

**ACCESS ADVISORY SUB COMMITTEE**  
**17 JUNE 1998**

Present: Councillor Ward (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Clifford (Vice-Chairman)  
Mrs V L Ashby, Bracknell Carers Group  
Miss T Azam, Bracknell and Wokingham Muscular Dystrophy Group  
Ms C Dann, Bracknell Users Group  
Mr P Fox, Mencap  
Ms H Hart, Bracknell Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre  
Mrs S Kearton, Bracknell Citizens' Advice Bureau  
Mr M Maice, Forestline Community Transport  
Mr E Mallett, Red Diamond Disabled Sports Association  
Mrs I Mattick, Triple 'A'  
Mr M Shrimpton, Berkshire Disability Information Network  
Mr A Tarry, National Federation of the Blind  
Mrs M Thompson, Action Group for the Physically Handicapped

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Finnie  
Councillor Onions  
Councillor Mrs Sutcliffe  
Ms M Abbott, Downside Resource Centre  
Miss A Ball, Parents Together  
Mrs P Sanderson, The Ark

**4. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Access Advisory Sub Committee held on 21 May 1998 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**5. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Minute 97 - RAMPO Fund

The Sub Committee noted that their recommendation to the Strategy and Policy Committee for a grant towards the construction of a ramp for the Bracknell Royal British Legion Club, had been agreed. The Access & Mobility Officer confirmed that an estimate of £500 to construct the ramp, had been received. Action would now be taken to release the money.

Minute 99 - Access Committee Training

The Sub Committee was advised that a new training officer had been appointed. The Access & Mobility Officer and the Training Officer would be meeting shortly to determine a training schedule.

**6. Transport Policies and Programme - Consultation Draft (Item 1)**

The Sub Committee considered a report concentrating on the mobility and accessibility aspects of the Transport Policies and Programme (TPP) bid for 1999/2000. The report outlined the proposed improvements for mobility and accessibility in the medium term, 2000/2001 onwards. As the plans were medium term, members of the Sub Committee asked if any immediate improvements to the transportation system for disabled people were planned. The Access & Mobility Officer considered current travel difficulties being experienced. The views of the Sub Committee were noted and would be discussed by Officers. Support for community transport operations would continue whilst public transport remains difficult.

The Sub Committee discussed the difficulties experienced by wheelchair users when travelling by rail. For example, platforms at Bracknell and Reading stations were not currently accessible to wheelchair users. When travelling back from London, wheelchair users were advised to alight at Ascot station. Wheelchair users must also book their journey at least one week in advance.

The Sub Committee also considered proposals for the provision of low floor buses and noted that consideration would need to be given to kerb heights to ensure ease of access.

After consideration of the three specific proposals, the Sub Committee indicated the following priority order:

- Provision of low floor buses
- A shop mobility programme
- Mobility Accessibility improvements at Bracknell town railway station

## 7. Borough Council Committee Reports (Item 2)

The Sub Committee considered a proposal to include a standard paragraph in all committee reports regarding access implications. The Sub Committee noted that the Access & Mobility Officer, in view of the volume of reports, would not prepare the standard paragraph in reports, but would issue guidance to report authors on how to assess access implications.

**RECOMMENDED** to the Strategy and Policy Committee that access implications be considered and detailed in all committee reports; and be assessed as set out below:

- (a) It would be the individual report author's responsibility to fully consider access implications and outline implications in the report to the committee. Guidance would be provided by the Access & Mobility Officer in the form of a small leaflet for staff and "designing for accessibility" will be available for reference in all departments.
- (b) The Borough Council's training programme on disability awareness would continue to provide information for staff on access issues.
- (c) The Access & Mobility Officer would arrange internal workshops for staff where appropriate.

- (d) The Access & Mobility Officer would give detailed advice on issues that were complex or where officers were unsure of how to progress an issue should the need arise.

8. **Parking Leaflet - Consultation Draft (Item 3)**

The Sub Committee was asked to comment on a leaflet designed by the Access & Mobility Officer "Orange Badge Parking in Bracknell Forest". The Sub Committee endorsed the leaflet subject to a few alterations.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.  
and concluded at 9.05 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN**

