

Minutes of the 135th Imtac Meeting

Date and place: 25th November 2020, ZOOM meeting.

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

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

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

Apologies: Diane Marks, June Best, Darryl Cupples, Nuala Crilly.

1. Introductions and updates

1.1 Bert welcomed everyone and asked participants to introduce themselves.

2. Chairperson's Updates

2.1 Bert updated members on the positive virtual meeting between Minister Mallon and Business Group members in September and reported that we had agreed to provide more information on pavement parking and issues to be considered in the review of the PSA with Translink.

2.2 Bert briefed members on discussions at the A4N meeting in October that centred mainly on the COVID-19 response. The issue of travel with assistance dogs post Brexit transition was raised and subsequent correspondence from DfT notes a commitment has been received from DEFRA officials to give an early briefing. Bert

also highlighted a joint open letter to the Prime Minister and the President of the European Commission he had signed on the issue, published recently in The Times.

- 2.3 Bert updated members on a recent meeting with the DfC Disability Strategy Team. Following the meeting Minister Ni Chuilin invited a representative from the Committee to sit on the Co Design Group for the Strategy. June Best has been proposed to represent Imtac on the Group. This was agreed unanimously.

Proposed: Andy Boal

Seconded: Brian Murray

- 2.4 Bert briefed members on key actions from the recent Business Group meeting including an extending an invitation to COPNI to replace Age Sector Platform as observers on Imtac, joint work with the Department to review and revise this years Work Programme and the reappointment of Dawson & Company as Imtac auditors.

- 2.5 Bert informed members that Imtac has been approached as a potential member of the new Disability Forum to inform the work of IMNI. Alison Lockhart was proposed as the Imtac representative on the Forum. This was agreed unanimously.

Proposed: Bert Bailie

Seconded: Terry McCorry

3. Observers updates

- 3.1 Naomi updated members about Equality Commission work including:

- Plans to organise the first meeting of the IMNI Disability Forum in January / February 2021
- The production of videos raising awareness of UNCRPD
- The development of a training programme for employers highlighting best practice
- New guidance for public bodies around good practice and Disability Duties
- The development of a new, more accessible Section 75 screening template

3.2 Naomi highlighted an event planned for early 2021, highlighting disabled people's experiences of participation in public life.

Action: Members interested in participating in the event to inform Michael.

3.3 Scott highlighted the ongoing pressures on the Department created by COVID, highlighting measures taken to minimise any delays in processing Concessionary Fares applications / renewals. Scott highlighted the importance to the Department of supporting Intac as well as work on a PfG best practice case study based on the Glider project.

3.4 Bert informed members that following a recent meeting with Interim CEO, Andrea Brown, Patrick Malone would be attending future meetings as the Observer from Disability Action.

4. Belfast 5C's public realm consultation

4.1 Michael briefed members about proposals for public realm improvements on College Avenue, College Street, College Court, Callender Street and Chichester Street in Belfast City Centre. Members raised the following issues:

- Queries over whether the design of seating and other street furniture are inclusive
- Queries about the removal of footway clutter on all streets
- Queries about access at vehicle entrances on the southern footway on College Street
- Queries around the design of the junctions between Chichester Street and Upper Arthur Street and Montgomery Street
- Reaffirming the importance of at least maintaining the current provision of accessible on street parking

4.2 Members were asked to consider the proposal to use a new design of loading bay, which involves vehicles using part of an extended footway. Members agreed that given the proposed design involved vehicles mounting and parking on the footway, this is not infrastructure Imtac support.

4.3 Michael agreed to draft a response and circulate to members for comments.

Action: Michael to circulate draft response and members to submit comments within 7 days.

5. Working group and other updates

5.1 Sheelagh highlighted the continued issues with under spend due to COVID and informed members that the audited accounts have been submitted to the Department.

Action: Michael to circulate a copy of the accounts to members.

5.2 Sheelagh informed members that the review of Financial Policies and Procedures has now been completed. Sheelagh also highlighted the development of a new Privacy Statement and thanked Scott for his support.

5.3 Bert informed members he had received a letter of resignation from Sheelagh and paid tribute to her for her contribution to the work of Imtac and in particular her work as Treasurer. Bert informed members that Sam has agreed to step into the post of Treasurer until the AGM in June 2021. This was agreed unanimously.

Proposed: Sheelagh McRandal Seconded: John McErlane

5.4 Michael provided an update on recent TAWG activities including:

- Discussions around the final designs of Yorkgate station redevelopment

- Discussions around the design of ticket gate proposed for some railway stations
- An invitation for Imtac to sit on the Translink Project Advisory Group for the Transforming Travel and Social Inclusion Project

5.5 Michael briefed members about a recent site visit to view coach designs to inform a planned vehicle procurement as well as feedback from TAWG Workshop held earlier in the week.
Action: As a matter of urgency Michael agreed to draft a paper relating to the site visit, accessible coach design and procurement and circulate to members to comment on within 7 days.

5.6 Michael provided an update on People, Streets and Places Working Group activities including:

- Feedback from stakeholders around cycling infrastructure at bus stops
- Engagement with Antrim & Newtownabbey Council about Hazelbank Park
- Input to an number of COVID-19 related walk, wheel and cycle measures in Belfast, Derry and Strabane
- On-going meetings between the Secretariat and the Walking & Cycling Champion and attendance at 2 meetings of the Walking & Cycling Advisory Group

Members asked what is in place to measure the success, or otherwise, of the COVID walk, wheel and cycling measures. Michael explained what provision has been made to measure success.

5.7 Michael updated members on proposals for an engagement event with councils and broader engagement with carers, Deaf people, disabled people and older people. Members expressed strong

support for the council proposals in particular and asked to be involved in the event.

6. Revised Intac policy statement about taxis

6.1 Michael briefed members on proposed amendments to the existing policy statement on taxis. Members highlighted the need to address the lack of availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Action: Members were asked to submit comments on the paper before the Christmas break.

7. Minutes of the last meeting / Matter arising

7.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed unanimously and adopted.

Proposed: Sheelagh McRandal

Seconded: Dave Morton

7.2 Under matters pending Michael updated members on a recent meeting with ViaVan to discuss developments in demand responsive transport in Great Britain.

Action: Michael agreed to develop a summary of issues arising and circulate to members.

8. Any other business

8.1 Dave highlighted his upcoming participation in an event run by Mencap under the “Treat me well” campaign.

Action: Michael to circulate details.

8.2 Bert and members thanked and paid tribute to Sheelagh.

9. Dates of future meetings

9.1 Wednesday 17th February 2021 2pm – 3.30pm

Wednesday 30th June 2021 2pm – 3.30pm