

ITEM 5

Start: 6.31 pm
End: 8.35 pm

DISABLED PEOPLE'S DIVERSITY FORUM 22 April 2010

Present: Councillor Hird (Chair)
Councillor Ingall
Councillor Grimadell

Representing groups

Judi Bateman – Derbyshire Autism Services Group
Andy Findlay – Muscular Dystrophy Campaign
Wendy Daunt – Deaf Forum
Robert Daunt – Deaf Forum
George Sanders – CamTAD
Roy Jones – CamTAD
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
Janet Warner – Derby Shopmobility
Lynn Gilbey – Derby Homes Traq
Carol Brown – Derby County Primary Care Trust
Anita Thomas – Derby County Primary Care Trust

City Council Advisors

Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Manager
Mick Watts – Access Officer
John Emery – Sign Language Interpreter
Mary Walters – Sign Language Interpreter
Christine Collingwood – Consultation Support Manager
PC Nick Allgood – Derbyshire Constabulary
PCSO Linda Ball – Derbyshire Constabulary

67/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chera, Steve Rigby, Richard Williams, Margaret Reeve, Noel Walsh,

68/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

69/09 Notes from Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 18 March 2010 were approved by the Forum.

70/09 Updates on matters arising from previous meeting

Ann Webster introduced PC Nick Allgood and PCSO Linda Ball to the Forum. PC Allgood explained to members of the Forum that the Police were aware of the ongoing problem concerning cyclists in the City Centre and were dealing with cyclists misusing the streets. It was confirmed that the police felt the current signs were inadequate and that they had met with Councillors to arrange new provision for signs within the city. Councillor Hird updated Forum members on the outcome of the recent meeting between Councillors and Council Officer David Gartside. It was agreed that temporary signs for cyclists would be placed in the city. However, there was some confusion, as at the Disabled People's Diversity Forum Project Group it was understood that there would be no signs going up.

Councillor Grimadell questioned why temporary signs were to be used and Councillor Hird stated that the success of the signs during a period was to be assessed. Councillor Ingall raised concern that the meeting was 8 weeks ago and still no signs had been placed. He raised further concern that the problem could be due to a lack of information and that preventative measures such as clear signage would help to educate cyclists, stating that permanent signs were required now.

Resolved to:

- 1) Chair to write to Cabinet Member stating that the Forum want clear signs for cyclists to coincide with the awareness campaign.**
- 2) Councillors Hird, Grimadell and Ingall to receive copies of the letter.**

71/09 Work Programme 2009/2010

The Forum considered the work programme. It was agreed that items 14 and 16 on the work programme would be considered at the next meeting.

Andy Findlay raised the question whether Item 18: Role of Forum Champion should be taken to the Project Group for discussion. It was confirmed by Ann Webster and Pam Thompson that a Sub Group had been agreed with Councillors but this was yet to be arranged.

Forum members raised concern that the Royal Hospital was not accessible for wheelchair users and problems with the lift facilities to the Breast Unit had resulted in members becoming stuck in lifts. Wendy Daunt also raised concern that the signage within the hospital was inadequate, particularly for individuals from the deaf community who rely on accurate and prominent signs. Roy Jones also highlighted concern that the new names of departments on signs and letters could confuse patients, as it was not clear on these how the new names related to the previous departments. Pam Thompson and Mick Watts suggested this information be discussed at a Project Group and a relevant representative from the Hospital be invited to the group.

Resolved to:

- 1) Pam Thompson to update the Forum once a date for the Sub Group for Forum Champion had been confirmed.**
- 2) Mick Watts to organise a Project Group to discuss Royal Hospital related issues with a representative from the Hospital.**

72/09 Question and Answer Session

DPDF involvement in the development of the Bus Station:

Janet Warner updated the Forum on her experience concerning the new Bus Station. Janet informed Forum members that spaces had been allocated for wheelchair users by the door of each bus bay; however this information was not on the station map and so was very misleading. Information on which services terminate at the bus station or at other stops within the city was not available or was difficult to find and the journey on foot from the Morledge to the Bus Station was narrow and uneven making wheelchair access a problem. It was also noted that there were no pay phones available and no designated area to get taxi services from outside the bus station.

Mick Watts informed the Forum that he wished to correct the recent Derby Evening Telegraph article, confirming that the Bus Station had not been brought before the Disabled People's Diversity Forum until that evening. Mick Watts acknowledged and agreed with the Forum concerns regarding the leaflet, he stated that the leaflet was a first look at providing information to the public and would be improved. He noted Forum members concerns that the paper for the leaflet was too reflective and should be changed. Forum members were informed that Derby City Council shared their concerns for the walk between the Morledge and Bus Station and it was confirmed that improvement work in this area, including widening of pavements would commence in June 2010. Mick Watts also confirmed that once the Morledge was renovated there would be an area that allowed for both taxis and private hire vehicles to pick up and drop off.

Mick Watts invited Forum members to partake in an Equality Impact Assessment. The Chair was in agreement with the decision that the Disabled People's Diversity Forum should be involved in the Assessment and the names of those individuals that wished to be involved were put forward:

Forum members also cited the angles and space for wheelchair users to manoeuvre and the lack of signs surrounding the glass doors leading to bays as concerns of the new Bus Station. Chair and Mick Watts noted both concerns and agreed to include these points in the Equality Assessment.

Resolve to:

- 1) Notify Forum when the Equality Impact Assessment date has been set.**

- 2) **Mick Watts to invite Councillor Hird, Councillor Ingall, Councillor Grimadell, Roy Jones, Ann Webster, Pam Thompson, Janet Warner, Nancy Pountain, Judi Bateman to Bus Station visit.**

73/09 Review of Loop Systems

Roy Jones informed the Forum that he had undertaken an inspection of the Derby Live provisions for hearing impaired people. Forum members were told that Roy had visited both the Guildhall and Assembly Rooms and was still waiting to visit the Derby Theatre after communication problems and cancellation of a previously arranged visit. The Forum heard that the Loop System at the Assembly Rooms was switched on and in good working order. Roy Jones found that the Guildhall had a working loop system but had only one output which was not enough for the venue. During both visits it was felt that staff were uneducated in the Loop Systems, where they could be found and the operating instructions for them.

Roy Jones raised concern that the testing of the loop should be a regular occurrence, prior to each performance. It was also highlighted that staff should be educated on the best practice for the user and should be told how to inform a hearing impaired person how to use the infra red Loop System.

Mick Watts expressed his disappointment to the Forum that the visit with Derby Theatre had been difficult to arrange. Mick informed Forum members that he was currently working on a process of how the maintenance and testing of the systems should be managed.

Resolved to:

- 1) **Receive an update from Roy Jones following the visit to Derby Theatre on 30/04/2010.**
- 2) **Receive more information from Mick Watts on a point of contact at Derby Live.**
- 3) **Receive an update from Mick Watts on the maintenance and testing procedure for the Loop Systems.**

74/09 Muscular Dystrophy

Forum members received a presentation from Andy Findlay on his personal experiences of Muscular Dystrophy and the impact on his family. It was highlighted that help was available but it was difficult to find and required a proactive approach to researching and applying for funding. Lack of Hydrotherapy and the need for a Muscle Centre in the East Midlands were cited as facilities that would improve the lives of people living with this condition.

The Forum noted the Presentation and gave thanks to Andy Findlay.

75/09 Primary Care Trust

The Forum received information from Carol Brown and Anita Thomas on the work that the County Primary Care Trust undertook for muscular conditions and the provisions that were in place in the local area. Carol Brown explained that surveys had been arranged to gauge how departments were performing against the National Service Framework. Forum members were told that whilst initial diagnosis of conditions was prompt and professional there were areas with gaps. It was stated that services needed to be joined up, Social Services and Clinicians communicating. The Forum was informed that new documentation was available from Pals and Links in hard copy format or electronically on the Primary Care Trust website. Both representatives agreed that there was a need for a Neurological Centre.

Anita Thomas told the Forum that board members from the Primary Care Trust were interested in hearing the Forums concerns. It was suggested that Anita return to the next Forum meeting to gather ideas from the members and pass this information on.

Resolved to discuss further at the next Forum Meeting.

76/09 Date of next meeting

The next Forum meeting would be held on 1 July 2010. It was agreed that Nancy Pountain, Judi Bateman, and Roy Jones would attend the next pre-meeting, on 3 June 2010.

Minutes End