

# Rushden Transport Museum

## Access Policy

### 1. Statement of Purpose

“To advance the education of the public in the history of transport and to provide a museum for the public exhibition of vehicles and other artefacts of relevant historical interest”

### 2. Our definition of access

We define access as something that is made possible when physical, intellectual, cultural, social, financial, psychological and emotional barriers are removed, reduced, or overcome.

### 3. Our commitment to accessibility

The Society is committed to providing the widest possible access to enable audiences from all sections of the community to enjoy the use of the museum, its collections and services. Our policy is to build accessibility into everything that we do to develop and improve our services. This commitment is long term and our aim is to make continuous improvements as our resources permit. This commitment extends to our workforce as well as visitors. We are committed to ongoing training in access issues for staff and volunteers. We will ensure all contractors are aware of our policy.

In order to eliminate barriers to access we will consider the following forms of accessibility:

- **Physical:** to enable people with physical disabilities to reach and appreciate every part of the museum and site. This includes the needs of the elderly and of people caring for young children. Although we aim to provide equal access for all visitors, some physical adaptations are impossible to historical vehicles and our building which is being preserved as near possible to its original state. Where physical access poses severe problems alternative arrangements will be made to provide some experience of that part of the collection or service for visitors.
- **Sensory:** to enable those with impaired vision or hearing to enjoy and appreciate the Society’s heritage assets.
- **Intellectual:** to enable people with learning disabilities to engage with and enjoy the work of the Society. We also recognise that people have different learning modes and we will provide interpretation in a range of learning styles.
- **Cultural:** to enable those for whom English is not a first language, or whose knowledge of English history and culture may be limited, to enjoy the use of the museum, its collections and services.
- **Emotional and attitudinal:** to ensure that the museum, site environment and workforce are welcoming to visitors from all sections of the community.
- **Financial:** Rushden Historical Transport Society is committed to keeping admission prices as low as possible for all its visitors.

We pay due regard to intergenerational equality. The rights of future generations to enjoy access to our heritage are safeguarded by high standards of collection care and where necessary by restrictions on handling, or exposure to light, moisture or other harmful environmental conditions.

The Society's website is fully accessible to disabled people including those who may be using it with the help of special equipment.

The museum is open on Saturdays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm and Sundays from 11.00am to 4.00 pm from Easter to the end of October and additionally (with longer hours) on 'running days' throughout the year.

Special arrangements for private viewings, for school parties for example, can be made at any time.

#### **4. Policy Review**

The Society will be mindful of new developments in access standards and will review this policy at least once every five years. The next review will be due in September 2019.