

# MINUTES OF THE

## 87<sup>th</sup> Imtac MEETING

**Date:** 27 November 2008 at The Mount, Belfast

**Present:** Frank Caddy (Chair)  
William Stewart  
Tom Hoey  
Elizabeth Black  
Etta Mann  
David McDonald  
Ann Collins  
Anita Gracey  
Andrew Murdock  
Geraldine Mulherne  
Ann Gamble  
Ronnie Patterson  
Terry Butler  
Joe McCusker  
Max O'Brien  
Barbara Flemming  
Henry Mayne  
Neil Gillan  
Philip Blair

**Apologies:** Norma Moore  
Tony O'Reilly  
Alan Preston, (Mobility Inclusion Unit)  
Gavin Hamilton (Mobility Inclusion Unit)

**Observers:** Janet Watson, (Mobility Inclusion Unit)  
Olaf Hvattum (Age Sector Platform)  
Ryan Simpson (General Consumer Council)

**Secretariat:** Michael Lorimer

## 1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

## 2 MATTERS ARISING

### 2.1 Streets Ahead

Michael updated members on the positive decision taken to shelve plans for a shared surface on Donegall Places. DSD has also requested that Imtac and others bring forward proposals on way finding for people with a visual impairment. Since the last meeting a letter has also been sent to Conor Murphy and a response received from Roads Service regarding the City Centre Traffic Management Plan.

### 2.2 Door2door

Michael informed members that both the operators and the Department had been informed about the Committee's concerns about inconsistencies in contracted services. All parties are working to remove these inconsistencies. Michael has also feedback members concerns about the recent TV advert to the Department.

2.3 A number of members raised concerns about their experiences using the door2door services in their area. Frank suggested that the proposed Consumer Council membership survey could maybe help identify issues that need to be resolved. Frank asked Michael and Ryan to work on this issue.

**Michael/  
Ryan**

### 2.4 Transport Regulations update

Linda informed the Committee that the necessary papers required to begin the process of changing the transport regulations had now been signed by the Executive. Consultation will begin at the start of December and run for 14 weeks. Imtac and the Omnibus Partnership will be assisting OFMDFM with the consultation. The Committee welcomed progress.

**Michael**

## 2.5 Report on people with a learning disability/mental health service users

Michael informed the Committee he was still awaiting feedback on the paper from Autism NI.

## 2.5 AV on buses

Michael informed the Committee that the original proposal to pilot AV on buses has been misplaced. Terry informed the Committee he has resubmitted the proposal. Members expressed frustration at more delays!

## 2.6 Translink Access Policies

A meeting has been arranged for the 9<sup>th</sup> December to discuss the revised Access Policies in detail.

## 2.7 Airports

Michael updated members on the ongoing work with the local airports. A site visit to Belfast City has taken place and comments submitted on Quality Standards. A site visit to Belfast International has been arranged for 14<sup>th</sup> January and Quality Standards will be sent out.

## 3 **Mobility Centre**

3.1 Kevin gave a brief presentation on the services offered by the Mobility Centre and the financial and operational issues that prevented Disability Action from expanding these services. Kevin also indicated that correspondence with clients had been improved but explained why certain messages had to be included in letters.

**Michael**

3.2 Members expressed strong support for the important role the Mobility Centre plays for disabled people and older people who use the car. Members also expressed strong support for the Mobility Centre to receive an appropriate level of funding. Concerns were expressed about any threat to the long term future of the Centre. Members suggested

that guidance sent to people attending the Centre could be further improved.

- 3.3 Frank asked that further discussion take place on the Personal Mobility Group with Disability Action on how Imtac can assist with helping to secure further resources for the Centre and improving information provided to people attending the Centre.

## **4 ATS Update**

- 4.1 Janet asked the Committees views on how the Department should develop future action plans of the ATS. In particular the Department wanted feedback on proposals to have a longer action plan, priorities for the new action plan and how to consult.
- 4.2 Members felt that a longer action plan of 3 years may be beneficial. Focus Groups were suggested as one means of future consultation. Members asked that future action plans contain clear and achievable actions. David recommended that more be done to explain the policies of the ATS to the relevant officials in the Department.
- 4.3 Frank suggested that at future Imtac meetings it would be useful for the Department to update on specific initiatives and actions from the ATS.

## **5 Website paper**

- 5.1 Michael gave members a brief overview of the paper looking at current provision of web based information about accessible transport. Generally the findings show that current provision is confusing and not accessible. The Report recommends developing one single reliable source of information.
- 5.2 Members supported the key findings of the Report and its recommendations. Discussions centred how a single website could be used to provide a one stop shop. It was suggested that this service could be integrated with for example Translink's Call Centre. It was agreed that the paper should be amended to reflect how a single website

could perform this function.

## **6 Working Group Updates**

- 6.1 Working Group convenors gave a brief overview of the activities of their Groups. Members welcomed the new format.
- 6.2 The Committee agreed to follow up the recommendation of the Personal Mobility Group and write to the Minister around scrapping charges in Roads Service Car Parks.
- 6.3 Members noted the concerns raised by two groups around the recent door2door advert. Michael advised that the Department had been made aware of these concerns.
- 6.4 Members noted progress regarding enforcement of misuse of the Blue Badge.
- 6.5 Members noted concerns raised over the Concessionary Fares application process. It was agreed to discuss this issue again at a future meeting.

**Michael**

## **7 Work Programme 2009-2010**

- 7.1 Due to time restraints members had to curtail discussions on next year's work programme.
- 7.2 A proposal from the Public Transport Group to develop a campaign to promote the inclusiveness of public transport here received strong support from members.

## **8 Any other business**

- 8.1 Frank reminded members that recruitment would be taking place again in January and that he and six others would be stepping down. Michael will let those concerned know. Members are encouraged to reapply.

**9 Date of next meeting**

**9.1 The next meeting will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in Clarence Court beginning at 11am**