

Brief notes of the GM Highways and Disability Group Meeting held on 11 December 1984 at the Health Education Offices, Hardman Street, Manchester.

Present:

Edna Hughes	Tr Fed Clubs for Disabled (in Chair)
Frank Revens	Oldham Disabled Drivers
Joan Shawcross	Oldham Disabled Drivers
Mrs Evans	DIAL Tameside
Frank Pinnington	Oldham Disabled Drivers
Chris Darlington	Wigan Access Group
Mr Done	Salford Disabled Motorists
Anne Preston	Rochdale Mobility and Access Group
Chris Drinkwater	Rochdale Mobility and Access Group
B Trigance-Clark	Bolton Access Group
Frank Whitfield	Wednesday Club for Disabled
Margaret Bone	Tameside SIA
Dorothy Whitaker	GMCVS

In attendance: Steven Holm Cyclists Touring Club

Apologies:

Trish Levine	BADDAC
Mary Hackney	BADDAC
Albert Hackney	Inskip League, Bury
June Maelzer	Manchester Community Car Scheme
Bert Marsden	Bolton Access Group
Clifford Leach	Rochdale Mobility and Access Group

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

2 **Matters arising from minutes (not on agenda)**

- a) Tatton Park Ref 2A Edna and Marge Cooper to liaise and arrange meeting with MANAGER.
- b) Meeting Access at Huyton Ref 2B Edna reported that it was very interesting. The people there were mainly professionals - not many disabled people were represented at the meeting, but perhaps expense may have been a problem.
- c) Questionnaire on Orange Badge Issue Ref 5
Dorothy had written to 10 authorities asking what information was distributed. Discrepancies were apparent between districts. It was decided to wait until all the replies have been received before holding a discussion. Margaret reported that leaflets are available from HMSO, Ruislip, Middlesex. The question of own private GP signing form for orange badge was discussed, especially the payment involved. Wigan required confirmation from person's own GP if client did not meet stated criteria.

- d) Bolton pedestrianisation Ref 6(3)
Brenda reported that GMC have given small concession re access into "no go area" before 11 am and after 4.30 pm. A lawyer has been appointed to represent Bolton Access at the GMC meeting.
- e) Ref 6(4)
Dorothy rang John Wells re liaison and sent him details of GM Highways and Disability Group and Manchester Access Group.
- f) Ref 6(6)
Mr Stephen Holm had been contacted by Frank Whitfield who was expected to arrive to talk about cyclists' views on cycleways.
- g) Ref 6(5)
Christine Darlington agreed to take the minutes.
- h) Christmas shopping Ref 6(7)
Members had contacted Dorothy Birch re special days.
- i) Pedestrianisation precinct in Leigh Ref 6(2)
Christine reported that Wigan Access had written to the Director of Technical Services with proposals to accommodate disabled people.
- j) Margaret reported that she was to see architects re Tameside alterations and she also mentioned certain cobblestones appearing in precincts causing problems (bevelled edges - ordinary bricks with shallow centre). Dorothy suggested the architect should be contacted, to bring specimens of these surfaces and give a presentation to GM Highways Group.
- k) Frank Revens reported that Oldham now have an Access Liaison Officer.
- l) Brenda reported on English Access Community newsletter requesting information re pedestrianisation, new access groups etc - note of this would be circulated with notice of next meeting in Rochdale.
- m) Anne Preston reported that there will be a meeting in January with councillors to discuss "Out and About".
- n) Frank contacted District Council re Sale precinct - no development so far.

- o) Shop letters Ref 3
Margaret had tried the new trolley for disabled at Asda - many faults in design. Problem of no one solution to differing problems of wheelchair bound people. Group would contact stores for the name of trolley manufacturers.

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Guest speaker, Stephan Holm, Mcr. Clarion Cycling Club

Mr Holm mentioned that:

- a) he felt many letters to GMC re cycle tracks etc. had been ignored in the past;
- b) he had contacted groups in GMC who were interested parties - Friends of the Earth etc, but very few persons in the area seemed interested in making provisions. (Manchester University was interested in the technical and planning aspects);
- c) Railway and Canal Paths Project Group - company from Bristol - were creating jobs, MSC schemes etc.
Jessington Trail etc. could be approached re access for disabled people;
- d) Cycling Touring Club is the national group to lobby in Parliament, however it is very inactive in GMC;
- e) Facilities to provide a cycle rider between 15 - 35 miles appear to be most popular for leisure pursuits and maybe disabled people could join in;
- f) Conflict of use - cycle lanes used by various groups - question of stiles, ramped crossings etc. Mr Holm felt this was due in part to a lack of consultation from GMC - now more progressive;
- g) Dorothy raised the issue of the Cycle Bill - who had instigated the increase in cycle tracks - cyclists or the Council? Stretch of Oxford Road would cause great difficulties to visually impaired people.
Mr Holm stated that there had been a big push a few years ago from cyclists for the Platt Field route etc.
Bus lane/cycle track was GMC's idea.
Liaison required between cyclists' group and visually impaired groups. Could Stephan's group meet Dorothy Birch? (as soon as possible).

Mr Holm said that stiles can be made accessible. Useful information can be supplied by Phil Cotton in Shrewsbury which may help problems encountered in Greater Manchester e.g. towpath at Marple.

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GMC Consultative Meeting

Next meeting will be on 21 March. Plans need to be made for items for the agenda. Who is to go and to do what?

Christine checked the minutes with GMC - the minutes needed to be perused.

The press release was discussed - it varied from district to district. Councillor Allen came out well in all of them.

Could the cycleway issue be on the agenda?

There was also the question of chairing the meeting - Dorothy had contacted the department in GMC and will follow this up.

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Any other business

- a) Discussion of which boroughs in GMC pay for bus passes. (Bury raised this). Bolton and Wigan - no change (i.e. no orange badge). Tameside, Trafford and Stockport - pay for their passes. Salford - will confirm.
- b) AID (Assisted Independence for Disabled), new scheme - similar to Motability which supplies vehicles for disabled people. Meeting at the St Thomas Centre on 24 January at 2 pm, including video and slides. Criteria are different from and more flexible than those for Motability.
- c) Light Rapid Transit Meeting - 22 November with GMC and ADAPT. The meeting seemed to persuade GMC/GMT that disabled people would only accept a totally accessible system. County Councillors to meet ADAPT in the New Year.
- d) Brenda asked Bury groups to investigate a WC at Sainsburys in Prestwich - a National Key Scheme, but facilities inadequate.

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Date, time next meeting

Tuesday 29 January - 12.30 for coffee for 1.15 pm (prompt) start - at the St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.