

GREATER MANCHESTER HIGHWAYS & DISABILITY GROUP

Brief notes of Meeting held on 13 September at The St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester M12 6FZ.

Present: Edna Hughes, Trafford Federation of Clubs for the Disabled (in the Chair)
Christine Darlington, Wigan Access for the Disabled
Wilfred Barnett, Oldham District Disabled Drivers Club
Joan Shawcross
Margaret Bone, Tameside
Frank Whitfield, Sale Wednesday Club
Albert Hackney, Inskip League of Friendship, NW Regional Council
Tricia Levine, Bury & District Disabled Advisory Council
Alf Parsonage, Tameside Disabled Motor Club and Tameside DIAL
Ken Lumb, Rochdale Mobility Access Group/ Middleton DIAL
Dorothy Whitaker, Greater Manchester CVS

Apologies:- Bert Marsden, Bolton Access Group
Gerry Mills, Rochdale Mobility & Access Group
Dorothy Birch, Stockport Disability Group

Minutes of the last Meeting

Approved as correct record.

Matters Arising

None.

1. Highways Group Policy on Pedestrianisation & Parking

Pedestrianisation

Ken Lumb had circulated documents relating to the Chesterfield Pedestrianisation problem and the campaign that Derbyshire Coalition of Handicapped People had conducted. Christine queried whether the Chesterfield problem was as complex as the Metropolitan policy of pedestrianisation in GMC. Alf Parsonage thought there needed to be some national 'yardstick' in pedestrianisation policy vis a vis disabled people. Edna suggested checking with Derbyshire Coalition the results of their campaign and whether they would agree to their information being circulated to other local authorities. Alf Parsonage thought we ought to concentrate our initial efforts to achieve a pedestrianisation policy in GMC responsive to disabled people's needs with **Officers not Councillors.** Christine cited areas in the UK where successful Pedestrianisation Policies including disabled people's needs had been implemented and showed a photograph of Hythe's pedestrianised area (a copy of this is in the Highways main file). It was agreed to review the Highways Group original policy document on pedestrianisation at the next meeting and consider how we could get this adapted by GMC.

Parking

Margaret Bone was concerned about the obuse of parking spaces for disabled people. Traffic wardens and police often expressed difficulty in reinforcing the correct use of these. It was decided to invite a spokesman for GM Police to the next meeting to clarify their position and suggest how we might work with Traffic wardens to prevent this obuse. Dorothy had just received a leaflet about facilities for disabled people at Ringway Airport, including parking provision there, which appeared complex and confused. Dorothy agreed to get further copies of this leaflet and circulate to all Highways Group members for comments. Dependent on these it might be appropriate to suggest to the Airport Authority a visit by Highways Group members.

Both Margaret Bone and a colleague of Dorothy's who is a tetraplegic had received parking tickets recently at the Airport.

2. Review of Organge Badge Legislation

The draft document on Parking for the Disabled produced by Greater Manchester Transportation Consultative Committee, circulated prior to the meeting was then discussed, and the comments made were as outlined on the copy of the attached letter.

Concern was also expressed by the Group that since the introduction of the new badge and accompanying criteria issued in March 1983, 'abuse of the organge badge' was still a term being widely used by statutory authority people when they wished to reduce parking facilities for disabled people. Yet there was no evidence of a prosecution for such an abuse in GMC. Therefore it was agreed that we ask the Police at the next meeting for their explanation of this abuse, and also consider how the general public via the media could be educated about the correct use of the badge and its criteria.

3. Video

Discussion on this was deferred to a meeting when Gerry Mills was present.

4. Edna Hughes and Ken Lumb were keen that the Highways Group should consider its policies and priorities and this was referred to a future meeting.

5. It was agreed to have a small supply of GM Highways & Disability Group notepaper printed for officers of the Group to use. Dorothy agreed to do this on Centre for Voluntary Action paper until the Group had time to consider an alternative letter-heading.

6. Date, Time, place of next meeting - Tuesday 8 November at 2.00 pm main hall of The St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.

Suggested Agenda

- a) Greater Manchester Police Spokesman on Parking policy and policing of orange badge system for disabled people.
- b) Review of GMTCC second draft on Pedestrianisation which will be available at the meeting.
- c) ~~Further action re Airport leaflet - please bring this with you.~~
- d) Policies and Priorities of the Highways Group.

