

MINUTES of ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday 31 March 2015 in Committee Room One, Wakefield Street 5.30pm to 7.30pm

1. Present

Members: Julia Mosen, Paula Booth, Christine O'Sullivan, Lee Rutene, Tristram Ingham, Christine Richardson

Apologies: Michael Bealing, Cr Lee, Cr Sparrow

Officers: Simon Wright (Policy & Reporting), Greg Orchard (Chief Operating Officer), Jenny Rains (Community Services Manager), Brett North (Team Leader, Transport Asset Performance)

Guests: Tess, Jasmin, Julie Sarros, Michael (ACTIVE)

2. Welcome from the Chair

Paula welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Standards for providing accessible routes during street works

This agenda item did not focus on standards for providing accessible routes during street works as the group from Active Activists presented their concerns about the safety of the Abel Smith Street-Cuba Street intersection. The group also presented findings from their own research on safety at the intersection. 1700 hazards were noted over an 8 hour period. The group informed the AAG that over 500 people had signed a petition supporting measures to improve safety.

The group sought advice on how to have its concerns considered by the Council. Suggestions included contacting the ward Councillor, using public participation at the Transport and Urban Development Committee, writing to the Chief Executive Officer, logging the issue through the Council's call centre and meeting the road safety team.

Tristram thanked ACTIVE for raising its concerns with the AAG and moved that the AAG endorse ACTIVE's position and facilitate further engagement with the Council. Lee seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Simon will facilitate ACTIVE's engagement with the Council. Julie will email Simon an electronic version of ACTIVE's presentation.

After ACTIVE left the meeting, Brett North was invited to talk about how the Council manages accessible routes during street works.

During street works, the Council needs to ensure:

- the safety of the travelling public (in vehicles, on bicycles, pedestrians)
- the safety of workers

- the operation of other activities in the traffic corridor such as utilities.

The Council's role is guided by the Council's Code of Practice and by Government codes. The Government codes were developed for highways, not urban environments, and do not provide much guidance on maintaining pedestrian access, especially for the less able bodied. The Council's experience of managing street works in a difficult urban environment could usefully help develop the Government's codes.

It was noted that there are often issues with temporary ramps in Wellington. Brett acknowledged these issues, outlined some of the ways of addressing them in different situations and invited the AAG to contact his team whenever issues arose.

Paula thanks Brett for his presentation on behalf of the AAG and suggested to Jenny Rains that Brett would be an excellent accessibility champion at the Council.

5. Accessibility update

Jenny Rains updated the AAG on accessibility issues at the Council.

A report on the implementation of the Accessible Wellington Action Plan (AWAP) will be circulated to the AAG before the next meeting.

The AWAP is likely to be updated as part of a wider piece of work to develop a Social Strategy, which will act as an umbrella for a large number of policies. The Social Strategy work is being scoped during April.

The Council is developing emergency response information in pictorial form for people with impairments. AAG will be asked to review this.

The Council is developing an emergency response welfare plan for humans and animals. AAG will be asked to review this.

The Mobility Parking Policy 2005 is due to be reviewed and revised at the same time as the Parking Policy 2007. Work on the new, combined Parking Policy is likely to be completed in mid-2016. Tristram and Christine O offered to assist the Council with mobility parking issues.

A new Council 'Writing Style Guide' has been published and includes a section on accessibility. This will be forwarded to AAG members.

Community Services is meeting business units to develop an accessibility champions network at the Council. AAG will be able to contact champions about scoping the next accessibility forum.

Several things were noted about the Long Term Plan:

- there are no accessibility-focused proposals
- one of the significant forecasting assumptions may be wrong; with an aging population, the risk of a rise in service expectations is not low.

Given that the Long Term Plan is about 'business-as-usual except by exception', the AWAP is the best vehicle for improving accessibility. The Council will consider the AAG proposal that an accessibility section be added to the Council's project scoping documents.

The Council welcomes feedback about this year's new process for developing the Long Term Plan through submissions.

6. Mobility parking newspaper article

Members discussed an article in the Dominion Post on 24 February 2015 by Marty Sharpe called 'Car park disability status disputed'¹ about the misuse of mobility parking at the Kilbirnie Pool.

According to AAG members, there is a shortage of mobility parks near the main entrance to the pool but a number of under-used mobility parks on the other side of the complex near the hydrotherapy pool. The reason for the under-use is that hydrotherapy pool entrance is closed because it is not staffed. Lee will ask his contact at the pool to find out more about this.

Member discussed how to improve compliance with mobility parking including shaming or blocking people who illegal use the spaces, and enabling staff to act on complaints. The Parking Policy review should consider the use of towing to remove offenders on public and private roads.

For mobility parks, the current policy allows parkers to use the park for 60 minutes more than the stated time.

7. Accessibility Forum 2015

A member proposed a Forum focused on relationship building, door opening and demystifying issues with business unit managers and Council accessibility champions. There would be a number of tables for discussions about different topics.

Members decided to discuss the forum further on Loomio and suggest dates, time of day, length of event. Simon will find out what the budget for the forum is. AAG will aim to make decisions at the next meeting.

8. AAG Annual Report

Paula moved that the draft Annual Report be ratified. Christine O seconded the motion and it was passed.

9. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes

Julia moved that the draft minutes be accepted as true and correct. Christine R seconded the motion and it was passed.

10. Project reports

Social Housing Service Policy Review

Christine R will get an update from Michael about the AAG's submission.

Long Term Plan and Urban Growth Plan

Christine R, Christine O and Tristram will skype to further develop the AAG submission and may start a Loomio discussion. Tristram may not now be able to work on the Urban Growth Plan submission.

11. Other business

Feedback on RFID technology for Victoria Street

Victoria Street has been upgraded so that RFID technology can be installed easily

¹ <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/66566141/Car-park-disability-status-disputed>

when it is rolled out across the city.

Public presentation on the Urban Growth Plan

Members were reminded about the public presentation on the Urban Growth Plan, 6-8pm, 1 April in the Mezzanine Community Room in the Central Library.

Long-term Plan Forum for all the advisory groups, 5.30-7.30pm, 14 April, Mezzanine

Members were reminded about the Long-term Plan Forum for all the advisory groups, 5.30-7.30pm, 14 April, in the Mezzanine Community Room in the Central Library.

Feedback on emergency response information

Early drafts of the pictorial emergency response information were circulated. Simon will circulate electronic versions of the materials and members are to provide comment via Loomio.

Mobility parking at the Westpac Stadium

Lee will invite his contact at the Westpac Stadium to an AAG meeting.

Virtual ward meeting

It was noted that there would be a virtual ward meeting on the Long Term Plan, 7-9pm, 13 April.

Actions

Action points from 31 March	Person	Status
Facilitate ACTIVE's engagement with the Council regarding safety at the intersection of Cuba and Abel Smith	Simon	Done
Circulate report on the implementation of the Accessible Wellington Action Plan	Jenny R Simon	
Circulate electronic versions of emergency response information in pictorial form Comments by 16 April	Simon All	
Circulate the new Council Style Guide (via Drop Box)	Simon	Done
Find out about mobility parking issues at the Kilbirnie Pool	Lee	
Members to discuss the accessibility forum further on Loomio and suggest dates, time of day, length of event. Find out what the budget for the forum is.	All Simon	
Get an update about the AAG's social housing policy submission.	Christine R	
Invite Lee's contact at the Westpac Stadium to an AAG meeting to discuss mobility parking	Lee	

Action points from 24 February	Person	Status
Review and report on work programme progress on Loomio	Michael	
Link members to the forward programme when it goes to the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee	Simon	

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