

THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Meeting 81 - 22.08.2005)

Held at the National Tramway Museum, Crich, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Monday 22nd August 2005 at 3.00pm.

Issue: 1

Present: Messrs A.W Bond (Chairman), I.M. Dougill, Miss A Isaacs (part), A. Smith, R Webster (part), G.C.G. Wilton, M.C. Wright, A. K. Thorpe (Secretary)

Apologies for absence: None.

81.1 Minutes of Meeting 80 (11.07.05)

These were agreed as a true record. All matters arising were discussed under subsequent Agenda items

81.2 Access for the visually impaired:

Mr Wilton reported that Andrew Frost was aware that a sculpture which could be appreciated by the visually impaired was desired, with regard to this year's rent.

It was reported that the East Midlands Hub had been approached about widening Dr Minion's brief and that this was considered acceptable.

81.3 Glory Mine:

It was agreed that the paper to consider works at the Glory Mine, including the possibility of allowing passengers to alight would be rescheduled to allow the views of the Operations Department to be taken into account at their meeting in January 2006. A paper would then be prepared for a meeting of the Development Committee in February 2006 in order to feed into the spring budget process.

MW

81.4 Entrance:

Mr Smith reported that 'Inside Out' – the company approached to develop a design and build project for the replacement of the entrance hut – had since informed him that they considered the project to be too big for them, citing the commercial nature of the project and health and safety issues as their reasons.

Furthermore, the quote of 28,000 that 'Inside Out' had initially provided had been found to be incorrect. 58,000 was considered to be a more realistic estimate for the building itself, plus the cost of the base and toilets. Therefore, a total cost of about 75,000 was envisaged. This was considered to be too expensive. It was therefore agreed that this approach was no longer viable and that the Committee would have to start investigating other ideas again.

Mr Wright thought that it may be necessary to consider a replacement portacabin. Mr Smith said that modern portacabins were now of a much higher quality compared to our existing facility. They were available either as new or second hand. In addition, Mr Wright suggested that it would also be worth contacting 'Buildings Bespoke' who provided the Wakebridge toilet building. Mr Smith agreed to investigate both the possibility of a portacabin and to contact 'Buildings Bespoke' and to get prices for different types/sizes of facility.

AS

Mr Wright noted that whatever approach is now taken, significantly more management time will need to be invested, compared to the design and build project that had previously been considered.

Mr Dougill and Mr Wright suggested that the location of the entrance facility should be moved further north in order that visitors could enter via the roadway which is less steep than the existing ramp and therefore more suitable for disabled people. However, it was acknowledged that this would raise a number of other issues including the fact that there would only be one access to the village in inclement weather. Furthermore, landscaping work would be required to deal with the existing bank; the position of the

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tram stop; separating visitors from traffic; and, ensuring that visitors could not get

onto the ramp without first going through the entrance facility. Mr Wright thought that it might be appropriate to seek a temporary entrance facility whilst this work was carried out. Mr Wilton said that we might not need to be constrained by the location of the existing water supply if biodegradable toilets could be used.

With regard to access for disabled people, Mr Smith said that he knew of a consultant who carries out access audits of buildings, and that he would ask if she could provide some advice. Layout was also considered to be important with regard to ensuring that the best possible use could be made of gift aid.

AS

Mr Bond noted that there was only 7 weeks before budget setting and that time was of the essence. He considered that a site meeting with Kyle Hulme was required and Mr Wright agreed to arrange this. He also suggested that an early meeting of the Development Committee was required and Mr Dougill agreed to arrange this.

MW

81.5 Other Projects:

Toilets – Mr Wright did not consider that we had the resources to tackle this issue in the near future. As a minimum design drawings and building regulations approval would be required. He considered that the hydrodynamics of the toilets should be investigated first in any case. It was agreed that the issue of the toilets would be pursued further in May/June 2006 when an overview of toilet provision within the village would be appropriate.

It was considered that resources would only allow for one project to be brought forward during this winter and it was agreed that this should be the entrance facility. In the meantime additional labour sources would be sought.

(Mr Webster and Ms Issacs joined the meeting at this stage)

81.6 Ramp between Rita's Tea Rooms and the Upper Deck Restaurant:

Mr Wilton circulated two documents that established the current position with regard to access along the ramp for disabled people and the relevant information that is provided on a number of websites. The ramp should not be steeper than 1:12, should be of a specific width and should contain landings at the top, bottom and appropriate intervals between. Mr Smith said that guidance requires us to take reasonable steps and if this was not possible, then reasonable alternative provision should be made.

A number of possible solutions were discussed including use of the ramp currently used by catering staff; construction of a longer ramp along the front of Rita's Tea Rooms and the installation of a lift.

Mr Smith said that it is important that we effectively manage the situation and Mr Webster and Ms Issacs confirmed that this was the case with catering staff assisting visitors finding it difficult to use the ramp. Mr Smith said that he would seek further advice from the access consultant that he is in contact with.

AS

As part of any scheme covered steps to provide catering staff with more appropriate access to the Upper Deck Restaurant and the construction of a Cellar measuring 3m x 3m x 2m to serve the Red Lion would also be required.

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It was agreed that further work would be undertaken to develop a proposal that would work for catering staff, be appropriate within the street scene and meet the regulations as far as possible. Mr Wilton would then invite Amber Valley Council to the village to establish whether an enhancement of our current system for managing the use of the ramp would be sufficient – perhaps through the use of signage and/or a bell – or whether it would be necessary to work up and implement the proposal. Mr Bond requested that this all be undertaken by Tuesday 30th August.

Mr Webster said that purely from an operational point of view the agreed solution would not need to be in place until May 2006.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 4.30 pm.