

GREATER MANCHESTER HIGHWAYS AND DISABILITY GROUP

**Brief notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30 November 1984 at the St Thomas Centre,
Ardwick Green North, Manchester.**

Present:

Christine Darlington	Wigan Access Group (in the Chair)
Therese Levine	BADDAC
Mary Hackney	BADDAC
Albert Hackney	Inskip League - Bury
Frank Revens	Oldham Disabled Drivers
Joan Shawcross	Oldham Disabled Drivers
June Maelzer	GM Coalition Disabled People
Vince Schiavo	Middleton DIAL
Chris Drinkwater	Rochdale Voluntary Action
Anne Preston	Rochdale Mobility and Access Group
Clifford Leach	Metro Mobile, Rochdale
Frank Whitfield	Wednesday Club for Disabled
Alf Pinnington	Oldham Disabled Drivers
Dorothy Birch	Stockport Disability Group
Marjorie Cooper	Manchester Disability Forum
J Booth	Disabled Drivers Association, Wythenshawe
Dorothy Whitaker	GMCVS

Apologies:

Doris Lord	Rochdale Mobility and Access Group
Alf Parsonage	Tameside DIAL
Brenda Trigance-Clark	Bolton Access Group
Edna Hughes	Trafford Federation Clubs for Disabled
Margaret Bone	Tameside SIA
M Wheelton	Salford Disabled Drivers
Bert Marsden	Bolton Access Group

1 **Minutes of the last meeting**
These were accepted as a correct record.

2 **Matters arising from the minutes**

a) Ref (2b) Trish Levine had agreed to meet the 'complainant' re toilet facilities in Tatton Park the following week.
NB Trish has been in touch since the meeting and 2 specific complaints are:

- (1) doors open inwards and wheelchair therefore obstructs closure;
- (2) not enough room for side transfer.

Dorothy Birch also reported that Stockport Disability Group are pursuing the need for improved toilet facilities in Lyme Park.

b) Ref (4b) Doubtful whether any member of the Highways Group would be going to the Access Seminar in Huyton, although Wigan Access Group may be represented. If so, they would give a short report at the next meeting.

3 **Shop letters**
Dorothy reported that she had now received the replies from the major stores re parking facilities for disabled people and it was agreed to circulate these with the next minutes so members could follow up any queries directly with the relevant person at Head Office (ASDA letter arrived after the meeting).

Marjorie Cooper said she had negotiated with the Manager at her local ADSA store to relay her own message over the tannoy if she had parking problems.

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GMC Consultative Meeting

It was generally agreed it had been a very useful meeting and GMC had agreed to investigate most of the points raised by the Group, although they are unable financially to mount a large publicity campaign about the 'Orange Badge' system - they did however agree to print 2,000 of the parking leaflets produced by the Group. Many of these have been distributed, but there are still a few left at GMC - if anyone requires some, please let us know.

Dorothy commented that the press release about the meeting in Trafford and Stockport had resulted in requests for leaflets from people previously unknown to the Group who had congratulated the Highways Group on its work.

Unfortunately the press release had identified Councillor Allen as the main campaigner, but at least the Group had been given publicity - see attached official press release.

Although it had been agreed that the Chairman/Vice-Chairman of the Highways Group would receive the draft minutes of the Consultative Meeting for comment it appeared Dorothy had received the only copy. Dorothy agreed to let Christine Darlington (Vice-Chairman) have these and she would liaise with GMC accordingly. Concern was again expressed that GMC still held a certain control over Consultative Meetings whilst they chaired the same, although the consultation had been far more effective than on previous occasions as the Highways Group had set the agenda.

It was also recognised that whilst Councillor Allen was Chairman of Highways it might be difficult to have some form of co-chairmanship but Dorothy would broach the subject of alternate Chairman with GMC.

NB The date of the next Consultative Meeting has been set for 21 March 1985 - time and venue to be arranged. Please make a note of this date.

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Possible questionnaire on orange badge issue

Margaret Bone had suggested that the Group compare the information issued to orange badge holders on renewal, as Tameside's information did not seem adequate and yet other districts issued the glossy leaflet produced by the Department of Transport. Maybe the Group could aim for a uniform pattern of information throughout the County.

Dorothy had agreed to consult the 10 local authorities for a sample of the information they issued.

Marjorie Cooper also said she had been asked to comment on a new parking leaflet issued by Manchester City Council on facilities for disabled people in the City Centre and had suggested this was issued with orange badge information. It was suggested by the Group that when the leaflet was ready, reference to it was made in other districts on their orange badge information as many disabled people from other GMC districts used the shopping and entertainment facilities in Manchester.

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Any other business

- 1) It was agreed to change the times of future meetings to 1.15 pm - 3.30 pm to allow time for people from outlying districts to beat the rush hour. When possible if meetings were held at the St Thomas Centre, Dorothy would provide a sandwich lunch (60p per person) for those wishing to arrive early - 12.30 pm.

- 2) Christine Darlington reported that the campaign Wigan Access Group had waged over pedestrianisation in Wigan town centre seemed to have some lasting effect, as the plans for Leigh town centre pedestrianisation were now being included in all initial planning meetings and their comments being favourably received.
- 3) Dorothy Birch wished to remind those members campaigning for proper access to the proposed Bolton pedestrianisation scheme that consideration should be given to reminding all those blind people from neighbouring districts who used the Guide Dogs Association HQ in Bolton of any proposed changes in routeways.
- 4) Good publicity had been given in local papers to White Cane Day and the particular problem of highways hazards, but concern was expressed by the Group that the blind person featured in all the press releases was unaware of the campaigns of GM Highways and Disability Group and Manchester City Access Group. Dorothy agreed to contact the person in question and suggest some form of liaison.
- 5) Dorothy asked for volunteers to share the task of minute taking at future meetings - Dorothy would still be responsible for editing, compiling, typing and circulating the minutes. Frank Whitfield agreed to take the minutes at the next meeting.
- 6) Dorothy Birch was concerned that the "Cycle Tracks" Bill had gone through Parliament and that visually impaired people would suffer as a result. Proposed cycle tracks in GMC for instance included one outside Manchester Eye Hospital. It was agreed to invite a member of the cyclists' lobby to a future meeting to discuss the issues of common concern.
- 7) Dorothy Birch was prepared to publicise Christmas shopping facilities for disabled people on Manchester Radio "Torchlight". Please ring her on 061 483 7583 if you have any details of your area.

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Date, time next meeting

Tuesday 11 December at 1.15 pm - Health Education Offices, Hardman Street, Manchester.

Coffee will be provided at 12.30 pm for anyone wishing to arrive early with their own packed lunch.