Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance (SATA)

Open Meeting

Minutes of Open Meeting of members held on **Thursday 12th November 2009** at the Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Camelon commencing at 1.30 pm

Present

Members
Maggie Killin (Vice Chairperson), Douglas Gilroy (Individual Honorary Life Member), John Ballantine (Individual), Arthur Cowie (Lochaber Disability Access Panel), Dean Cowper (Transport Scotland), Paul Cross (Individual), Iain Cuthbertson (Quarriers), Stephen Joyce (Deafblind Scotland), Jane Horsburgh (Guide Dogs Scotland), Douglas Hush (Individual), Pat McGuigan (Glasgow Access Panel), Jim McKay (Individual), Ryan McQuigg (Leonard Cheshire Disability), Alan Rees (Individual Honorary Life Member), John Moore (Lothian Community Transport Services), Patrick Nyamurandira (First ScotRail), Jim Ritchie (Individual), Terry Robinson (Individual), Ivor Souter (Highland Council).

Speaker
Keith Roberston (Scottish Disability Equality Forum)

Interpreters
Andrew Dewey and Jackie Greenshields

1. Opening remarks
Maggie Killin opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She explained that Stan Flett had had to return home as his wife was not well: members expressed their concern and best wishes.

2. Apologies
Donald Anderson (Glasgow CIL), Fiona Anderson (NorthLink Ferries), Chris Clark (Transport Scotland), Caroline Barr (Individual), Phil Dawson (National Express North East), Derek Dewer (Angus Transport Forum), Stan Flett (Chairperson), Lena Gillies (ENABLE), Mike Holmes (ENABLE), Colin Howden (TRANSform Scotland), Margaret Gilroy (Individual), Jan Goodall (DATAG), David Griffiths (ECAS), Maggie Lawson (Baddenoch & Strathspey CT), Lilian Lawson (SCoD), Mac Logan (Individual), John McDonald (CTA), Mina McDonald (Individual), Roddy MacTaggart (Aberdeen City Council), Brian Masson (Angis Transport Forum), Andrew Overton (London Taxis International), Bill Parris (Allied Vehicles), Liz Rowlett (Scottish Disability Equality Forum), Matt Short (National Express North East), Ruth Sim (Individual), Jean Smith (Cummnock & Doon Valley Access Panel), Caroline Tumath (Quarriers), Linda Wright (Prestonfield Neighbourhood Project), Ann Young (SEAG), Muriel Williams (Individual Honorary Life Member).

3. Minutes of the AGM on 17th September 2009
These had been circulated to members and were noted without discussion.

4. Minutes of the Full Meeting on 17th September 2009
These were adopted on a proposal by Arthur Cowie, seconded by Paul Cross.

5. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

(a) Glasgow Subway modernisation
A consultation meeting on the modernisation proposals being undertaken by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) had taken place on 3rd November and a number of SATA members were amongst those attending. There was a presentation from Aedas Architects on intitial designs for stations at Kelvinhall, Ibrox and Hillhead.

(b) MACS recruitment
John Ballantine updated members on the further round of recruitment to the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland, a further 9 appointments having been made bringing the total membership to 14 out of a possible 15 including the Convener. The names were published on the Scottish Government website under MACS.

6. Report from the Management Committee
Alan Rees reported that the Committee had approved revisions to what was now the SATA Business Plan 2009-2012. Copies would be circulated to members for information and comment. It contained an Action Plan for the next three year built on SATA's constitututional objectives. Responsibility for delivering them lay with the Management Committee but supported by all members. Central to this was the work of Sub Groups and these were now being re-formed.

Maggie Killin said that the Sub Groups would be co-ordinated by Douglas Gilroy and led by members of the Management Committee. But they needed to draw widely on available expertise within the membership. So anyone willing to volunteer should contact Douglas.

Douglas said it was proposed that the Sub Groups should continue with the following topics:

- Air travel
- Bus/coach services
- Rail services
- Sea/ferry services
- Door-to-door services and car travel
- Transport policies, strategies, legislation, information provision and training

He hoped the groups would be pro-active on issues as well as responding to

consultations and policy statements. They would work mailnly by e-mail and telephone. He would contact members shortly to invite reponses.

7. Information exchange

(a) National Entitlement Card
Ryan McQuigg informed the meeting that on 19th November the Scottish Parliament would debate a motion by Margaret Mitchell MSP on the National Entitlement Card

(b) Describe On-Line
Terry Robinson reported that there were now on-line station guides to Edinburgh Waverley and Glasgow Queen Street. Guides to Edinburgh Haymarket and Linlithgow were in preparation.

(c) First ScotRail
Patrick Nyamurandira gave a report on the following - further details of which are circulated separately to members:

- First ScotRail's revised DPPP on its website and in hard copy
- BSL video on the ScotRail website: seeking feedback
- Tactile maps installed at Camelon and Linlithgow: feedback invited
- research into RNIB REACT systems: participation requested
- 'Access for All' small scheme funding for 2010/11 under discussion
- 'Access for All' main scheme projects: lift and footbridge at Dalmuir; work at Motherwell soon; options for Linlithgow, Hyndland and Perth; 20 variable height ticket counters installed; some automatic doors installed and others in the pipe line.

Patrick said there was increasing demand for mobility scooters to be carried on trains but some had dimensions larger than could be accommodated within the spaces available. ScotRail kept its policy under review: there was no national policy. A debate was needed and views would be welcome.

In answer to a question about complaints and disability awareness training for staff, Patrick said over 3,000 staff went through training. Complaints were catalogued as (a) serious (b) general and (c) re-occurring and the target was to reduce them by 10% month by month.

(d) SATA consultation responses
Alan Rees reported that a response had been made on 25th September to the Transport Scotland consultation on *Station Car Parking Policy in Scotland (*response on the SATA website) and the Scottish Government was currently consulting on the *Public Sector Equality Duty Specific Duties (responses by 15th January 2010).*

The Department for Transport had published the responses to its consultation

earlier in the year on the *Improving Access to Taxis*. A recent Ministerial announcement indicated that the Government had decided not to regulate under the DDA but instead to run three 'demonstration projects' with the intention of then issuing further guidance to local authorities.

8. Presentation: British & European Standards: Friend or Foe?
by Keith Robertson, Access Development Officer, Scottish Disability Equality Forum

Keith talked about standards in general and then some aspects of BS 8300 - 2009 that were relevant to transport. The following is a summary.

He said standards are a series of preferences set down by the British Standards Institute (BSI), the International Organisation for Standardisation (OSI) and the European National Standards (EN). They are by definition the minimum requirements for any given subject, activity or product. They are used to ensure that everything is safe, reliable, trustworthy and fit for purpose.

BSI is responsible for some 27,000 standards and for integrating European standards that must be complied with, superior standards taking precedence. Building Standards are enforced in Scotland by local authority Building Standards Officers, Scottish Building Standards and appropriate Ministers. But he stressed that they could only enforce the minimum standards at any given time and they were not, and never could be, retrospective. Designers who only use the minimum can cause problems as the minimum does not always meet the needs of disabled people and standards should often be set higher (eg for the wheelchair turning circle within a toilet).

He went on to give examples of standards for transport:

- BS EN 1493 - 2008 Vehicle lifts
- BS ISO 29061-1 Road vehicles. Methods and criteria for usability evaluation of child restraint systems and their interface with vehicle anchorage systems
- BS ISO 10542-2 2001 Technical systems and aids for disabled or handicapped persons. Wheelchair tie-down and occupant-restraint systems. Four-point strap-type tie-down systems.
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He then showed illustrations from BS 8300 - 2009 for:

- a designated on-street parking bay
- access around designated off-street parking spaces
- markings for multiple designated off-street parking spaces
- a garage designed for a wheelchair user and an ambulant driver
- the design of access routes

- unisex accessible corner WC layout.

On obtaining details of standards, Keith said it was a problem for the voluntary sector because of the cost and yet they were essential for reference. SDEF had managed to negotiate with BSI for BS 3800 - 2009 at half price ie £120. Copyright is very strong.

He concluded by saying that disabled people should demand higher standards and a greater transparency about who was giving advice on what they should be.

Following questions, Maggie Killin warmly thanked Keith for his presentation.

9. AOCB
No other business was raised.

10. Next meeting: a Full Meerting at 1.30 pm on Thursday 11th February 2010 at the Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Camelon, Falkirk.

11. Close
The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.30 pm.