

Minutes of the 121st Imtac Meeting

Date: 14th October 2017, The Mount, Belfast

Present: G. Max O'Brien (Chairperson)

Paul McCloskey, Sam Bell, Moira Heap, Jim Nash,
Brian Murray, Jean Dunlop, Nan Carville, Vivien
Blakely, David McDonald, Anne Scott.

Observers: Ciarán Crilly (DfI), Terry Butler (Translink), Jenny
Robinson (Consumer Council), Francis Hughes (Age
Sector Platform), Orla McCann (Disability Action).

In Attendance: Bert Bailie (Co-opted Business Group member)

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1. Introductions, apologies and consideration of absences

1.1 Apologies were given and accepted from Sheelagh McRandal, Henry Mayne, Diane Marks, Joe Kenny, Dave Morton, Anne Tohill, Naomi Roberts, and Ann Gamble.

2. Chairpersons and other updates

2.1 Max updated members on a recent meeting with the Cycling Unit and cycling organisations and a positive meeting with the Department to discuss provision of a communication system for Imtac meetings. Max asked that the minute record his thanks to the Department for progressing this issue.

Action: Ciarán and Michael to liaise regarding testing of the PA system.

2.2 Max asked members to consider the current delay to the recruitment process due to the website redevelopment. Members agreed that the recruitment process should proceed in November.

- 2.3 Michael updated members about developments around proposed public realm schemes in Derry and Belfast. Members expressed concerns about the potential use of shared space around proposals to redevelop Shaftesbury Square in Belfast.
Action: Following discussion members agree to request a meeting with officials from DfC to discuss Shaftesbury Square proposals. Members also agreed to review and update the Imtac Position Paper on Shared Space.
- 2.4 Michael updated members on plans for further consultation around High Street pedestrian and cycling proposals.
- 2.5 Michael updated members on developments in relation to Belfast Rapid Transport. The vehicles and the branding for the service will be launched on the 19th October. Proposals to resolve potential issues around ticketing for half-fare smartpasses are being considered by the Department.
Action: Members requested an early opportunity to view the new vehicles.
- 2.6 Michael informed members that a meeting with Translink to discuss Portrush Railway Station redevelopment will be held in November.
Action: Michael to confirm date, time and venue.
- 2.7 Members received an update on pavement café licensing including the complaint submitted to the Equality Commission regarding Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, the meeting with Transport NI on 25th October and plans to contact all councils about the numbers of licenses issued.
- 2.8 Michael informed members he had amended the terms of reference for the proposed Translink Accessibility Group and would forward them to Terry after the meeting.
Action: Michael and Terry to progress.

- 2.9 Bert updated members about the redevelopment of the Imtac website by the Department of Finance and the Lottery funding application for a separate website which has now been agreed by the Business Group.

The meeting stopped for lunch.

3. Current papers

- 3.1 Michael briefed members on the 1st Draft of the assessment of the NI Direct website. During discussions members highlighted the low awareness of NI Direct itself being a barrier to usefulness.
Action: Members to provide comments on the draft paper in the next 7-10 days.
Action: Ciarán agreed to look at how best to approach officials from NI Direct to discuss the final paper.
- 3.2 Michael briefed members on the draft paper around cycling to inform further engagement with cycling organisations. Members were broadly supportive of the principles included in the paper.
Action: Members to provide comments on the draft paper in the next 7-10 days.
- 3.3 Michael took members through a draft of a proposed survey around disabled people's and older people's experiences using taxis. Members requested that any final survey include a disclaimer from Imtac about ONS questions around disabled people and disability.
Action: Members to provide comments on the draft paper in the next 7-10 days.
- 3.4 Max explained the reason for the delay to this year's annual report. Members discussed the draft report and asked that work undertaken by utility companies be included under issues that impact on pedestrians.

Action: Members to provide comments on the draft paper in the next 7-10 days.

Action: Ciarán agreed to discuss with colleagues who best to send the final report to in the absence of a Minister.

4. ATS 2025 and Observer updates

- 4.1 Ciarán updated members on progress made in developing the ATS and associated action plan. It is planned to hold a workshop in December with stakeholders including Imtac members. The Department also plans to share the draft document with Imtac members for comments before it is finalised.
- 4.2 Jenny gave members an overview of the recent visit to Stenaline. Members who attended also gave their own perspectives.
Action: Jenny to share the final report when available.
- 4.3 Terry informed members that visual information screens have now been installed in all Ulsterbus stations. The trial of real time audio announcements at Lisburn Bus Station will take place before summer 2018.
- 4.4 Orla highlighted work being undertaken by Disability Action in partnership with DVA around the accessibility of the driver theory test. Orla also highlighted the recent launch of Disability Sports Equipment Hubs in each 11 council areas. Max offered to meet with Orla and Kevin Doherty to discuss concerns about proposals to change current licensing and permits.
Action: Michael and Orla to confirm meeting arrangements.

5. Current consultations

- 5.1 Members discussed the current Department for Transport (DfT) consultation on a draft Accessibility Action Plan and agreed that Imtac should respond to the range of issues in the Action Plan, not just those which have implications for Northern Ireland.

Action: Michael to draft a response and circulate for comment.

5.2 Members briefly discussed the current joint consultation on driver licensing and the 10b Minibus Permit.

Action: It was agreed Michael should draft a response and circulate to members for comments.

6. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

6.1 Due to time and the numbers of members who had left the meeting Max asked that adoption of the minutes of the last meeting be deferred until the next meeting.

7. Dates of future meetings

7.1 The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th December 2017 at the Mount starting at 12pm..