

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday 27 January 2015, Te Mahanga Committee Room 1, 101 Wakefield St, 5.30-7.30pm

- 1. Present**
- 2. Welcome from the Chair**
- 3. Conflicts of interest**
- 4. Accessible Wellington Action Plan (20 min)**

Jenny Rains (Community Services Manager) will explain how the Action Plan will be implemented without a dedicated Accessibility Advisor.

5. Victoria Street upgrade update (20 min)

Anna Harley (Principal Advisor, Transport Strategy) and Richard Galloway (Memorial Park Alliance) will let you know how your feedback was incorporated into the design.

6. Submission opportunities (10 min)

- Regional Land Transport Plan (closes 20 Feb) (Greater Wellington Regional Council)
- Our Natural Capital - Draft Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (closes 6 Mar)
- Social Housing Service Policy Review (closes 27 Mar)
- Draft Proposal for Reorganisation of local Government in Wellington (closes 2 Mar) (Local Government Commission)
- Long Term Plan (13 Mar – 17 Apr)
- Urban Growth Plan (13 Mar – 17 Apr)

7. LTP Forum with other advisory groups (1 min)

The Council will be hosting a Long-term Plan Forum for all the advisory groups, 5.30-7.30pm, 14 April

8. Accessible Voting (3 min)

Charlie Inggs (Electoral Officer) has provided written responses to queries you raised at the last meeting.

9. Accessibility Forum 2015 (30 min)

Initial discussion to review feedback from the last forum, and to look at dates and a theme for 2015.

10. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes

11. Project reports

12. Other business (5 min)

- Waterfront Technical Advisory Group (TAG) minutes (Simon)

13. Next Meeting - Tuesday 24 February 2015 in Committee Room One

PTO

Action points from 27 January	Person	Status
The Community Services team and the AAG Liaison Officer to develop a process for AAG to input into formal reporting on implementation of the Accessible Wellington Action Plan.	Jenny, Simon	
The Community Services team to explore the idea of a champions network with Greg Orchard	Jenny	
Invite Jenny Rains to the next meeting to discuss the timetable for updating the AWAP, discuss whether Jenny should come regularly to AAG and to think through AWAP reporting.	Simon	
AAG will provide Richard Galloway with advice on whether the accessibility parks should be P120 metered parks, P120 unmetered parks, or have no metering and no time restrictions.	AAG	
Find out whether the Fix It app can be used to report the misuse of accessibility parks	Cr Lee	
Set up a space on Loomio for member to volunteer for different working groups to progress submissions and for members to take on leadership roles.	Michael	
Invite Cr Lee to meeting with the Westpac Stadium	Lee	
Find out the status of the policy and also request copies of the recent electronic copies of the Be Accessible reports on CBD accessibility parking	Simon	
Pass on AAG's thanks and advice to TAG	Simon	

Action points from 16 December	Person	Status
AAG to review the policy forward programme when the WCC has reviewed it	Simon	
Find out date for oral submissions on the Island Bay Cycle Way and when the AAG will receive feedback on its submission.	Simon	
Progress against the work programme and work planning will be scheduled for the first meeting of 2015.	Michael, Paula, Simon	
Find out the status of the Mobility Parking Policy 2005 and also request copies of the recent electronic copies of the Be Accessible reports on CBD accessibility parking commissioned by the Council.	Simon	

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday 27 January 2015 in Committee Room One, Wakefield Street 5.30pm to 7.30pm

1. Present

Members: Christine O'Sullivan, Christine Richardson, Julia Mosen, Lee Rutene, Michael Bealing, Tim Pate, Tristram Ingham

Apologies: Paula Booth, Greg Orchard

Councillor: Cr Lee

Officers: Simon Wright (Consultation & Engagement), Jenny Rains (Community Services)

2. Welcome from the Chair

Michael welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Accessible Wellington Action Plan

Jenny Rains, who is the Manager of the Community Services team which is responsible for the Accessible Wellington Action Plan (AWAP), explained how the AWAP will be implemented without a dedicated Accessibility Advisor.

Jenny assured the AAG that the Council is committed to the AWAP.

The Accessibility Advisor's role was about embedding accessibility as 'business as usual' at the Council. It was always going to be a 2-year position. Responsibility for implementing the AWAP is now distributed across the Council's business units. Community Services is responsible for the AWAP, its implementation, for monitoring and reporting progress, and co-ordinating action when necessary.

Progress will be reported in the Council's formal accountability documents such as the Annual Report. The process for compiling accountability documents includes business unit managers filling in templates that will include actions from the AWAP. It was agreed that this information should be supplemented with input from the AAG, and that the Community Services team and the AAG Liaison Officer would develop a process for this.

With the Accessibility Advisor role disestablished, questions were asked about who at the Council the AAG should engage with regarding accessibility issues and whether the Council was planning to develop a network of accessibility champions across business units. Jenny responded that the Community Services team could give the AAG regular updates and that the idea of a champions network could be explored by the Council. A member suggested that the Accessibility Forum for 2015 could focus on developing a network of business unit champions.

In her role as a Community Welfare Officer, Jenny flagged that she would like the AAG's assistance with resilience at a future meeting.

It was decided to invite Jenny to the next meeting to discuss the timetable for updating the AWAP, discuss whether Jenny should come regularly to AAG to provide an accessibility overview and to think through AWAP reporting. It was noted that AAG could probably make the biggest difference by engaging with the urban development team.

5. Victoria Street upgrade update

Richard Galloway from the Memorial Park Alliance led a feedback session on how the AAG's previous advice had been incorporated into the upgrade design through a Lego model and

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drawings. The upgrade is due to be completed on 30 June 2015. The main topics of discussion are listed below.

Accessibility Parking

The 2 existing, off-street, angled, accessibility parks will be retained. AAG advised that the design could be improved by having a single curb cutting spanning both parks. This would be cheaper and provide more freedom to move around parked vehicles.

AAG agreed with a proposal for an additional accessibility park in the slip lane near Abel Smith Street even though the space is not perfect. In addition to catering for the planned increase in activity in the Victoria Street area, this park would help people access upper Cuba Street. AAG recommended that the area around the park be made flat and level with the footpath if possible and that crosshatching be used to alert people in the service lane about the accessibility park.

AAG will provide Richard with advice on whether the accessibility parks should be P120 metered parks, P120 unmetered parks, or have no metering and no time restrictions.

It was noted that standard parking meters are not accessible as the buttons and the display are too high for wheelchair users. The project is unlikely to be able to address this issue.

The issue of people using accessibility parks illegally was raised. There was discussion about whether warning signs were needed and whether complaints could be made using the Fix It smartphone application. Cr Lee will follow up on whether Fix It can be used.

Street Seating

Public street seating is planned for each block. AAG recommended that the seating have armrests because these help people stand up and sit down. There are no plans for public tables. Café's will be able to put out tables.

Cycle Lanes

Cycle lanes between the footpath and carparks will be tried in the section of Victoria Street that will have a clearway. It was noted that this style of cycleway diminishes accessibility for people with limited mobility. It was, however, noted that accessible parks would be nearby. Curb-side cycleways also raise challenges at bus stops.

The AAG thank Richard for repeatedly engaging with them over the course the project and for addressing the issues that had been raised.

6. Submission opportunities

AAG will form multiple working groups to prepare submissions on the following:

- Regional Land Transport Plan (closes 20 Feb) (Greater Wellington Regional Council)
- Social Housing Service Policy Review (closes 27 Mar)
- Long Term Plan (13 Mar – 17 Apr)
- Urban Growth Plan (13 Mar – 17 Apr)

Michael will set up a space on Loomio for members to volunteer for different working groups and for members to take on leadership roles. It was noted that members can volunteer to provide input on just one aspect of a submission. The AAG needs to ratify submissions before they are submitted. In this way, submission will be representative of the AAG, not just the opinion of individuals.

7. LTP Forum with other advisory groups

The Council will be hosting a Long-term Plan Forum for all the advisory groups, 5.30-7.30pm, 14 April.

8. Accessible Voting

Charlie Inggs, the Council's Electoral Officer, provided written responses to queries raised at the last meeting. AAG expressed its appreciation.

9. Accessibility Forum 2015 (30 min)

AAG brainstormed some initial ideas for this year's accessibility forum. This discussion will be continued on Loomio and at the next meeting.

Feedback from 2014 Forum

The format used for last year's forum created noise issues. While there was a large turnout, many attendees were unclear about the AAG's role and what it is able to do. It was unclear why there were attendees from outside Wellington.

Purpose for 2015

The purpose could be to provide information or raise awareness expo style, or it could be to engage with the community to inform the next version of the AWAP or to strengthen connections with the community. It could also be to help create a champions network at the Council or to advance work on mobility parking or to create a standard for accessible information for tourists and visitors.

Format

The format could be an expo, themed tables or a panel session followed by questions and answers.

10 Matters arising/Adoption of minutes

Christine R moved that the minutes of the last meeting be ratified with minor amendments. Tristram seconded the motion and it was passed.

For matters arising, Lee reported that he had arranged a meeting with the Wespac Stadium to discuss access. Cr Lee indicated that he would like to join Lee for this meeting.

Christine O reported on 3 meetings with business owners in Johnsonville regarding mobility scooter parking. None had space.

The addition of a section on accessibility to the draft Mount Victoria Master Plan could be used as a template for future plans.

The mobility parking working group had its first meeting and reviewed the Council's Mobility Parking Policy from 2005. Simon is to find out the status of the policy and also request electronic copies of the Be Accessible reports on CBD accessibility parking commissioned by the Council.

11. Project reports

No projects were reported on.

12. Other business

Waterfront Technical Advisory Group (TAG) minutes

The AAG would like to acknowledge and thank the TAG for its willingness to engage and for proactively ensuring good communication. The AAG advises that there is no need for a public ramp for the crocodile bike storage area.

Taxi chits

The Council's policy for the use of taxi chits was reviewed.