

Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Tuesday 25 September 2018 5:30–7:30pm
Committee Room 1, Wellington City Council, 101
Wakefield St, Wellington

Co-Chairperson:

Nick Ruane and Michael Bealing

Members:

Tristram Ingham, Alan Royal, Solmaz Nazari Orakani,
Stuart Mills, Erikka Helliwell, Rosie MacLeod, Rachel
Noble

Councillors:

Cr Lee (Technology, Innovation, Enterprise, Climate
Change)

WCC Staff:

Helena Patuwai (Democracy Services)
Crispian Franklin (Senior Strategic Adviser)
Tane Dunne (Renewal Programme Manager)
Bede Crestani (Project Manager- Build Wellington
Development Team)

Speaker: Jeremy Perrott (Athfield Architects)

5.30pm: Welcome from the Chair & Apologies

Apologies received:

Apologies received from Councillor Lee, Stuart Mills and
Tristram Ingham for absence.

Confirmation of Minutes

AAG confirmed the meeting on 28 August 2018.

5.33pm: Crispian Franklin

Accessibility Project Update

Crispian presented an update on the Accessibility Project. The team consisted of the core team, Creative HQ and Council Staff. The project involved interviewing 40-50 public participants and a matrix planning strategy looking at problems, solutions, outcomes and values. The topics covered transport, funding and support, access information, street and pathways, buildings, Lack of public understanding, recreation and activities, Housing, Public facilities and employment.

General Questions:

Erikka: Do the group story look to work together

Nick: Access to funding is a global problem focusing on a specific issue might lead to more lasting solutions to this. What were the big issues?

Certain transport and access to funding is up and down the country. It's an issue that needs to be taken to government.

Erikka: Lack of funding support, could be more than just money.

Michael: Access to funding is not really that great needs more innovation.

WCC should have prioritised this in this process and start by looking at that. It's a start and Council can say it's demonstrating a response with really good ideas. Accessible scaling would be good because it will be quite visible, weighing up is key.

Transport and street & pathways were the top 2 issues. Auckland City Council has a good model to follow.

ACC have a toggle button where you could speak to that toggle to find where bus is going.

Alan: Don't confuse access to and accessibility of information can't differentiate the two. Can you find the information and then, is it the accessible?

Erikka: Should be proud of the solutions your came up with.

Nick: It's a big task you been asked to do within a month, we have been trying to do this most of our lives. Some pretty good stuff for digging deep. This group's job is to support you in doing this work. Our job ultimately is to get you to the finish line. We are impressed generally so far and look forward to the next months as the process evolves.

Rachel: What things come through that represents us? Hoping we see more genuine reengagement. Look at other examples as there is still a long way to go. Go higher.

Rosie: Agree with Rachel we are the ones going out there and using the environment. Important information taken from us needs to be put in a way that represents us and needs to connect with others as well. How can we create an environment for everyone so we can carry on? When new people come they come with new idea and don't pick up from when we started.

Michael: From the 40-50 interviews commenced, what responses have you had talking to people out in the community?

Erikka: At the workshop I felt included but just speaking for myself

Michael: Are we talking with DPA's and other DPA's on ways of engaging with them?

Going forward:

- Need to work collectively and apply some of the learnings.

- What do we need to include right at the beginning?
- What other groups have you contacted?
- The Co-design process by the accessibility process is different.
- Might look at lightening lamp and get an older group together.

Responses:

Crispian: Have talked to 4 sub-groups, DPA and the learning disability community.

Alice: Interviewed for all the stages we presented and spoken to other groups in bringing them together to use them more effectively. I am happy to meet and discuss with all groups.

6.03pm: Tane Dunne

Properties and Facilities Information update

Tane presented an update on the Properties and Facilities. The renewals programme looks at the renewals of elements of the buildings like electrical, safety and design.

- Ensuring we meet legislative requirements.
- Checking for fire and checking for accessibility

Our venue space currently has silver grade rating and looks to become a platinum member.

Individual council has 600 buildings including toilet and public events buildings.

Questions:

Nick: In practice maybe be difficult to access toilet do you have a view when a building may be compliant in regulation but does it meet the requirements of the building for example the elderly or prams. Particular need but unable to access. No direct car parking

Tane: We have made arrangements to put stairwell and ramp into build to allow it to be used by the whole community. We attempt as much as we can to make alteration where we can. A lot of buildings don't meet those standards.

Example: Handrails on stairs finish 2 steps from the bottom. Carpet produces a problem for visual purposes because of the pattern.

Hand rails wrong height or position. We are learning from our mistakes.

Rosie:

With these council buildings what's in place if there's an earthquake?

Tane: For our own staff we have our own procedures. We have wheel chair sleds we use for people in wheel chairs. We could look at another lift but a lot of cost in that.

Michael: Taking lifts makes a big difference

Tane: We have lifts in large buildings, library and malt building.

Alan: Hand rails in library going up the ramp are right handed and left handed coming down. Have the hand rails been added or replaced. Has a review been done?

Tane: That's an "open space" question I will get back to you.

Rachel: Are visual aids in large public buildings looked at every 6 months.

Tane: We have visual flashes in library. We are doing everything we can regard fire alarms as well.

Nick: Thanked Tane for coming and invited Tane back at a later date.

6.18pm: Bede Crestani and Jeremey Perrott *Mobility Parks at Town Hall*

Bede and Jeremy presented the Town Hall Mobility Design.

The Town Hall is a category 1 heritage building we are trying to keep intact. The main entrance will still be kept. We looked to increase accessibility to the civic square but can't get a ramp in this area but we still have two entrances to be used to access the square. There are alternative routes that can access all venues. The top floor has another function venue, the council debating chambers, toilets and lifts access.

Key changes to ground floor:

- accessible access for players or performers
- shower installed
- large lift that can fit grand piano in it
- extra hearing loop going into main auditorium
- accessible toilets for man and women
- original handrails but slightly wider
- Stairs are all compliant with the relevant parameters

Questions:

Erikka: Has accessibility been a part of the process. Get some of their ideas from Victoria University.

Rachel: More accessibility plans in place in Auckland, Suggested to talk to Arts Access Aotearoa

Jeremy: Have worked with Victoria University in the past.

Bede: The design is the tenant's responsibility. They need to take responsibility.

Jeremy: With the format of the stage it is difficult to put a permanent lift between stages. We have a mobile platform lift that can slide up to any particular level.

General Business

Lack of communication on accessibility which needs to be strategically aligned in council.

Alan: presentations power points can't be read from the back of the room. Speaker information: Run down on presenting

Michael: Process on speakers should be 10 min per item and for feedback

Update on AAG speaking at CSC annual report:

Overall great opportunity for us to say what we have been doing. Advocate that there is more to be done through engagement from the top down.

Nick: Committee's internally should be accessible right across council staff but its looking more positive.

Alan: Lots of staff turnover but very good recognition. Some reeducation still to be done. Compared to a New York commissioner's review I looked up material we do pretty well considering.

Michael: We need to retain the knowledge, have experts in their field with accessible information. Not every communications person is going to have Knowledge retention.

Rachel: Suggested a communication register.

Actions: The following tables actions and responsibilities made during earlier meetings: