

# MINUTES OF THE

## 89<sup>th</sup> Imtac MEETING



**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at The Mount, Belfast

**Present:** Frank Caddy (Chair)  
William Stewart  
Elizabeth Black  
David McDonald  
Ann Collins  
Dessie Ferguson  
Kellie Armstrong  
Norma Moore  
Terry Butler  
Max O'Brien  
Barbara Fleming  
Henry Mayne  
Neil Gillan

**Apologies:** Andrew Murdock  
Ann Gamble  
Etta Mann  
Joe McCusker  
Ronnie Patterson  
Anita Gracey  
Francis Hughes

**Observers:** Janet Watson (Mobility Inclusion Unit)  
Gavin Hamilton (Mobility Inclusion Unit)  
Ryan Simpson (General Consumer Council)  
Deborah Howe (Equality Commission)  
Oonagh Smyth (Equality Commission)

**Secretariat:** Michael Lorimer

## **1 Election of Officers**

- 1.1 Frank explained the process of the annual election of officers to the Committee. The current vice-chair William Stewart, and Working Group Convenors David McDonald and Ann Collins have agreed to stand again and were elected by the Committee. Barbara Fleming was the only volunteer for the vacant Public Transport Group Convenor and was duly elected.

## **2 Minutes of the last meeting**

- 2.1 Gavin asked the wording around funding for AV on buses in 2.4 of the last minutes be changed. Subject to this change the minutes were agreed

## **3 Matters arising**

### **3.1 Streets Ahead**

Frank informed members that a meeting with Roads Service and DSD has been arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Members again expressed frustration about the direction of developments in Belfast City Centre. Michael informed members that Disability Action is holding a meeting about the City Centre on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

### **3.2 AV on buses**

Frank informed the Committee that the only development around AV is that any pilot will not take place on Easibus.

### **3.3 Mobility Centre**

Members expressed dissatisfaction that the actions around Mobility Centre services had been removed from the Work Programme on the insistence of the DRD. It was made clear that the issues for disabled people and older people remain the same regardless of funding agreements. Max highlighted that Mobility Centre services has been

highlighted in the report that is being produced by the PSI Group on Disability. The Committee welcomed Disability Action's willingness to work with Imtac around the wording of correspondence but asked that this be progressed urgently.

#### DRD Disability Action Plan

- 3.4 Michael thanked members for contributing to the response to the DRD Disability Action Plan. Michael informed the Committee that rather than submitting a formal response he had suggested to the Equality Unit in DRD that a meeting with members might be more constructive. This was welcomed by the team and is likely to take place after the summer. Members welcomed this arrangement.

#### Rural Transport Voucher Scheme

- 3.5 Michael informed the Committee that a letter had been sent to DRD outlining members concerns about the Scheme.

### **4 Draft Imtac Annual Report 2009**

- 4.1 Michael gave members a brief overview of the report. Neil suggested expanding some of the points around working with older people and disabled people. Gavin pointed out some typos and omissions. Subject to these changes the Annual Report was approved.

### **5 Working Group Updates**

- 5.1 David gave members a brief update on the Information & Training Group Activities. The Committee discussed plans for the promotional campaign around the new transports regulations. Max stressed the importance of involving disabled people in the campaign. Terry informed the Committee that Translink was now looking at a poster campaign with the Equality Commission.

5.2 Deborah informed the Committee that the consultation on the draft Code of Practice around the regulations will start on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

5.3 Michael updated the Committee on the Public Transport Group activities. Michael highlighted ongoing difficulties with the concessionary fares application process. Member also highlighted issues around return journeys. The Committee agreed to the Groups suggestion that a formal letter be sent to DRD. David raised concerns that the Department did not seem to be aware of the current DPTAC Small Bus specification. After some discussion it was agreed to write to the Department to clarify the situation.

**Michael**

5.4 Michael informed the Group that he is working with Kellie to arrange an opportunity for members to view the low-floor Bluebird minibus which will be coming to the Access 09 event in Armagh.

**Michael/  
Kellie**

5.5 Ann gave members an update on the activities of the Personal Mobility Group. The Committee discussed ongoing issues around implementation of the EU Regulation 1107 around air travel. Ann also highlighted the success of the recent Baywatch Survey.

## **6 Draft ATS Action Plan**

6.1 Gavin gave members a brief summary of the current consultation highlighting the consultation process, progress and suggested new actions.

6.2 A general discussion took place. It was pointed out that events such as the recent meeting with older people in Portadown highlight that many people are having great difficulties accessing services. It was pointed out that the ATS was not about investment but making investment work. It was also suggested that many policies in the ATS were not being implemented. Members also suggested that implementation of policies did not require money more a change in practice or attitude. Frank thanked Gavin and members and asked Michael to draft the response and distribute it to members for comment.

**Michael**

## **7 Belfast Healthy Cities Transport Action Plan**

- 7.1 Frank welcomed Ruth Fleming to the meeting. Ruth gave members an overview of the Action Plan and how it was developed. Ruth thanked Michael for his help.
- 7.2 Members commended the Action Plan recognising many of the issues that had been highlighted during the consultation. It was agreed to support the implementation of the plan.

## **8 Any other business**

- 8.1 Michael informed the Committee he planned to write to members around training requirements. Michael also asked members to check over their profiles on the Imtac website and provide him with any updates.
- 8.2 Frank asked observers to leave the meeting.
- 8.3 Frank read to members correspondence received from the Department around a proposed Review of Imtac and Terms of Reference for the proposed review. Frank also read members a proposed response from Imtac drafted by the Business Group. Members expressed unanimous dissatisfaction at the approach of the DRD. The Committee agreed the response from Imtac. It was also agreed that any review of Imtac should be linked to a review of the ATS and that a Review of the ATS be included in the response to the current ATS consultation. Discussion took place around making the Minister aware of members concerns.

**Michael/  
All**

**Frank/  
Michael**

## **9 Date of next meeting**

**The date of the next meeting will be 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009, 12.30pm at the Mount.**