

Brief notes of the GM Highways and Disability Group Meeting held on Tuesday  
26th February 1985 at the St. Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester

Present: Edna Hughes - T.F.C.D. (in the chair)  
Clifford Leach - Metro Mobile  
Brenda Trigance-Clark - Bolton Access Group  
Margaret Ashton - Bolton Access Group  
Margaret Bone - Tameside SIA  
Christine Darlington - Wigan Access Group  
Alf Pinnington - Oldham Disabled Drivers  
J. Booth - GM Disabled Drivers Association  
Pauline Evans - DIAL Tameside  
J. Dane - Salford Disabled Motorists  
Jim Wheelton - Salford Disabled Motorists  
Marjory Cooper - Manchester Disability Forum  
Dorothy Whitaker - G.M.C.V.S.

Apologies: Joan Shawcross - ODAG  
Frank Revens - Oldham Disabled Drivers  
Dorothy Birch - Stockport Disability Group  
Bert Marsden - Bolton Access Group  
Anne Preston - Rochdale Mobility Access Group  
Chris Drinkwater - Rochdale Mobility Access Group

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. 5a should read Tameside no charge. The Minutes were then accepted as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes (not an Agenda)

a) Ref 2b - Dorothy had received draft copies of "Cycling - A Code of Practice" from the Engineers Department at GMC, for comment by disabled people in the ten GMC districts. Comments were needed by 12th April and should be addressed to M. Yeadon at County Engineers Department. It was decided local District groups would be responsible for sending their comments direct to Mr. Yeadon but should keep copies for the GM Highways Group file. The following people agreed to compile comments for their area:

Wigan - Christine Darlington  
Manchester - Marjorie Cooper  
Tameside - Margaret Bone  
Oldham - Alf Pinnington  
Trafford - Edna Hughes  
Bolton - Brenda Trigance-Clark  
Stockport - Dorothy Birch  
Bury - to be agreed  
Salford - Jim Wheelton  
Rochdale - Clifford Leach

b) Ref 2a. Marjorie Cooper would be visiting Tatton Park within the next month and would check the details in the National Trust guide before she visited.

c) Ref 4 - Marjorie Cooper had compiled the responses to the letter re. Orange Badges and she circulated the paper which will be duplicated and circulated at the next meeting. It would appear much of the information is the same in all districts. Bury and Tameside had not replied and representatives from these areas agreed to elicit responses from the appropriate authority and let Marjorie Cooper have them. Brenda T.-Clark was concerned about disabled people being fined when their badge/clock had slipped off the windscreen, or date faded with exposure to sun etc. It was generally agreed the protection and placement of such badges was the responsibility of the disabled person. Edna Hughes agreed to compile a list of designated car parking spaces for disabled people and local legislation for disabled people's parking in GMC using the RADAR National list as a guide.

d) Ref 5. Councillor Thomas was in the process of arranging a meeting at the Airport.

e) Ref 6d. It was obvious from the response certain disabled people in GMC had received from their local authorities that the organiser of the "Needs of Younger Physically Handicapped" seminars had not anticipated that disabled people would be participants.

### 3. GMC Consultative Meeting 21st March.

Before setting agenda items it was agreed that we should ask GMC to let the GM Highways and Disability Group Committee members have their minutes in advance of the meeting so they could use them as a basis for the Agenda. To date the Group had only received one copy which had been photocopied and distributed via GMCVS. Also we would remind GMC that they had agreed to have a preview meeting with the Group's Chairperson.

The following two items were agreed for submission on the Agenda:

- 1) Code of Practise - Disabled Out and About - Progress on Implementation. Christine Darlington agreed to introduce this item.
- 2) Publicity About Parking Facilities and Allied Legislation for Disabled People in GMC - Marjorie Cooper agreed to introduce this and Alf Pinnington said he might provide some photographic video evidence to accompany this.

Edna Hughes said she would consult a journalist friend of hers about the best form of Press Release about the meeting.

### 4. Rail Survey

Dorothy briefly explained that the Highways Group had been asked to help ADAPT in conducting a survey of Rail facilities in GMC which the County Council and British Rail would support, publish and use in their future programme of access improvements. Expenses would be paid to volunteers who undertook the survey. Highways members had agreed to do survey work in Oldham, Salford, Rochdale and Trafford to compliment ADAPT survey work in Manchester, Bolton, Wigan and Stockport. Ken Campbell at GMT was coordinating the survey and members of GM Highways Group and ADAPT would be kept informed of its progress.

5. Any Other Business

- 1) There was a query about the seating arrangements in Manchester Arndale Centre and the toilet facilities there. Brenda and Marjorie would liaise about this.
- 2) Marjorie Cooper asked the Rochdale Mobility and Access Group to investigate the parking facilities at Tesco in Rochdale . Access to the store was excellent as were facilities inside but the width of the bays designated for disabled people was inadequate - Clifford Leach agreed to investigate.
- 3) Notice of the DISTECH Conference on Mobility for Disabled People Owens Park, Manchester 25th/26th April was circulated.
- 4) Notice was also given of an Autability Open Day at Horns of Stockport on Saturday 2nd March.

6) Date, Time, Next Meeting

Tuesday 16th April, 1.15 p.m. at St. Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.

\* Coffee available from 12.45 p.m. for those people wishing to lunch at the Centre.