

## **Appendix 1**

### **REPORT FROM BROMLEY MOBILITY FORUM TO CARE SERVICES POLICY, DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

This report informs members of the work carried out by the Forum since the last progress report presented at the PDS committee in June 2011.

Since then the Forum has continued to work in line with its Mission statement:

**To improve the quality of life and support the independence of all people within the London Borough of Bromley experiencing difficulty with mobility and/or accessing transport**

#### **1. MODERNISATION OF BROMLEY SOUTH STATION**

From its beginning the Forum has taken a collaborative approach to its work and positively encouraged dialogue with transport providers and the Council. It has therefore been able to maintain an ongoing dialogue with Network Rail for the duration of the works concerned with improving access and, through our broad membership, provide a conduit for the views of people with a wide range of mobility problems. We also fed back teething issues with the new lifts and toilets which have now been remedied.

We were part of the successful lobby to have the four-car train stop reinstated close to the stairs to reduce walking distances to shorter trains for those with mobility issues.

We facilitated discussions between Network Rail, LBB and Southeastern trains. These resulted in steps being taken to find a resolution to longstanding problems with the drop-off arrangements and blister paving at the station which we understand are now nearing completion.

#### **2. CONSULTATION**

##### **Blue badge**

We consulted our members on proposals for charging for lost or damaged Blue badges

##### **Step free stations**

Following our request for views in the News Shopper, we were able to make a case for Bromley stations to be made step free resulting in St. Mary Cray and Shortlands to be placed 2nd and 8th on the priority list for additional funding.

##### **Bromley North Village**

We facilitated a full and frank discussion with Transport for London and LBB on the impact of the bus route changes on people with mobility problems wishing to shop in Bromley.

##### **Beckenham High Street**

We organised a walk about with Anne Wynne from project leaders, East, highlighting existing hazards for disabled and older people some of which have now been addressed in the Project Plan

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#### **Traffic lights and crossings**

We have had input into the upgrading of various traffic lights and crossings within the borough, thus improving safety for people with mobility issues. This has been particularly relevant to the blind and partially sighted and is a continuing piece of work.

#### **Bromley South Central**

We have also discussed proposals for this development with the project leaders Cathedral Group.

#### **Local bus routes**

We carried out a second survey which concluded with a general satisfaction with the quality of the service.

### **3. REPRESENTATION**

#### **Safer Transport**

We arranged a presentation to members by the Bromley Safer Transport Team, and we represent older and disabled people on the Bromley Police Transport Users Group.

#### **LBB Public Transport Liaison Committee**

We have been able to give the committee advice and provide a user's perspective on proposed changes to transport provision as well as provide a vehicle to enable officers to consult with users.

#### **Disability hate conference**

We ensured that our members' growing concerns about hate crime on public transport were considered at the recent Disability Hate Conference.

#### **Churchill Theatre**

We have held discussions with management resulting in improved access for disabled people and their carers to the Churchill Theatre

#### **Pan London Mobility and Access Issues**

Mobility issues and accessing transport go beyond our borough boundaries and we have a representative on **Transport for All's Pan London Mobility Forum** and on **Transport for London's Sub Regional Mobility Forum South**. This allows us to feed in our local issues at a London-wide level.

### **4. COMMUNICATION**

Our broad representation of users, carers and experienced individuals among our membership enables us to consult widely on mobility and disability access issues. And we believe that good communication helps to avoid misunderstandings and to encourage a positive response to proposals for change.

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**Newsletters and minutes of meetings** are circulated widely and **information is made more accessible** using easyread format.

#### **Twitter account and blog and website**

We are in the process of reaching out to an even wider audience through our new Twitter account and blog, and our shortly to be arranged website.

#### **Bromley's Accessible Transport Guide**

The Guide was a collaborative project between LBB, Disability Voice Bromley and the Forum as distributors. As well as being available at Bromley's Mylife website, over 175 copies have been given out to individuals and organisations together with reference copies at libraries.

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Forum believes it still has a significant role to play as a vehicle for mobilising expert views around mobility and access, and providing advice and opportunities for consultation. We believe there are still current issues that would benefit from our continuing input and involvement such as:

#### **Traffic lights and crossings**

There are still a number of places in Bromley North Village, Beckenham High Street and elsewhere, where the expertise of users should be drawn upon to ensure that the proposals really do improve safety and access.

#### **Hospital transport**

Changes to local hospital and health services provision are bringing to light serious transport problems relating to eligibility and travel distances.

#### **Changes to bus routes**

Monitoring changes on routes such as those affected by the Chislehurst Bridge works and the Bromley North Village project

#### **Changing places toilets**

Which allow those with complex needs to enjoy activities in the borough. There is a need to increase the number of toilets and ensure they meet the access criteria required for 'changing places' facilities

#### **Keeping staff on trains and stations**

Supporting the campaign to improve safety and access for disabled and older passengers using trains

#### **Local Development Plan and other LBB or third party development projects**

Participating in the drafting, monitoring and review of the Council's local development plan as directed by the Mayor of London and any other proposals from LBB or other third party which impinge on the quality of access and mobility

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**6. THE FUTURE**

As a result of the implementation of new consultative arrangements for Bromley with a significantly slimmed down partnership framework, fewer standing bodies, and an increased emphasis on time-limited, task-focused consultations, members of the Forum have had to look closely at how to proceed without the financial assistance of Bromley Council, and to this end commissioned a consultant to review the options open to the Forum once its 'task and finish' remit is completed in March 2014.

The Forum's work cuts across adult social care, health and transport planning, and its members are in no doubt as to the value of its work as a specialist access and mobility organisation consulting and advising on access and mobility issues in the borough.

Not only does this enhance the safety, access and quality of life of vulnerable residents, but it supports the Council's objective of helping people to manage their own lives and move around independently without intervention from the Council, as well as making an important contribution to the Council's Local Implementation Plan with its emphasis on town centre planning and redevelopment. It also supports the Mayor of London's Transport Plan, one objective of which is "to improve accessibility to all forms of transport for people whose mobility is impaired for any reason".

We shall be considering a range of options for sustaining the Forum between January and March as well as looking at how we can strengthen our user-led base. However, the pressure is enormous on existing committee members with a range of commitments to disabled and vulnerable people and, in the light of the additional workload which will inevitably fall on these hard-pressed individuals, we have to look at how effective we can be if we are unable to sustain our administrative support.

December 2013

Leslie Marks  
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Bromley Mobility Forum