

## Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, 25 May 2021

**Time:** 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**Venue:** Ngake (Room 16.09), Level 16, 113 The Terrace

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### PRESENT:

#### **Chairperson**

Nick Ruane and Rachel Noble

#### **Members**

Stuart Mills

Amy Evanson

Solmaz Nazari Orakani (via audiovisual link)

Alan Royal

#### **Elected Members**

Councillor Rebecca Matthews

#### **In Attendance**

Kristine Ford (Senior Policy Advisor)

Claire Richardson (Chief Operations Officer)

Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor)

Hedi Mueller (Democracy Advisor)

María Montero (Democracy Services)

Callum McMenemy (member of the public)

## 1. MEETING PROCEDURES

5:35pm

### 1.1 Welcome and introductions

Hedi Mueller led the karakia on behalf of the group.  
Group members, guests and staff introduced themselves.

### 1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Nick Ruane for early departure.  
Apologies were received from Rosie MacLeod, Erikka Helliwell and Jenny Rains for absence.

### 1.3 Conflicts of Interest

Rachel declared an interest with her role at the DHB.

### 1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of 27 April 2021 to be taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of that meeting with a minor amendment: that an apology was received for Stuart Mills.

Moved by Alan Royal, seconded Cr Matthews

**Carried**

## 2. General Business

5:40pm

**2.1.** Kristine Ford - Solicited feedback from AAG on:  
The proposed 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the **Trading and Events in Public Places Policy**, which will replace both the Council's current Footpath Management and the Trading in Public Places Policies

Members discussed:

- Where are rubbish & bin placement is covered in regard to footpaths and trading policy?
- Whether there rules about placement of sandwich boards rubbish bins to be clear of mobility car parks?

- Concern about people and businesses blocking the footpaths without Council's permission.
- An issue at 160 Victoria St of electric cable blockage one metre into the footpath, this has been occurring for ten days already, Councillor Matthews said she would follow-up on the issue.
- That the Urban Design Team are looking into the issue of placement of permanent objects.
- Members discussed how problematic barriers in footpaths are to their community and expressed that it is imperative that Council address it.
- Whether WCC staff monitor for compliance.
- Whether the licencing process accessible/available in alternative formats.
- How do we make events accessible to people with light sensitive epilepsy and some autism people with other sensory sensitivities where there are flashing lights/loud noises.

## **2.2. Draft Letter to Mayoral Forum**

Members discussed:

- Editing to get the right tone.
- There is a big gap to fill to achieve universal design and barrier-free design - now is the time.
- Current legislation requires only minimum accessibility to get consent.

## **3. Members' and Councillor's Updates**

**6:25pm**

### **3.1. M. Wells - Charter**

- WCC has allowed as a long-term "temporary" measure to allow residents to run Electric Vehicle cables across footpaths
- Eventually Electric Vehicle charging stations will be set-up around the city – but it is still a long ways off

- There are two accessibility charters:
  - Ministry of Social Development version
  - Christchurch Plan
- Lower Hutt has adapted one
- Porirua and the Wairarapa are seeking one as well
- C. Richardson suggests Social, Cultural Economic Committee is the proper place to petition adoption of the charter
- C. McMenemy points out that there is no mandate for local government to meet the standard
- Councillor Matthews will work with AAG so they can present to Council

### **3.2. C. Richardson –**

- Tonight is her last AAG meeting
  - James Robert, Chief Digital Officer, of Smart Council will take over her role starting next month
  - Very useful to have operational and policy sides aligned

### **3.3. Councillor Matthews - Events**

- Must make them more accessible system wide
- C. Richardson commented that she will flag Gisella Carr (Business Unit Manager)

### **3.4. H. Mueller –**

- David Daniela will live-stream (low light) Makariki next month

### **3.5. N. Ruane – NZ Transport Agency's Total Mobility Card**

- Parliament will issue cards on Friday
- Grants people with long term impairments access appropriate transport to meet their daily needs in the form of subsidised door to door transport services

### **3.6. Councillor Matthews –**

- Long Term Plan meetings on-going

- Disability Conference in Auckland in July
- Launch of new swings in Woodridge very successful
  - Additionally, they fund-raised for play equipment for other venues
  - Great educational experience for recreational staff

### **3.7. M. Wells –**

- Tawa & Freyberg Pools installed new hoists in swimming pools
- Farmer’s Lane Design – feedback request
  - Non-compliant stairwell
    - Exceeds number of stairs without resting platform
    - Hand-rails insufficient
  - Softening edges on seating areas so as not to impede the blind community
  - Concern over inevitable skateboarders’ temptation on street furniture design
  -
- Electric Cabling around footpaths is contentious issue
  - Will research overseas solutions
  - Hard plastic covering is not helpful solution
  - Council needs to come up with guidelines to charge Electric Vehicles in orderly safe way

## **4. Other Discussion**

**6:45pm**

- Senior Net, a digital inclusion service at the library has a massive amount of material and should be presented to Johnny Smith
- Action Plan progress – M. Wells – will follow-up & also notes need of Māori-Pasifika Disability Plan

**The meeting was declared closed at 7:06pm.**

**The next AAG meeting will be held on 29 June 2021 at 5.30pm, on Level 16, 113 The Terrace.**