criminalisation of parking coming to the Council, they would take on extra responsibilities and there would be more staff and more opportunity to deal with things the Police were not doing at the moment. They also believed that relationships with private organisations would be affected. They said they would look at a pilot scheme next year which should improve the situation with A-Boards.

Nigel Johns added that the understanding was the Council did not have a policy and he felt that if they were going to come up with the idea of a pilot there had to be a policy in place first. A lot of work needed to be done and there was no indication of how long a pilot would be and it seemed like the Council had no intention of introducing a zero tolerance approach to A-Boards. It was their belief that the city centre manager was in favour of keeping A-Boards and wanted to know if this was the case. Derbyshire Association of the Blind's approach would be to continue to support members of their group in any legal action they wished to take. He remained unconvinced of the policy and the intention to have a zero tolerance approach and he was looking for commitment from decision makers at the Council.

Pat Fletcher commented that disabled people were sick of A-Boards in the city. It was time that this Committee was listened to.

Nigel Johns stated that they should find out the views of the City Centre Manager and invite them to the next meeting of the Committee. Mick Watts responded that the Committee could invite the City Centre Manager to the meeting but it was not the role of City Centre management to determine policy on this issue.

It was suggested that Councillor Repton be invited to the meeting. Nigel Johns asked if the Committee could ask for a time commitment for when the draft policy would be available for the Committee to consider and when a pilot would be implemented. Nigel also asked that details about asking questions at Full Council meetings be sent to him.

Resolved

- 1. to ask Council Cabinet for a time commitment of when a draft policy for A-Boards would be available and when would a pilot scheme be implemented**
- 2. to invite Councillor Repton to the next meeting of the Committee to address their concerns about A-Boards.**