

Dear Readers

Hope all is well with you all? With the continued COVID restrictions and no IDHTS meetings, there is still not much to report. The good news is that our next edition of Transport Matters is now published! The not so good news is that it's still not possible to hold meetings until the general situation improves.

Now there are several new Government restrictions, I believe it remains' clear that the ability to hold large group meetings is still some way off. As I wrote in the last edition in August, the committee had to consider & decide various points that needed to be agreed. Unfortunately, the key decisions made by the committee must remain, they were as follows:

- Reluctantly we had to agree to cancel programme meeting dates for the remainder of 2020 that were planned for September through to December. It now looks unlikely this will improve in early 2021, until rate of COVID infections improve & guidance on holding large group meetings enables us to recommence our sessions.
- As I wrote in the last edition, the real difficulty in holding meetings is not just the social distancing rules that would reduce capacity dramatically, but the question on whether our membership would even attend? It is also likely to be challenging in getting speakers to attend in the current climate. In addition, IDHTS would have to be prepared to run meetings at a loss due to the reduced capacity of the venue.
- I have recently corresponded with the new Salvation Army Ipswich Citadel Manager, Captain Andrew Jarrold, he confirmed that they are still only holding 'virtual online' services and that they not opening for any groups on the site. When they reopen, the extra cleaning that will be required after each of our meetings could be a real issue for them. They have stated that IDHTS would need to submit a 'COVID Secure' Health & Safety self-assessment, which would need to be approved by The Salvation Army prior to recommencing meetings. The Captain has agreed to keep us updated.
- The committee has recently remotely discussed as a group, in regard to the issue of membership renewals. The committee had decided to extend the current membership through to the end of August 2021 year. This will make up for missed meetings, of course, this has meant that IDHTS will bore the cost of all Issues of the magazine, but we felt it was the best way forward.
- We hope to meet as committee as soon as restrictions allow, to discuss what we can organise for rest our 2021 year. Rest assured, it remains our priority the recommence meetings in 2021 as soon as the situation allows. I will update you all in the next edition of Transport Matters and on our Facebook & website pages.

I know this will continue to disappoint many members who value our presentations, but our first priority has to be the safety and wellbeing of our membership. Please feel free in letting me have your views, particularly how you would feel about attending future meetings, you can email me on d.kerridge2@ntlworld.com or you can call me on 01473 424904. In the meantime, I hope you stay safe and well.

Kind Regards

Sylvia Kerridge, Chairman IDHTS