

Minutes of the 131st Imtac Meeting

Date and place: 19th February 2020, The Mount, Belfast.

Present: Bert Bailie (Chairperson), Sheelagh McRandal, June Best, Andy Boal, Sam Bell, Brian Murray, Jean Dunlop, Diane Marks, Terry McCorry, Aaron McKane, Nuala Crilly, Alison Lockhart, Christine McClements, Eileen Drumm, Paul McCloskey, John McErlane, Dave Morton.

Observers: Richard Williams (Consumer Council), Scott McClenaghan (Department for Infrastructure), Naomi Roberts (Equality Commission), Terry Butler (Translink).

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

In attendance: Jim Nash

1. Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 Bert welcomed Scott McClenaghan to his first Imtac meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- 1.2 Apologies were given and accepted from Daryl Cupples.

2. Observers' updates

- 2.1 Terry Butler briefed members on the introduction of the first hydrogen fuelled buses and plans for this type of bus to be standard in the future. Members asked about accessibility of vehicles and whether vehicles are silent. Terry confirmed vehicles are low-floor and there is an engine noise.
- 2.2 Terry informed members that a business case has been prepared for the progressive roll out of real time information on Urby, Goldline then other services in a 4 year project.

2.4 Naomi updated members about plans to hold another workshop about participation in public life targeted at disabled people. Naomi also informed members about a UNCRPD round table event on the 9th March and the launch of a new online resource with advice and information about data for key groups. Members asked that venues for the proposed workshops be fully inclusive with ground floor and Changing Places facilities.

Action: Michael to circulate details and dates.

2.5 Scott outlined the steps being taken within the Department to identify priorities for the 2020/21 Imtac Work Programme. Members asked for clarification as to whether the Department would be taking forward a new Accessible Transport Strategy now Government has been restored.

2.6 Richard informed members that Jenny has moved to another section of the Consumer Council. Members asked that Jenny is formally thanked for her contribution to work of Imtac.

2.6 Richard updated members about a planned trip on P&O Ferries on the 11th March and confirmed the invitation for 2 Imtac members to take part. Richard also updated members about plans for a tour of Belfast International Airport on the 24th March and a proposal for a visit to the City of Derry on the 31st March as well as the joint visits with Imtac to the North West Hub and Strangford Ferry. Richard also updated members about the ongoing regional and Belfast Consumer Parliaments. Members again stressed the importance of using fully inclusive venues with ground floor and Changing Places facilities.

Action: Members to let Michael know about interest in attending visits.

Action Michael to circulate details of venues with Changing Places and details of Mobiloo to Richard and Naomi.

3. Chairperson's and other updates

- 3.1 Bert briefed members about a meeting in January with David Cowan and Terry Butler from Translink. Issues discussed included the Translink Accessibility Working Group, delays to Disability Equality Training and proposals for engagement on future bus design.
- 3.2 Bert updated members about the plans for the A4N meeting in Belfast on the 10th March and the meeting of the Business Group with Minister Mallon on 12th March. It was agreed the Business Group would discuss and decide representatives from the Committee to attend the A4N meeting.
- 3.3 Bert informed members about a request from the Infrastructure Committee for Imtac to identify 3 priorities for their scrutiny of the Department. Michael briefed members about proposals to highlight key priorities consistent with issues raised in the most recent Annual Report. Members agreed to the priorities and requested that the need for additional resources also be highlighted.
Action: Michael to submit the feedback to the Infrastructure Committee.
- 3.4 Sheelagh reminded members to submit expenses as end of year was approaching. Sheelagh updated members on efforts to minimise any underspend this year and planning for next year's budget.
- 3.5 Michael briefed members on a series of meetings with Translink to discuss the Ticketing Project, Yorkgate Station redevelopment and the refurbishment of toilets at Lanyon Place Station. Michael also updated members on a meeting with Tom Reid, DfI, to discuss bus procurement and potential actions arising.
Action: Michael to circulate his comments on the Yorkgate Station proposals.
- 3.6 Diane and Michael briefed members on an initial meeting with the design team taking forward the Translink website project.
- 3.7 Michael updated members on recent meetings to discuss materials to be used in separate public realm schemes in Belfast and

Enniskillen as well as a Sustrans workshop on inclusive cycling held in Glasgow in January.

- 3.8 Michael briefed members on the arrangements for the site visits to the North West Hub (26th February) and the Strangford Ferry (27th February).
- 3.9 Members were asked to consider a proposal to write to Minister for Communities, Deirdre Hargey, to highlight the current impasse around the licensing of pavement cafes and to seek a resolution.
Action: Members agreed to write to Minister Hargey and also copy to Minister Mallon.
- 3.10 Members were asked to consider a proposal to write to the new Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Edwin Poots, to highlight the Committee's concerns about travelling with an assistance dog post Brexit.
Action: Members agreed to write to Minister Poots and also copy to Minister Mallon.

The meeting stopped for lunch.

4. Briefing on the Pedestrian Workshop and next steps

- 4.1 Michael briefed members about the Pedestrian Workshop held at Girdwood Community Hub on the 5th February and the feedback from discussions.
- 4.2 Members spent some time discussing the workshop and next steps. It was agreed that an initial summary on the workshop should be developed, followed by a broader themed paper highlighting the need for significant changes in the attitudes towards pedestrian journeys.
Action: Michael to draft a report on the workshop and circulate before the end of March.
Action: A broader paper to be included as an early task in the 2020/21 Work Programme.

5. 2020/21 Work Programme – discussion of priorities and tasks

5.1 Michael briefed members on proposals for priorities for the Work Programme. Members agreed UNCRPD should be highlighted and in addition that mention should be made of the Social Model of disability and inclusive or people focused design in priorities. Members also agreed involving carers should be included with disabled people and older people.

5.2 Michael briefed members on planned and proposed tasks for inclusion in the Work Programme. Members broadly supported the proposals. A proposal to hold a specific engagement event with local councils was also supported.

Action: Draft Work Programme to be shared with members for comment before agreement with the Department.

6. Options for the future urban and rural demand responsive transport

6.1 Developing the discussion from the December meeting Michael briefed members on emerging issues linked to demand responsive transport and asked members to consider how best these should be taken forward. Members identified wider issues of connectivity as a key issue with problems lying with current community, public and other transport services.

Action: Michael to draft a paper highlighting issues with broader connectivity and circulate for comment.

7. Minutes of the last meeting / Matters arising

7.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Proposed: Andy Boal Seconded: Eileen Drumm

7.2 All matters arising were addressed during the meeting.

8. Any other business

8.1 Aaron highlighted a survey he is undertaking around taxis.

Action: Michael to circulate the survey to members.

8.2 Eileen raised issues around “crash testing” of wheelchairs and scooters and travel on community transport.

Action: Michael agreed to look into the issue and report back at the next meeting.

9. Date, time and venue of next meeting

9.1 Wednesday 3rd June 2020 at 12.30pm at the Mencap Centre, Belfast.