

# ITEM 4

Time commenced : 6.30pm  
Time finished : 8.40pm

## **DISABLED PEOPLES DIVERSITY FORUM 13 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Present: Councillor Chera (Chair)  
Councillors Carr, Dhamrait, Grimadell, Turner and Webb

### **Representing groups**

Judi Bateman – Derbyshire Autism Services Group  
Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum  
Rachell Bastikar – Derby Deaf Forum  
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group  
George Sanders – CamTAD  
Roy Jones - CamTAD  
Edith Storer – EMASH  
Pat Fletcher - EMASH  
Noel Walsh – Derbyshire Association for the Blind  
Janet Warner – Derby Shopmobility

### **City Council Advisors**

Andrew Auld – Head of Communications and Consultation  
Paul Clarke – Head of Development Control & Land Searches  
Julie Hart - Valuing People Implementation Support Officer  
Chris Coppola – Service Manager, Corporate and Adult Services  
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer  
Katherine Taylor – Constitutional Services Officer  
Chris Gregson - Constitutional Services Officer  
Mick Watts – Access Officer  
Ann Webster – Equality Standard Project Manager

### **Also Present**

BSL Interpreters

## **17/07 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Winter, Pat and Maurice Kilminster from Derby Osteoporosis, Trevor Ford from Derwent Sheltered Group, Amarjit Raju from Disability Direct, Andy Findlay from Derby Access Group, M Reeve from Derbyshire Autism Services Group, Jon Eccarius from DCIL.

## 18/07 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

One late item was introduced by the Chair. This was a report on the Use of Rickshaws in Derby City Centre, which is to be taken to the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee on 20 September 2007. The report was introduced by Councillor Turner.

The following concerns with the report were raised:

- The Equalities impact (point 4 of the report) states that 'unlike existing hackney carriages, they will not be accessible to wheelchair users'. After the campaigning to make accessibility part of the licensing requirements for hackney carriages this was seen to be a step backwards. Nancy Pountain questioned whether an equalities impact assessment had been carried out; Councillor also asked if highway safety and DDA issues had been considered.
- If the rickshaws are to operate in pedestrianised areas, Nancy Pountain of Derby Access Group and Councillor Webb both stated that this was in direct contradiction to the anti-cycling policy currently in place. The possible dangers to visually impaired people were raised, along with the possibility that more bicycles will use the pedestrianised zone if rickshaws are allowed. The Chair stated that the pedestrianised zone is not mentioned in the application.
- In the introduction, Councillor Turner suggested that the report had been rushed. Ann Webster, DCC Equality Standard Project Manager added that Westfield was looking for a decision before the opening of the new Eagle Centre.

Councillor Dhamrait is head of the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee. He advised the Forum that a few rickshaws are operating in other English cities without any licenses. The Committee has no jurisdiction to limit the use of rickshaws in the Eagle Centre itself, only on the streets of Derby.

The Forum asked Councillor Dhamrait to bring two points to the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee meeting:

- 1) That rickshaws should be licensed under the same conditions as hackney carriages, emphasising the accessibility criteria.
- 2) That the Forum has grave misgivings on the use of rickshaws in the pedestrianised zone.

Councillor Dhamrait agreed to bring these points up at the meeting.

## 19/07 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

## 20/07 Notes from Previous Meeting

The Notes of the meeting held on 5 July 2007 were reviewed by the Forum and approved.

## 21/07 Updates on matters arising from previous meeting

The Forum noted updates on actions from the previous meeting. Andrew Auld, DCC Head of Communications and Consultation also explained the decision-making process both of Diversity Forums and of the Executive.

## 22/07 Work Programme

An updated Work programme schedule was distributed at the meeting and noted.

## 23/07 Loop Systems

The Forum was addressed by Roy Jones of CamTAD. He advised the panel that problems with loop systems have been reported in Meeting Room 2 of the Council house, the Assembly Rooms and the Guildhall. There are no facilities to test loops at many sites. PAT testing includes a functionality test; if the systems are not working then it suggests that the testing is not being done properly.

Mick Watts, DCC Access Officer informed the Forum of the steps Derby City Council is taking to address these issues. The City Council currently have no procedures specific to Loop Systems. He is preparing a plan with the following main points:

- 1) Prepare a register of where loops and infra-red sound enhancement are fitted.
- 2) All future requests will be approved by Property Services and added to the register.
- 3) Draft a list of approved installers of loop systems.
- 4) Develop a planned maintenance programme.
- 5) Have a designated Loop Tester within the Building Management team.

Mick Watts will present the plan to the Forum when the points are implemented. The need for a staff member trained in the operation and testing of the Loop System was also suggested by Roy Jones. Mick Watts agreed to look into this. He also advised that Derby Crematorium was the only site with a Loop System fitted without a Loop Tester device.

## 24/07 Accessible Information: Learning Disabilities

The Forum received a presentation by Julie Hart, Valuing People Implementation Support Officer in Adult Social Services. This provided an awareness of how to make communication easier for people with a learning disability.

Following the presentation, the Forum discussed what further steps could be taken to make sure people with a learning disability can be involved directly or indirectly in the Forum. Julie Hart advised that there were several barriers for a person with learning disability to be a full member of the Forum. These include the size of the group, the use of long words and sentences, and the design of the agenda.

Ann Webster suggested that a representative of the group collects information from learning disability groups and bring the views to the meeting. Councillor Webb supported this suggestion. Julie Hart asked about the possibility of people with learning disabilities just coming for a particular item. A member of the Deaf Forum advised that inviting Forum members to their meeting was very helpful in the process of gaining representation on the DPDF.

The Forum agreed that Julie Hart should become a member, representing Speak Out and the Learning Disability Partnership. Mick Watts will also liaise with Julie regarding the DPDF Project Group.

## 25/07 Sensory Team

The Forum received a presentation from Chris Coppola, Service Manager of Corporate and Adult Services. This introduced the Sensory Team to the Forum. She also explained who they are there to support and how referrals are made to the Team.

## 26/07 Planning Control Review

The Forum received a presentation from Paul Clarke, DCC Head of Development Control & Land Searches on how Design and Access Statements received through the planning process are evaluated.

Mick Watts also addressed the Committee on this issue. He advised that Access Officers specialised purely in accessibility, and as such are different to planning and building officers. He also informed the Forum that comments from the DPDF Project Group are submitted to the Planning Control Committee when necessary.

## 27/07 International Day Of Disabled People

The Forum received an oral update from Ann Webster. The Working Group has not been able to meet yet due to pressures caused by the Equality Audit. They will meet shortly and the theme they may consider is a Disability Equality Day. The material provided by Julie Hart on disability equality for people with learning difficulties may be used. Ann will report back to the next meeting on progress.

## 28/07 Deaf Forum

The Forum received an oral update from Alison Hicking. There have been discussions with the Odeon cinema to increase the amount of different subtitled films shown, as currently there is only one film that is shown in any three-week period. An increase has been agreed. The Forum is also lobbying Westfield to include subtitled films as part of the schedule of the new cinema in the new Eagle Centre.

## 29/07 Disabled People's Diversity Forum (DPDF) Project Group Minutes

The forum noted the minutes of the DPDF project group from 11 June 2007 and 13 August 2007.

## 30/07 Open Discussion

### **Withdrawal of Social Services from Elderly and Disabled People**

Nancy Pountain of Derby Access Group addressed the panel regarding the withdrawal of services such as cleaning by Social Services. Cases have been highlighted by the media, and people in similar situations have been brought to the attention of Derby Access Group. Edith Storer of EMASH also raised the issue of reduction in personal care for the elderly and disabled.

The Chair was unable to comment on individual cases. However he advised that individuals could contact him directly when discussion with Social Services about withdrawal of services fail.

### Items for Information

## 31/07 Pointer Panel Survey Results: Cabinet Report

The forum noted the Derby Pointer Panel survey results from April 2007.

NOTES END