

Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance (SATA)

Full Meeting

Minutes of Full Meeting of members held on **Thursday 17 September 2009** at the RNIB office, 12-14 Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh, commencing at 2.15 pm.

Present

Members

Stan Flett (Chairperson), Maggie Killin (Vice Chairperson), Douglas Gilroy (Individual Honorary Life Member), John Ballantine (Individual), James Cook (Lothian Community Transport Services), Anne Cowan (Fife Council), Arthur Cowie (Lochaber Disability Access Panel), Kate Cross (individual), Paul Cross (Individual), Bob Edwards (Highland Council), Jan Goodall (DATAG), Murray Fleming (Scottish Taxi Federation), Jane Horsburgh (Guide Dogs Scotland), Lilian Lawson (SCoD), Alan Loos (Individual), John McDonald (CTA), Pat McGuigan (Glasgow Access Panel), Jim McKay (Individual), Ryan McQuigg (Leonard Cheshire Disability), John Moore (Lothian Community Transport Services), Alan Rees (Individual Honorary Life Member), Jim Ritchie (Individual), Terry Robinson (Individual), Ivor Souter (Highland Council), Muriel Williams (Individual Honorary Life Member), Dennis Wilson (Individual), Ann Young (SEAG).

Speaker

Anne MacLean (Convener, Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland)

In attendance

Judith Ballantine (Secretary, MACS), Bill Brash (Transport Division, Scottish Government)

Interpreters

Andrew Dewey and Agnes McIvor

1. Opening remarks

Stanley Flett opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies

Donald Anderson (Glasgow CIL), Fiona Anderson (NorthLink Ferries), Chris Clark (Transport Scotland), Lena Gillies (ENABLE), Mike Holmes (ENABLE), Colin Howden (TRANSform Scotland), Margaret Gilroy (Individual), David Griffiths (ECAS), Maggie Lawson (Baddenoch & Strathspey CT), Mac Logan (Individual), Mina McDonald (Individual), Jackie Maceira (West Dunbartonshire Access Panel), Ryan McQuigg (Leonard Cheshire Disability), Bill McIntosh (Scottish Taxi Federation), Roddy MacTaggart (Aberdeen City Council), Andrew Overton (London Taxis International), Patrick Nyamurandira (First ScotRail), Tom Porter (Individual), Tomas Patullo (Individual), Liz Rowlett (Scottish Disability Equality Forum), Matt Short (National Express North East), Jean Smith

(Cummnock & Doon Valley Access Panel).

3. Minutes of the Open Meeting on 14th May 2009

These were adopted on a proposal by John Ballantine, seconded by Pat McGuigan.

4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

(a) Scotland-wide Free Bus Travel Scheme

It was noted that the report on the review of the scheme had been published by the Scottish Government and SATA had sent it to members for information.

(b) Glasgow Subway modernisation

A consultation on the modernisation proposals was being undertaken by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and a number of SATA members attended the launch in Glasgow on 29th May 2009.

(c) Lothian Buses

It was understood that Lothian Buses was modifying some of its bus fleet to accommodate more buggies. No further details were available at present.

5. Presentation on MACS

Anne MacLean OBE, Convener, Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS) started by thanking SATA for the invitation to speak. She then went on to summarise the setting up and development of MACS since 2001 including attempts to merge it with the Passenger Transport Users' Committee (PTUC) now known as Passenger View Scotland (PVS). When these failed, and the terms of all existing members had come to an end, seven new members had been appointed including herself as Convener, although two had since resigned. Strenuous efforts had recently been made to recruit more people and, with interviews taking place last week, it was hoped to have a fully functioning committee appointed from 1st October.

Anne went on to explain the conditions under which MACS was now having to work, with three part-time staff (where previously there were three full time) and no specific budget (bids for items of expenditure having to be made). Members were accountable to Scottish Ministers and were required to work within the policy framework of the Scottish Government and 'single outcome agreements'. It was a time of severe financial constraint for both public bodies and transport operators.

Anne thought the job MACS had to do was still worth doing. She realised that there were many things the disabled community wanted. They would be formulating a new work plan and gave examples of issues which she thought needed attention such as the transport needs of people in rural areas (who did

not benefit from the national concessionary bus fare scheme because there were no scheduled services) and the problems posed by the development of shared street surfaces (an issue for everyone not just the blind). Other matters which were likely to arise were access to the Glasgow airport rail link and the Commonwealth Games (learning from the London Olympics), outcomes from the Scottish Ferries Review and walking distances to stations along the Edinburgh tram route.

She concluded by saying that MACS had to work within the constraints set for it and do a few things well. She thanked her audience for listening.

Stan Flett thanked Anne for her presentation and invited questions and discussion.

6. Questions and discussion

A number of topics were raised and discussed:

- Drop off points at Glasgow Central Station (Pat McGuigan)
- The suitability of low floor buses in rural areas (Arthur Cowie)
- Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) as a top priority (Muriel Williams)
- The inclusion of all disabled people (Anne Young)
- The demise of the Thistle Travel Card scheme (Stan Flett)
- Announcements on trains and stations (Lilian Lawson)
- Eligibility for the Scotland-wide Free Bus Travel Scheme (John Ballantine)

7. Information exchange

(a) Scottish Council on Deafness

Lilian Lawson reported that SCoD had set up a meeting with Transport Scotland to discuss a range of issues regarding deaf people using public transport.

(b) SATA consultation responses

Alan Rees reported that a response had been made to the DfT consultation on *Improving Access to Light Rail* and comments were now being sought on the Transport Scotland consultation on *Station Car Parking Policy in Scotland*.

8. AOCB

No other business was raised.

9. Next meeting: an Open Meeting at 1.30 pm on Thursday 12th November 2009 at the Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Camelon, Falkirk.

10. Close

The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.30 pm.

