

**Brief notes of the GM Highways and Disability Group Meeting held on Tuesday  
29th January 1985 at the St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.**

**Present:**

Dorothy Birch	Stockport Disability Group ( in chair )
Alf Pinnington	Oldham Disabled Drivers
Frank Revens	Oldham Disabled Drivers
Joan Shawcross	Oldham Disability Action Group
Therese Levine	Bury and District Disabled Advisory Council
Albert Hackney	Inskip League of Friendship
Jim Wheelton	Salford Disabled Motorists
J. Done	Salford Disabled Motorists
J. Booth	Wythenshawe Disabled Drivers
M. Cooper	Manchester Disability Forum
Dorothy Whitaker	G.M.C.V.S.

**Apologies:**

Clifford Leach	Metro Mobile
Anne Preston	Rochdale Mobility & Access Group
Chris Drinkwater	Rochdale Mobility & Access Group
B. Trigance-Clark	Bolton Access Group
Bert Marsden	Bolton Access Group
Christine Darlington	Wigan Access Group
Edna Hughes	T.F.C.D.
Margaret Bone	Tameside SIA
Mary Hackney	BADDAC

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- Minutes of the last meeting**  
3c - should read Tissington Trail.  
5a - should read Tameside no change.  
Frank Pinnington should read Alf Pinnington.  
The minutes were then accepted as a correct record.

**2**

**Matters arising from the minutes (not on Agenda )**

- a) Ref 2a - Marjorie Cooper agreed to contact Edna Hughes for name of National Trust manager and arrange a visit to Tatton Park. Marjorie also provided a Fact Finder Leaflet of facilities available in the Peak District which included facilities for disabled people.
- b) Ref 3 - Stephen Holm had contacted Dorothy Birch the evening of the last meeting and offered to follow up all the points she had made re-cycleways and visually impaired people - she was awaiting his reply.  
Nina Keshishian of GMCTT had contacted Dorothy to say GMTCC had written to all the districts to ask about their existing and proposed cycling schemes and get consulted about cycling schemes in the River Valley plans. It was agreed the Highways Group would like to be involved in such consultations.
- c) Dorothy had got the name of the major manufacturer of specialist supermarket trolleys and would now contact them about the design problems encountered by members.

- d) Ref 5a - Bury would still like to hear from representatives of other areas on their own policy of issuing bus passes to disabled people.
- e) Ref 5d - Brenda Trigance-Clarke had reported that the access to the toilet in Bury was adequate, it was the internal design that she would like the local group to query.

### **3 GMC Consultative Meeting - 21st March**

It was agreed that the Group would accept Councillor Allen as Chairman & County Hall as the venue if offered. It was difficult to set and discuss possible agenda items when the group had not received the minutes of the last meeting e.g. Alf Pinnington wanted to put the signing of parking facilities at town centre boundaries on the agenda if the suggestion had not been noted for action at the last meeting. Dorothy agreed to pursue the matter of the minutes again with GMC and get copies for all group members prior to the next meeting so we could comment on them and produce an agenda for the next meeting accordingly.

### **4 Orange Badge replies**

It was obvious from the 8 districts that had replied to the letters re information issued when a new or renewed Orange Badge was applied for that there was not much difference between districts ( Tameside and Bury had not replied ). But it was also obvious that the replies from Head Office did not match the reality at local office eg Salford people present had not received the Orange Leaflet with their papers although the Director's letter said everyone received one.

It was agreed that Marjorie Cooper would analyse and compile a brief resumé of the replies and a group representative of each district that had sent a reply, was asked to check out their respective replies ( sent with notice of meeting ) and let Marjorie know whether it was correct at local level.

### **5 Airport Parking**

Early in 1984 the Highways Group had considered the parking information contained in the guide for disabled people to Ringway Airport, which had seemed complex despite the assurances received from a disabled person who worked at the Airport. Councillor Thomas - Chairman of the Airport Committee was Christine Darlington's local Councillor and he had spoken to her recently about facilities at the Airport and she had mentioned the Group's reservations about the parking facilities. He had agreed to meet members of the Wigan Access Group and Manchester Access Group and GM Highways Group at the Airport

to consider the problems and possible solutions. It was agreed that Marjorie Cooper (Highways), Patrick Healey (Forum) and Neville Strowger (Wigan Access) liaise with Christine to arrange a meeting with Councillor Thomas.

**6 Any other business**

- a) Manchester City Access Group were preparing a leaflet with C.T.A.C. ( Community Technical Aid Centre ) and the City Planning Dept to go to all applicants for planning permission - needs of adequate parking provision would be included in it.
- b) GMT are proposing to fund a pilot Dial-a-Ride system for Mobility-impaired passengers in North Manchester.
- c) Castlefield Museum have consulted Manchester City Access Group about improving their facilities, which will benefit visitors - both national as well as local.
- d) Marjorie and Dorothy alerted members to a series of 3 seminars ( 3 days each ) in February, April and June arranged by Directors of Social Service in the North West and hosted by Lancashire Social Services Department, Dalmeny Hotel, St Annes on "Needs of Young Physically Handicapped". Group members might find it interesting to check the input from their district of disabled people to that Conference.
- e) Marjorie reminded the Group of the National Survey RADAR had produced early in 1984 of Car Parking Concessions for disabled people. It was agreed that the Group should try and do a Greater Manchester extract from this Survey.
- f) Dorothy Birch mentioned the Stockport Disability Groups Open Day on "Holidays for Disabled People" to be held at CHS HQ, Daw Bank, Stockport on Saturday 16th Feb 10am - 3pm - any ideas for groups, resorts etc to be included in the day would be gratefully received by Dorothy.

**7 Date and time of the next meeting**

Tuesday 26th February at the St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester. 12.30pm Coffee - bring your own packed lunch or order sandwiches ( 50p ) from Dorothy no later than Monday 25th. 1.15 Prompt start.