

**MINUTES OF THE
105th Imtac MEETING**

- Date:** 13th June 2013, The Mount, Belfast
- Present:** G. Max O'Brien (Chairperson)
- Bert Bailie, Francis Hughes, Moira Heap, Vivien Blakely, Joe Kenny, David Mann, Des McAuley, June Best, Joan Harbison
- Observers:** Keith Walsh (DRD), Scott Kennerley (Consumer Council).
- In attendance:** Peter Livingstone
- Secretariat:** Michael Lorimer

Prior to the meeting Max welcomed new and returning members. He also welcomed Peter Livingstone to the meeting and explained that Peter was interested in filling the vacant position on the Committee.

1. Appointment of officers

- 1.1 Following due process the Committee appointed the following officers; Bert Bailie (Vice Chairperson), David McDonald (Treasurer), June Best (Convenor Information and Training Group), Ann Collins (Convenor Personal Mobility Group) and Barbara Fleming (Convenor Public Transport Group).

2. Apologies

- 2.1 Apologies were given and accepted from Rosemary Patton, Barbara Fleming, Ann Collins, Ann Gamble, Eimear McCracken, Jim Nash, Olaf Hvattum, Naomi Roberts and Terry Butler.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

- 3.1 Subject to a change of text under paragraph 6.1 the minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Stadia Development

Michael informed members that Disability Sports (NI) planned to consult shortly on Stadia Design and Management Guidelines. It was agreed Imtac should respond.

Action: Michael to distribute details of the consultation to members and draft a response.

4.2 Disability Strategy

Michael updated members on the recent OFMDFM conferences around the Disability Strategy and Delivering Social Change. Keith recorded this thanks to Imtac members for the contribution to the transport workshop at the Disability Strategy conference.

- 4.3 During discussions members expressed frustrations about the scope and ambition of the Strategy. Members endorsed the proposal to invite OFMDFM officials to a future Imtac meeting as and when proposed signature projects are being progressed. Imtac has provided advice to OFMDFM on deciding on accessibility of venues.

Action: Michael to confirm a suitable date with OFMDFM for officials to brief Imtac members.

4.4 Belfast City Centre

Michael updated members around recent improved pedestrian facilities resulting from *Belfast on the Move*. Michael also updated members on the refocusing of the next phase of *Streets Ahead* around the area for the new University of Ulster campus.

4.5 AV on buses

Michael updated members on correspondence from the Private Office in relation to AV on buses. It was agreed to highlight the issue again in the Imtac Annual Report.

4.6 Trust Minibuses

Members received a report on the recent visit to view Belfast Trust low-floor minibuses. It was agreed that the introduction of the vehicles was positive, that the benefits of this type of vehicle should be highlighted and that the Trust should be commended.

4.7 Door2door

Members received an update on correspondence from DRD around the interim arrangements for door2door. The Department have set up an internal group to develop plans for future services.

4.8 Meeting with CTA

Members received an update on the recent meeting with CTA to discuss the paper on training provided by transport providers. The meeting was constructive and further information has been provided on training provided by community transport which has been reflected in a redrafting the paper.

5. Working Group updates

5.1 Members received an update on the delays to agreeing this year's Work Programme. As these have now been resolved Michael informed members he would be seeking to arrange Working Group meetings prior to the next Imtac meeting.

5.2 Michael briefed members on draft reports on pedestrian audits of Derry and Bangor. The report in Bangor highlighted issues around use of tactile paving and clutter on the pavement. The Derry report

highlighted significant difficulties particularly in relation to people with a visual impairment.

Action: Max asked that members provide any comment on the reports within the next 10 days.

- 5.3 Michael briefed members on a draft paper on the proposed regulation of pavement cafes. DSD have received a copy of the draft paper and have offered to meet with Imtac. During discussions a number of issues were highlighted including the need to highlight through the paper broader barriers in the pedestrian environment experienced by disabled people and older people, the need for consistent guidelines across local councils and more information on enforcement. Members requested information from PSNI about enforcement of parking on pavements.

Action: Max asked that members provide any comment on the reports within the next 10 days.

Action: Michael agreed to circulate to members details of any proposed meetings with DSD.

Action: It was agreed to circulate the final paper to both the Minister for Social Development and Social Development Committee.

Action: Michael to contact PSNI to clarify the situation about enforcement of parking on pavements.

- 5.4 Michael updated members on the key changes to the 2nd draft of the paper highlighting training provided by transport providers. Members broadly supported the proposal to promote and encourage the uptake and development of Disability Equality Training.

Action: Max asked that members provide any comment on the report within the next 10 days.

6. Observers Updates

- 6.1 DRD Update: Members received updates from DRD covering the publication of the DRD Disability Action Plan, the Blue Badge

Consultation, the consultation on Strategic Railway Investment, the proposed transport pilot in the Dungannon area, progress on Belfast on the Move, plans to publish information on progress in the implementation of the current Accessible Transport Strategy Action Plan and the current situation regarding Disability Action Transport Services.

- 6.2 Consumer Council update: Members received an update from the Consumer Council including the recent publication of a joint Consumer Council/Patient Client Council report into transport to health facilities, a soon to be published report into users experiences of door2door and rural transport and the revision of guides for passengers in relation to rights when travelling by air and sea. Scott thanked lmtac members for their assistance in developing the Guides.

7. Annual Report 2013

- 7.1 Max asked members to submit comments on the draft Annual Report in the next 10 days. The Committee agreed that a request be made for the opportunity to present the report to the Minister in person.

Action: Max asked that members provide any comments on the reports within the next 10 days.

Action: Once agreed a request be submitted to meet with the Minister to discuss the Report.

8. Any other business

- 8.1 Michael highlighted an issue raised by the Cedar Foundation regarding the accessibility of vehicles on scheduled services operated by providers other than Translink.

Action: It was agreed to contact Transport NI to seek clarification on whether new contracting/permit arrangements have the potential to improve accessibility.

9. Blue Badge Consultation

9.1 Members received a brief outline of the purpose of the consultation. Members discussed in detail a response to 6 key issues addressed by the consultation.

Action: Max asked that members submit any further comments in the next ten days.

Action: Michael agreed to draft a response based on discussion/feedback and circulate to members for final comment.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19th September 2013 at 12.30pm in The Mount, Belfast.