

DPAC – Project Group

Minutes of meeting held on 13 December 2004

Present

Christine Yates
Judi Bateman
Nancy Pountain
Marta Hancock
Cordell Jackson
Marion Edge
Andy Smart – DCC
Ray Brown – DCC
Ann Webster – DCC
Mick Watts – DCC

Apologies

Trevor Ford
Peter Maidens
Councillor Roy Webb

Minutes of the previous meeting – 4 October 2004

Agreed

Matters arising

Nancy confirmed that a representative of Midland Main Line (MML) had attended the special access group meeting held on 2 November 2004.

Mick commented that the MML representative had confirmed that lifts to the island platforms were not being installed as part of the footbridge replacement. This apparently is due to financial constraints. A bid for the retro fitting of lifts had apparently been submitted to MML's parent company, and it would be considered as part of the bid process. It was clear that lift access would not be available on completion of the footbridge. Passengers who could not use the footbridge to access the platforms would still be required to use the underpass.

Mick and Ann confirmed that DAB representatives were involved in the reception area standardisation working party.

Ann confirmed that the International Day of Disabled People event had been a great success. Being held in M&S. Marta commented that she had notified the Council when she would be available on the day but had not received a copy of the event-staffing rota. Ann agreed to take these comments back to the appropriate person.

Minutes of the previous meeting – 18 October 2004

Agreed

Matters arising

Mick commented that he had had a discussion with the project architect about the status of the points raised by members. Mick had informed the architect that the points were advice only, but important advice from disabled people who know about disabled people's built environment issues. However, a number of the points would be covered by compliance with the Building Regulations.

CD update

The refurbishment of Victoria Street and Albert Street is now complete. All of the new street furniture, street lighting and seating are in place. The crossing point at St Peter's Street and Cornmarket has been re-located to a more central position. The traffic signals operate in such a way so as to provide pedestrian priority.

The bus companies are becoming more use to the docking arrangements at the 'saw tooth' bus bays.

A repeat survey of pedestrian and bus users is planned for the New Year. This follows up what was done before the works started. It will focus on perceptions of safety and the general environment now that the work is complete.

Several members raised an issue around the suitability of the bollards to visually impaired people. Andy commented that certain compromises had had to be made, and a family of street furniture selected to give a contemporary feel to the street scene. Andy did suggest however that it might be appropriate to undertake a street audit now the Phase 1B work was completed. Members agreed an audit would be helpful. Mick to organise.

Phase 2 – Ford Street and Friar Gate Improvements

Phase 3A – Completion of Inner Ring Road
Phase 3B – King Street and Five Lamps

The planning application for the remainder of the scheme is in place. Formal comments are being received and the closing date for this is 13 December. However comments will be considered up until the time of the Planning Control Committee. It is expected that this will take place in mid January.

As part of the design new crossing facilities are proposed throughout the scheme. The crossings have been located at points where we believe they are needed. All crossings will have facilities to help disabled people.

IHT Accessibility Awards 2005

Previously circulated was information about the IHT Accessibility Awards. Andy sought member's views on whether the recently completed phase of CD should be submitted for an award. Members had mixed views in relation to the street furniture selection, and street scene use by visually impaired. For this reason, and because some group members had not had the opportunity to consider in detail the arrangements on-street the group asked that the award application be considered by DPAC at its next meeting. The closing date for award entries being 25 February 2005.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act, all highway authorities including the outer London boroughs must complete Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs) by November 2007.

The ROWIPs must assess:

- the extent to which local rights of way (ROW) meet the present and likely future needs of the public;
- the opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise, and other forms of outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of the authority's area;

- the accessibility of local ROW to blind or visually impaired people and others with mobility impairments.

In order to do this, highway authorities will need to consider the whole network of non-motorised routes, not just definitive ROW. They will also need to look at the whole spectrum of users and journey purposes, from disabled people's access needs to routes to open access land.

The Government has issued statutory guidance to highway authorities on how to complete the ROWIP process, and there are a number of key stages including information gathering, evaluation and consultation. Local Access Forums are currently being formed and posts will be advertised. Ray felt that it was important that disability people should apply for forum membership. Ray agreed to let Mick know when posts would be advertised.

Nancy raised a number of concerns regarding the condition of and abuse of the Green Lane footpath at Alvaston. Ray commented that he was aware of some of the issues but recommended that the Community Safety Partnership be contacted about instances of anti-social behaviour.

Access Audits Video

Deferred

Any other business

Nancy commented that she felt that the timing of the Alvaston district centre pedestrian crossing phase was too fast. Also, that a recently opened florist was obstructing the footway with goods. Mick would investigate.

Ann briefed members about a DDA reasonable adjustment issue she was currently involved in. What was illustrated by Ann's case was the stress placed on disabled people when challenging a service provider under DDA legislation. Marta reminded members that DD had appointed a DDA worker that would support and assist disabled people with DDA cases/challenges.

Date, time and place of next meeting

2:00pm, 7 March 2005, CD walk round weather permitting **OR** Meeting Room 2.

