

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday 25 February 2014 in Te Mahanga Committee Room One,
Wakefield Street 5.30pm to 7.30pm

- 1. Present**
- 2. Welcome from the Chair**
- 3. Welcome to new AAG members**
- 4. Conflict of interest**
- 5. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes**
- 6. Review of advisory groups**
Mark Jones, Policy
- 7. Wellington City Council Draft Housing Strategy**
Pip Aldridge, Policy
- 8. Accessible Wellington Forum**
Lisa Matthews, Consultation and Engagement
- 9. Project reports**
- 10. Other business**
 - a. Draft Annual Plan
 - b. Safe and sustainable transport group meeting – call for agenda items
 - c. Correspondence re Children’s Garden/Memorial Park
 - d. Co-chair transition
- 11. Next Meeting**
Tuesday 25 March 2014 in Korimako Committee Room Two

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday 25 February 2014 in Te Mahanga Committee Room One, Wakefield Street
5.30 to 7.30pm

1. Present

- Members Jason Strawbridge, Kendall Akhurst, Michael Bealing, Julia Mosen, Alan Royal, Shannon Krogmann, Paula Booth, Christine O'Sullivan, Lee Rutene, Tim Pate.
- Apologies Cr Malcolm Sparrow
- Councillors Cr David Lee
- Council officers Pip Aldridge, Mark Jones, Lisa Matthews
- Guests

2. Welcome from the Chair,

In particular to the new AAG recruits – Christine, Tim and Lee.

3. Conflict of interest

None. Yearly forms to be signed by members.

4. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes

Approved Paula/Julia

5. Review of advisory groups

Discussion:

- As part of implementing the Council's new Engagement Policy, the Council is reviewing whether it could usefully make any changes to AAG's (and other Advisory Groups') terms of reference, operation or membership.
- The aims of this review are to help advisory groups add further value to Council and communities.
- AAG were asked a series of questions:
 1. Are you happy with the current purpose of the AAG (see below)? If not, what changes would you like to make and why?

Change the terms of reference from people with disabilities to people with accessibility needs

2. What (if any) are some key mis-understandings about the role and work of AAG (on the part of Officers, Councillors, Reference Group members, or others)?

Council officers think that AAG give accessibility reviews – but in fact, the AAG gives advice based on lived experience. Projects can go ahead based on AAG advice often given in a short period of time. Council should be encouraged to engage professional technical advice.

3. Was it always clear what was expected of you as AAG members? How could we better clarify those expectations?

The AAG changed its name from Disability Reference Group to reflect their role better – to prevent disability.

4. How could Council help you add even more value to:
 - the work of Council?
 - the communities you engage with?

a) Currently a lot of work to give advice on. More support/resource from the Council would allow AAG to do more work. Lisa can currently only do so much.

b) Officers should do their homework before presenting. The AAG want to be an integral part of a project in an ongoing way. The group is here to help but only when we can make a difference i.e. don't send a 50 page document. Isolate the sections that AAG can make a difference on. This would be a more constructive use of time with tailored, precise questions.

c) Issues with accessible documents due to the turnover of staff.

d) AAG can only represent a certain amount – staff and councillors need to think about ways that they can gather other information i.e. looking at other organisations, experience impairments/have an awareness day for example World Multiple Sclerosis Day 28th May
5. What changes would you like to see to the ways the AAG interacts with Officers, Councillors, or relevant communities? Why would you want those changes?
 - a) Strengthen connection with Accessibility Advisor.**
 - b) Connection with community vital – should report more regularly to the community (would need more resources to do that).**
6. What changes would you like to see to the ways the AAG is managed or resourced by Council? Why would you want those changes?

More staff resources from Council
7. Where do you think the balance should lie between Council determining the work programme for the AAG and the AAG being able to determine its own work programmes?

Currently about 50/50. Greater community input would be great. They could set the agenda.
8. What changes if any would you like to see to how the AAG meets (e.g. frequency or working groups on projects vs. general AAG meetings)?

The current system works well but:

 - a) Could meet every 2 weeks to manage workflow but again there would a resource and time issue**
 - b) Prefer freedom to have a couple of extra meetings when needed. Could address more work with this and also sometimes the agenda is a bit rushed.**
9. Would you like to make any other changes to the Terms of Reference? See: <http://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/committees/accessibility-advisory-group>

10. Do you think we need to make any improvements to the ways we recruit members. If so, what improvements would you recommend?

Pretty happy with current situation. Get a pretty wide reach with current advertising.

11. Do you have any other comments?

Process from here:

- Mark is speaking to community organisations, Councillors, advisory groups
- He will bring the draft back to AAG for comment
- It will go to Council in May/June

Action:

- **Lisa** will resend questions and **AAG** can send any further comments

6. Wellington City Council Draft Housing Strategy

Presentation:

- The strategy is looking at housing issues in Wellington. It will focus on improving housing quality, ensuring housing supply meets demand, improve access to affordable housing, and increasing housing choice.
- AAG's feedback including tangible ideas and suggestions of who to talk to is requested.
- The Council can't solve all issues but this strategy will work in conjunction with other Council strategies.

Discussion:

- Something like the Porirua website – Livebeyond.co.nz – could be extended to show social housing and accessibility.
- Also see Ratemyflat website.
- Currently there are no incentives available to landlords to convert their properties, nor is there anywhere for landlords to advertise them.
- Could include accessibility in a warrant of fitness system.
- Difficulty of expecting landlords to upgrade.
- Universal design is best practice e.g. Lifemark.
- Aging population needs to be considered – they won't all move away. We should be building facilities that can be adapted easily. It doesn't cost a lot in the initial stages but it can be expensive to retrofit.
- Buildings should be accessible including Council properties. People that have accessibility needs want to visit people and be visited so it is best if it is done right the first time. For example a deaf alarm can work for everybody.
- City Housing is talking to Lifemark – that could be followed up to see where they are at. The problem is that only a very small percentage of Council Housing is accessible.
- Could be included LIM system then people could look at LIM and assess cost for converting to an accessible property.
- Opportunity for marketing – promote a good property with good accessibility, for example, the CQ Hotel's occupancy rates have increased once their promotion of their accessibility began.
- Building houses with accessibility in mind works with all different stages of life
- Entry age to retirement homes going up. Average age entering is 83 but demand

is starting in the mid-50s.

- 30% of people are estimated to have an impairment the year 2033.
- Private property owners can't be expected to provide enough housing to manage this.
- Lifemark is key here.

Process from here:

- There will be a workshop in March.
- Meeting with stakeholders individually
- Draft strategy will be taken back to the stakeholders.
- Draft Strategy will be included in the Long-term plan process

Action

- **AAG** to send any further feedback to Pip and suggestions of stakeholders.

7. Accessible Wellington Forum

Discussion:

- The forum will be at 10 am at a date to be set. Celia and Kevin to be present.

Action:

Lisa to resend outline for **AAG members** to review

8. Project reports

1. North Kumutoto submission.

Met with Wellington Waterfront team who responded very well to feedback. They are keen to stay involved with AAG. They talked about potential problems. Currently not a lot wrong with the plan. Submission due on Friday 28th – it will include the summary of points from the meeting. Any feedback to Paula and Kendall by Thursday.

2. Housing strategy

Subgroup to be formed to feedback formally to Pip Aldridge. **Paula and Shannon**

9. Other business

1. Draft Annual Plan

- Document was reviewed by Alan and is generally very accessible but it only mentions accessible twice.

Action:

- **Paula, Julia, Jason and Kendall** to review. Alan will send some notes.
- 2. Safe and sustainable transport group meeting – call for agenda items.
- **Julia** attending this meeting – no agenda items from AAG.
- 3. Correspondence re Children's Garden/Memorial Park.
- **Lisa** to forward to Thomas Bryan's email to the project group once it has been reviewed by **Jason**. **Lisa** to forward Memorial Park email for a reply from the group.
- 4. Co-chair transition
- Jason is seeking support due to his heavy workload.

Action:

AAG are to consider who would be a co-chair and there will be an election at next meeting.

5. Kendall raised an issue with the 3C bar in Chews Lane not having an accessible toilet. It is both a consenting and a human rights issue. **Jason and Kendall** to

follow up.

6. Alan Royal was thanked for his service to the AAG. He has served two terms with AAG and can no longer be on the group. Alan thanked the group in return saying that they were an excellent group and were in good health.
7. DPA are currently recruiting and Paula will forward details to the group.

11. Next Meeting

Tuesday 25 March 2014 in Korimako **Committee Room Two**

Action points from 25 February

Actions	Person responsible
Lisa will resend the Terms of Reference review questions and AAG email any further comments.	Lisa, AAG
Subgroup to be formed to feedback formally to Pip Aldridge. This is to include suggestions of stakeholders.	Paula and Shannon
Lisa to resend forum outline for AAG to review.	Lisa, AAG
Draft Annual Plan - Paula, Julia, Jason and Kendall to review. Alan will send some notes.	Paula, Julia, Jason and Kendall, Alan
Correspondence - Lisa to forward to Thomas Bryan's email to the project group once it has been reviewed by Jason .	Lisa, Jason
3C bar toilets - Jason and Kendall to follow up	Jason and Kendall

Action points from 25 January

Actions	Person responsible
Alan, Julia and Lisa to follow up and make a recommendation regarding a temporary online tool.	Alan, Julia and Lisa
AAG members to review the forum outline, send their contact lists (if possible), and review the networks list for gaps.	All

Action points from 17 December

Actions	Person responsible
Lisa to provide feedback on the forum evaluation and process going forward	Lisa

Action points from 25 November

Actions	Person responsible
City Housing will review the Royal NZ Foundation for the Blind's Accessible Signage guidelines and also look at cost etc regarding Braille signage.	City Housing
City Housing to send both the Design Guide and the floor plans for each complex to Lisa. The Design Guide is being reviewed again and any feedback from the AAG would be welcome. If there are any questions or issues around the floor plans or feedback on the guide then AAG should contact City Housing.	City Housing AAG
Lisa to organise Richard to come back in 4 – 6 months The representative from AAG that sits on Greater Regional Council's Accessibility Reference Group could follow up	Lisa
David will do a presentation to the AAG on the new committee structure and portfolio leaders at the December meeting.	Cr David Lee
Lisa will contact Urban Design regarding a casual get together with AAG to discuss Miramar	Lisa

Action points from 24 September 2013

Actions	Person responsible
Lisa to update submission template.	Lisa
Lisa to follow up the proposed second meeting with Building Consents. Waiting to hear back.	Lisa