

Minutes of the 129th Imtac Meeting

Date and place: 18th September 2019, St Columbs Park House, Derry.

Present: Bert Baile (Chairperson), Dave Morton, June Best, Sheelagh McRandal, Alison Lockhart, Nuala Crilly, Aaron McKane, Paul McCloskey, Sam Bell, Jean Dunlop, Vivien Blakely, Brian Murray, Andy Boal.

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

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1. Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 Bert welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone present to introduce themselves.
- 1.2 Bert informed everyone that since the last meeting Ciaran Crilly has taken retirement. Bert has contacted Ciaran on behalf of the Committee to thank him and wish him well.
- 1.3 Apologies were given and accepted from Moira Heap, Diane Marks and Joe Kenny.

2. Observers updates

- 2.1 Naomi updated members about an event to encourage participation by disabled people in public life to be held at City Hall, Belfast on 25th September. Uptake has been low
- 2.2 Sean informed members that Tom Reid has now taken over from Sian Kerr as Director of Public Transport Division. Sean also informed members that the Concessionary Fares survey has received over 1200 responses to date.

- 2.3 Terry informed members that Changing Places facilities are now open in Portrush and Lanyon Place stations. He updated members about plans for Coleraine station and enhancements to the Translink website. Terry also updated members about progress with the North West Transport Hub and the debate about bus access while work is completed. Members agreed that proposed bus stop arrangements are not accessible and alternatives should be looked at.
- 2.4 Richard informed members about recent consumer rights sessions held with a number of groups and organisations. Richard also informed the meeting of queries around PSVAR and the Commercial Bus Permits raised by the Consumer Council in response to consultation from the Department and suggested whether questions about accessibility should be included in Translink passenger monitoring.
- Actions: Members agreed to seek an update from the Department re renewals of Commercial Bus Permits. Terry agreed to raise the issue of passenger monitoring within Translink.**

3. Chairpersons and other updates

- 3.1 Bert briefed members on the Accessibility Four Nations meeting in Edinburgh, highlighting matters discussed and subsequent correspondence. Bert explained the proposal was to meet every 6 months and that it has been agreed with the Department that Imtac will host the next meeting in March 2020.
- 3.2 Bert updated members about a meeting with Chris Conway in July and plans to meet the Permanent Secretary, Katrina Godfrey in October to present the Annual Report. Bert also briefed members about the publication of a Westminster Select Committee report looking at pavement parking and his plans to share its findings with the Department. He also reported the invitation for Imtac to

present to the Channel Islands Group of Professional Engineers in late 2020.

- 3.3 Sheelagh reminded members to submit expenses claims after each meeting and provided an update on the financial situation. Sheelagh also briefed members on the procurement of the Accessible Travel website and the design and print of the Annual Report which was welcomed by members.
- 3.4 Michael briefed members on upcoming meetings including the meeting with Translink to discuss Ticketing and Translink Website on the 1st October and the Members Development Day on the 7th November. Michael also informed members Hannon Coaches has requested an opportunity for members to view a low-floor coach design. Michael explained he is arranging this for the 1st October, venue to be confirmed.
- 3.5 Michael updated members on an on-going investigation by the Commissioner for Older People from a member of the public about Glider and changes made to ensure the ramp is deployed when required.
- 3.6 Michael informed members that the pavement café evaluation will be published before the end of September and a letter sent to DfC shortly after about screening of guidance for equality impact.
Action: Letter to be sent to DfC once pavement café evaluation published.
- 3.7 Michael updated members about an initial meeting with consultants to discuss the redevelopment of Bangor seafront (Queens Parade).
- 3.8 Michael and members briefed members about the recent site visit to look at the new station and public realm in Portrush. The lack of contrasting materials and signage has been identified as issues.
Action: Michael to draft feedback and circulate to members.

3.9 Bert asked members to consider a request from Lisburn and Castlereagh Council to work with Imtac to identify potential solutions to issues raised in the recent EQIA on kerb heights in Lisburn City Centre. Members agreed to meeting with the Council. Sheelagh and June expressed an interest in being involved in meetings.

4. Accessible Travel NI website

4.1 Michael took members through the concept and initial design proposals for the Accessible Travel website, illustrating the structure and content of each section.

4.2 Members spent some time discussing the website design. There was consensus that some of the pictograms on the home page could be improved (Bus, train and community transport), type size needs to be larger and type contrast improved in some section. Members also asked that different options be looked at for the main menu on the mobile version of the site. Consistency of pictograms on all pages was also highlighted.

4.3 Bert asked members to submit remaining comments to Michael as soon as possible and briefed members on the next steps.

Action: Members to submit comments in the next 7 days.

Sean Coulter left the meeting.

5. Current papers

5.1 Michael briefed members on the street audit reports on the proposed public realm schemes in Banbridge and Portaferry. Michael highlighted issues with the historic built environment in both locations suggesting a discussion with Historic Environment Division might be useful.

Action: Members to submit comments on both reports in the next 7-10 days.

5.2 Michael briefed members on the site visit to Ballycastle and Rathlin Island and the draft report looking at the ferry service. Michael explained the wider ongoing discussions with the Department and Consumer Council around developing a passenger charter.

Action: Members to submit comments in the next 10-24 days.

5.3 Michael briefed members on the draft policy paper on small bus design. Members stressed the importance of licensing arrangements prioritising accessibility.

Action: Members to submit comments in the next 10-24 days.

5.4 Michael briefed members on engagement with stakeholders and the draft recommendations around the review of the Concessionary Fares application and renewal processes.

Action: Members to submit comments in the next 7-10 days.

6. Minutes of the last meeting/matters arising

6.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

6.2 Michael circulated copies of a draft language guide. After discussion it was agreed for members to comment prior to further discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Members to submit comments by 30 November

7. Any other business

7.1 Bert briefed members on the recruitment process for new members explaining the use of one year co-options. Bert thanked Vivien, Joe and Moira who will be stepping down this year after two terms and he highlighted that Jean, Dave, Brian and Diane have come to the end of their first term.

8. Time, date and location of next meeting

8.1 The next meeting will be held at 12.30pm on the 11th December 2019 at The Mount in Belfast.