

MINUTES of ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday 25 August 2015 in Committee Room One, Wakefield Street 5.30pm to 7.30pm

1. Present

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

Councillors: Cr David Lee; Cr Malcolm Sparrow

Officers: Greg Orchard (Chief Operating Officer), Helen Walker (Policy & Reporting); Jenny Rains (Community Services) Craig Hutchings (WRAC)

Apologies: Angela Meyer (Comms and Marketing) who was going to talk about Communications Strategies. Cr David Lee; Cr Malcolm Sparrow, Christine Richardson apologised for leaving early at 6.30pm.

2. Welcome from the Chair

Michael welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Hydrotherapy Pool

Craig Hutchings, Facility Manager, Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre spoke to the group about the hydrotherapy pool and its usage. He provided information about the reasonably high usage of the pool:

- 84 hours per week are available and it is used for 72.5 hours (86%)
- 44 hours are available for casual use
- 14 hours are booked privately (for example by CCDHB, Age Concern and Kimi Ora)
- 14 hours per week are used for learn to swim for pre-schoolers
- 627 people use it each week – 30,000 per annum.

WRAC is introducing a new class in the hydrotherapy pool to provide information on how to get the best use of the pool.

A key issue for the AAG is that the eastern entry is close to the hydrotherapy pool and is only open during morning sessions. It is significantly further to use the main entrance (100m instead of 10m). The door is not used more often due to the cost of staffing it. Originally CCDHB were going to partner with the Council on the hydrotherapy pool and consequently the pool was designed to allow for that however CCDHB did not proceed with that partnership.

There was discussion about various options to allow the eastern entry to be open including cutting access between the main pool and the hydrotherapy pool, using a volunteer and installing a call buzzer. There were issues associated with monitoring, safety and patrons entering without paying (estimated to be between 5 and 15%).

Other suggestions on other issues were improving accessibility of the spa and arranging for sessions in the hydrotherapy pool to cater exclusively for a specific disability.

After some discussion about options to progress an increase in funding to allow for staffing at the eastern entrance it was suggested by Greg Orchard that the AAG communicate further suggestions or options to Craig.

5. Accessibility Update

Jenny Rains, Manager, Community Services gave an update on accessibility actions within the Council and noted that over the years accessibility has become more embedded into business as usual.

The City Housing upgrade project ensures accessibility is integrated into all projects

- Berkley Dallard Apartments upgrade included improved accessibility with wayfinding, improved entrances and installation of a second lift.
- Marshall Court Apartments has 27 one bedroom units intended for the mobility impaired
- The community action team at City Housing are partnering with Literacy Aotearoa Wellington to assist tenants improve literacy skills.

The Accessible Wellington Map that provides information about accessible facilities in Wellington was updated and included information about the Council mobility scooters that are provided in eleven locations around the city and locations of mobility parks and accessible toilets.

We reconfigured the Otari Wilton Bush Curator's house to become the Leonard Cockayne Centre. The centre now has accessibility built into to all the facilities.

Embedding accessibility into strategic planning:

- Mt Victoria/Matairangi Master Plan included a specific section addressing accessibility, included a proposal for sealing along Te Ranga a Hiwi ridgeline and improving accessibility to Centennial Memorial. In addition, the Master Plan includes the inclusion of an accessible picnic area at the ex-carpark area off Alexandra Road near the toilets.
- The Suburban Reserves Management Plan was approved by the Environment Committee in April. The plan refers to accessibility to tracks and play areas in particular.
- Wellington Cable Car Ltd has recently been awarded a Be Welcome access gold rating - only one of two Wellington businesses to receive such a rating.

As part of business as usual:

- As water fountains need replacing – we are installing accessible water fountains. The first one to go in paved area where Lambton Quay, meets Featherston St. The green drinking fountain has an area to itself which has plenty of room around it so there won't be any issue there.
- We have formalised the organisational approach to "Document and Information Accessibility" particularly in light of the substantial amount of material that we release to ratepayers (and the public) like the Long Term Plan etc.

We continue to improve and implement mobility parking – the most recent improvement is in Kilbirnie where an additional mobility park will be implemented to improve access to local services.

We are looking at improving the accessible journey in Kilbirnie to support residents who may have limited mobility.

- This includes improving curb cuts and ramps and recognising the need to ensure the timing for the crossing signals need to recognise people with disabilities.
- As part of this project we have replaced the current seating with seating that are support people with limited mobility- they have backs and arms and are at a suitable height

With our partners:

Inter-Islander Ferries have partnered with us and have put City Mobility signage in all of their ferries.

With Barrier Free we have developed a web guide to assist in integrating accessibility into building upgrades and maintenance This is the first of its kind in the country - <http://www.barrierfreenz.org.nz/tools/best-practice-accessibility-guidelines.html>

We have partnered with the Halberg Trust to provide a beach wheelchair – this will be based at the Freyberg Pool and for use at the Freyberg and Oriental Bay beaches. It will also be available for schools to book for beach outings. We are trialling this and may look ant further services.

Over the next year:

We will launch the regional community directory in early July. We worked with Accessibility Experts Squiz to develop a platform that is accessible to use and will provide information on accessibility of services and venues. This is called CommunityFinder

We continue to fund Be Accessible to work with our council organisations and services at the moment these include – the Freyberg pool, the Zoo, and the Cable Car. Future projects will include: the Sculpture Trail/Tour, the Central Library, the I-site, Toi Poneke, Circa Theatre and Government House.

6. Policy Forward Programme

Jenny Rains discussed some key projects that the Accessibility Advisory Group may be interested in over the next year. Key projects that Jenny talked about were:

- Review of the Economic Development Strategy
- Review of Accessibility Action Plan
- Review of on street parking
- Resilience Strategy

There was some discussion around accessibility to the Council Housing stock.

Lee raised his concern about some roading in Hataitai not being wheelchair friendly. Jenny will put him in touch with Trish from Parking.

The AAG noted that they consider that WCC officers often report that their briefs or scoping documents do not include a requirement for accessibility to be taken into account. The group recommend that such a requirement be included in briefs and scoping templates. Jenny will discuss with appropriate officers within the Council.

The AAG will discuss the work programme after receiving a letter of joint objectives from Wellington City Council.

7. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes

Michael moved that the draft minutes for 28 July be accepted as true and correct. Julia seconded the motion and it was passed.

8 Other business

Membership update

Helen is progressing recruitment of two new members. Advertising will commence in the first week of September for three weeks and members will promote material through their networks. It was agreed that the Deaf community be targeted and also people with expertise in accessible information.

Safe and Sustainable Transport forum

With Paula's departure the group needs a new representative on the forum (which meets twice a year). It was agreed that Michael would be the representative.

AAG chair

There was a short discussion about electing co-chairs of the AAG in October.

Next meeting

The next meeting is on 29 September at 5.30. Speakers will be:

- Jaime Dhyrberg – Johnsonville Library
- Linda Fisher – Emerge
- Angela Meyer – Communications Strategy

Actions

Action points from 25 August	Person	Status
Hataitai roading – Lee to raise issues with Trish	Jenny to put Lee in touch with Trish	
Locate and distribute a copy of the mobility park audit	Jenny/ Helen	On Drop Box
Requirement for accessibility to be included in briefs and scoping templates.	Jenny to follow up	
Recruitment – advertising to commence in first week of September.	Helen	

Michael to advise Helen of interview panel member	Michael	
Arrange a meeting with Westpac Stadium and David, Michael and Lee to discuss mobility parking	Michael	Emailed and waiting for a response

Action points from 30 June	Person	Status
Develop an AAG communications strategy before thinking about whether and how to run a social media site.	Tim, Julia, Christine, Michael	Comms person to attend next meeting

Action points from 26 May	Person	Status
Contact the Chair of the TAG to discuss how the TAG is incorporating NZS4121 into its work and to discuss how the TAG minutes could be made more useful for the AAG	Michael	