

GREATER MANCHESTER HIGHWAYS AND DISABILITY GROUP

Brief notes of the meeting held on Monday 17 September at the St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.

<u>Present:</u>	Bert Marsden	Bolton Access Group (in the chair)
	Brenda Trigance-Clark	Bolton Access Group
	Trish Levine	BADDAC
	Albert Hackney	Inskip League - Bury
	Doris Lord	Rochdale Mobility and Access Group
	Anne Preston	Rochdale Mobility and Access Group
	Fred Lord	Metro Mobile Rochdale
	Clifford Leach	Metro Mobile Rochdale
	Chris Drinkwater	Rochdale Voluntary Action
	Martin Field	Manchester Disability Forum
	Alf Parsonage	Tameside DIAL
	Margeret Bone	Tameside
	Frank Revens	Oldham Disabled Drivers
	Joan Shawcross	Oldham Disability Action Group
	Dorothy Whitaker	GMCVS
<u>Apologies:</u>	Christine Darlington	Wigan Access Group
	Dorothy Birch	Stockport Disability Group
	Mary Hackney	BADDAC
	Marjorie Cooper	Manchester Disability Forum
	Joyce Mulvee	Rochdale
	Edna Hughes	Trafford Federation Clubs for the Disabled
	J Booth	Disabled Drivers Association - Wythenshawe

1 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

These were accepted as a correct record.

2 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- a) Ref (1e) Alf Parsonage reported that Anne Fry of the Department of Transport (DOT) was having discussions with Southport about their parking policy. Also, the DOT was compiling a list of authorities who do not allow Orange Badge holders free parking.
- b) Ref (1b) Trish Levine said she would itemise the specific complaints about the Tatton Park toilet/access facilities - Marjorie Cooper would then be prepared to visit and discuss the facilities with National Trust officials.
- c) Ref (1c) Replies ref Highways hazard had been received from North West Water Authority, NORWEB and NW Gas - a reply from British Telecom was still outstanding. It was agreed that if Group members had specific queries in their own areas they should contact the relevant regional contacts direct - therefore copies of their replies are attached.

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Discussion of Agenda for Consultation Meeting with GMC on Thursday 20 September

A copy of the Agenda compiled by Officers of the Highways Group and submitted to GMC was circulated. - Dorothy had heard from the Committee Clerk at GMC that Agenda items had been accepted by GMC (see attached copy of Agenda). Martin Field questioned who would chair the meeting. Dorothy suggested Councillor Allen (Chairman of Highways), but agreed, at the Group's suggestion, to contact GMC about a joint chairmanship, and to consult Edna Hughes about her availability to do this.

How the following items should be presented was then discussed:

Consultation with GMC

It was agreed that a six monthly cycle of meetings should be requested.

Code of Practise

It was agreed that the presentation should question the strength of GM2 regarding the document, give some examples of where the Group knows its guidelines are ignored and therefore are GMC enforcing and/or monitoring its effect? Also certain members had been informed that the Code of Practise was out of print - the Group needed to verify this.

Agreed to ask Christine Darlington to present this item. Martin is to deputise if Christine not available.

Publicity Campaign

It was agreed that the presentation should emphasise the need for the general public to be informed of the correct terms of usage of the Orange Badge scheme and the allied parking facilities, and the Group should request GMC to make resources available for such a publicity campaign.

Agreed Brenda Trigance-Clark should present this, aided by Clifford Leach.

Highways Hazards

Despite the guidelines laid down in the Code of Practise, visually impaired people were concerned that certain forms of highways hazards were on the increase. Are GMC aware of this and do extra guidelines need to be produced?

Agreed Trish Levine should present this.

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Any Other Business

- a) Rochdale Mobility and Access Group said that in future their Group would be represented by their new Secretary - Mrs Anne Preston - who was welcomed to the Group.
- b) Details had been received of a seminar organised by NW District of the Institution of Building Control Officers - "Access and Facilities for the Disabled" - to be held in Huyton on 27 November, price £15. Further details from Mr A Roberts - 061 872 2101 extn. 4806/4841

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Date, Time Next Meeting

Tuesday 30 November 2.00 pm at the St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.