

Minutes of the 130th Imtac Meeting

Date and place: 11th December 2019, The Mount, Belfast.

Present: Bert Baile (Chairperson), Dave Morton, June Best, Eileen Drumm, Brian Murray, Alison Lockhart, Christine McClements, Aaron McKane, Andy Boal, Terry McCorry, Daryl Cupples, Sheelagh McRandal.

Observers: Jenny Redman (Consumer Council).

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1. Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 Bert welcomed everyone but particularly new members and members starting their second term following the recent recruitment. He asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- 1.2 Apologies were given and accepted from Jean Dunlop, Sam Bell, Paul McCloskey, Nuala Crilly, Diane Marks, John McErlane, Sean Coulter (Department for Infrastructure), Francis Hughes (Age Sector Platform), Naomi Roberts (Equality Commission) and Terry Butler (Translink).

2. Chairperson's briefing

- 2.1 Bert briefed members and explained the importance of completing the Register of Interests form, claiming expenses and the Members' Code of Conduct and Social Media policy. He asked that if members have any queries they should contact Michael.

3. Election of officers/Business Group

- 3.1 Prior to the appointment process Bert asked that the minutes record the thanks of the Committee to Joe Kenny and Vivien Blakely for their service on Imtac and the Business Group.

3.2 Bert formally declared vacant all officer roles on the Committee and on Business Group

3.3 Nominations were sought for the position of Vice Chairperson. June Best was the only nomination and was appointed.

Proposed: Sheelagh McRandal Seconded: Terry McCorry

3.4 Nominations were sought for the position of Treasurer. Sheelagh McRandal was the only nomination and was appointed.

Proposed: Brian Murray Seconded: June Best

3.5 Nominations were sought for the Convenor of the Translink Accessibility Working Group. Diane Marks was the only nomination and was appointed.

Proposed: Alison Lockhart Seconded: Andy Boal

3.6 Nominations were sought for Business Group members. Nominations were received for Sam Bell, Paul McCloskey and Dave Morton. All nominated were appointed.

Proposed: Andy Boal Seconded: Aaron McKane

4. Discussion of current arrangements for lmtac meetings

4.1 Members discussed whether to make changes to current arrangements for lmtac meetings. It was agreed that the current day (Wednesday) and timings (12.30pm to 3.30pm) should be retained. Members also agreed to maintain holding at least one lmtac meeting each year in the West.

4.2 Members discussed the importance of inclusive and accessible meeting venues including the provision of ground floor facilities and inclusive toilet facilities. It was agreed that venue options should be reviewed with priority given to venues with the above facilities. In locations where these are not available it was agreed to contact the local councils to discuss concerns.

Action: Michael to send out dates for 2020 meetings to members and to undertake a review of venues for future meetings.

The meeting stopped for lunch.

Jenny Redman joined the meeting.

5. Chairperson's and other updates

- 5.1 Bert briefed members on the positive meeting with the Permanent Secretary, Katrina Godfrey, and the Business Group in October. He explained that as well as presenting the Annual Report the Westminster Select Committee report of pavement parking was discussed.
- 5.2 Bert updated members on other meetings and activities including the recent Translink Accessibility Working Group (TAWG) meeting, the recruitment process, Members Day, meeting with the Deaf community in Derry, the public meeting in Craigavon and a recent British Irish Council symposium entitled "Creating an Inclusive Future Vision for our Ageing Populations".
- 5.3 Bert briefed members on his recent meeting with Tom Reid, the new Director of Public Transport Services and a meeting with Moira Doherty, Deputy Secretary in DfC, to discuss a proposal for a project about encouraging Government in Northern Ireland to adopt inclusive design principles.
- 5.4 For the benefit of new members Bert explained the background to the Accessibility 4 Nations group and the plans for Imtac to host its next meeting in Belfast in March 2020.
- 5.5 Bert updated members on a meeting with officials from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to discuss the issues with kerb heights and the public realm in Lisburn and a subsequent site visit. Michael briefed members on the background to the issue.

Members highlighted plans to start public realm works in Enniskillen.

- 5.6 Sheelagh updated members on the current finances including plans to request Not for Profit status for Imtac and looking a ways to avoid the payment of VAT on salaries in the future. Sheelagh reminded members to submit expenses claims in a timely manner.
- 5.7 Michael briefed members on the recent TAWG meeting and a follow up meeting discussing plans for the Translink website, updating the Translink Access and Station & Facilities Guides and an awareness campaign about priority seating. Members highlighted the need for accessibility information to be provided in formats other than just online. Members asked whether priority seat awareness would include “Please Give Me a Seat” badges. Michael confirmed this was being considered.
- 5.8 Michael highlighted a urgent request from the Department for the Committee’s thoughts about a planned vehicle purchase by Translink which includes 10 high floor coaches.
Action: Following discussion members agreed to (1) restate Imtac’s position that high floor design is incompatible with inclusive design and previous Government and Translink commitments around accessibility and (2) highlight to need for Translink to ensure that reasonable adjustments are in place to ensure disabled people can access their service on an equal basis to others.
- 5.9 Michael updated members about the recent meeting with Translink to discuss new trains and the Ticketing Project, the first Members Day, meetings with the Commissioner for Older People to discuss issues with Glider and progress towards launching the Accessible Travel NI website.
- 5.10 Michael confirmed plans to hold a workshop on the 5th February 2020 in Girdwood Community Hub around pedestrian issues. David Hunter from MACS will be speaking at the workshop about

initiatives in Scotland around tackling pavement parking and A Boards.

- 5.11 Michael briefed members on the background to correspondence with DfC over the equality screening of guidelines for the provision of pavement cafes. The DfC has confirmed in writing that no screening has been undertaken.

Action: Following discussion members agreed (1) to write to DfC requesting that the guidelines be screened retrospectively for equality impact and (2) contact all stakeholders to arrange a meeting to explore whether the current impasse can be resolved.

6. Observers updates

- 6.1 Jenny updated members on recent information days undertaken by the Consumer Council at the North West Hub and Belfast City Airport, plans for a visit to the North West Hub and meetings of the accessibility forums at both City and International airports. Jenny also highlighted the development of the Consumer Council Forward Work Programme.

Action: Michael and Jenny to liaise over the development of work programmes and the proposed visit to the North West Hub.

7. Future of rural and urban demand responsive transport

- 7.1 Michael briefed members about the purpose and content of the discussion paper. Members were in agreement over the issues and proposals for change stressing the importance of accessible vehicles. Members also suggested developing contacts with providers in the Republic of Ireland to learn more about their work.

Action: Michael agreed to (1) look at developing links with providers and to (2) draft an outline proposal for further comment.

8. Discussion of 2020/21 Work Programme priorities

8.1 Bert explained to members the process involved in developing the annual Imtac Work Programme. Members were asked to highlight any initial priorities. Issues raised included public realm, vehicle accessibility, commercial operators and engagement including with parents and carers.

9. Minutes of the last meeting/Matters arising

9.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Proposed: Aaron McKane Seconded: Alison Lockhart

9.2 All matters arising were addressed during the meeting.

10. Any other business

10.1 There was no further business.

11. Date, time and venue of next meeting

11.1 Wednesday 19th February 2020 at 12.30pm at the Mount.