

Accessibility Advisory Group

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 26 July 2022

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16 Tahiwī, 113 The Terrace, Wellington

Purpose

- Advise Council on how to help grow a great and accessible City, where barriers to people with impairments are minimised.
- Bring lived experience and knowledge to Council around accessibility issues in the context of Council's roles and priorities.
- It is recognised that members come from and remain connected to their communities, it is from this foundation members share their expertise and lived experience in this advisory role, and engage with their communities and others as part of the wider council consultation processes. The expectations around this connection are set out in the Communication and Involvement of communities points below.

Attendance

Chairpersons:	Nick Ruane, Susan Williams
Members:	Donna Fasavalu, Hannah Gibson, Humphrey Hanley, Erikka Helliwell, David Karl, Moko Mataa, Olivia Murphy, Solmaz Nazari Orakani, Rachel Noble, Renee Patete, Nick Ruane (Co-chair)
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Rebecca Matthews, Cr Tamatha Paul (Alternate)
WCC Staff:	Kym Fell (Chief Culture and Community Officer), Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor), Emily Deans (Democracy Advisor), Jahla Lawrence (Project Lead – Sexual Violence Prevention), Sarah Dickson (Advisor Planning), Maggie Cook (Advisor Planning), Anna Stevens (Advisor Planning)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5.32pm with a karakia.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:
 - Donna Fasavalu – for early departure;
 - Susan Williams, Jenny Rains, Moko Mataa – for absence.

No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.

Moved Nick Ruane, Seconded Erikka Helliwell.

2. Rachel Noble declared a conflict of interest with any items related to the DHB.
3. Accessibility Advisory Group members introduced themselves and Nick welcomed the new members.

Items

4. Sexual Violence Prevention, *Presented by Jahla Lawrence.*

Jahla introduced themselves and the project and how it's situated in the Pōneke Promise. They are a PhD student at Te Herenga Waka with a Community background in Wellington. Last year there was a lot of unease and worries of sexual violence in the central city and there was money set aside in long-term plan for sexual violence prevention. There are currently 10 partners. The project sits under the reducing harm umbrella under Pōneke Promise which includes the Safer Venues Project. Pōneke Promise has a specific focus on a specific location in the central city but we're also interested in wider family harm, targeting social culture change focused on the voices of survivors.

There are three pillars; building understanding, promoting partnership and influencing culture.

The team will release two key documents, a foundational strategic document with guiding principles and an action plan.

The team organised an urban design hikoi through central city to understand how people are using and feeling in the space and will do a similar one at night-time.

Overall, the feedback they've received so far looks at prioritising the voices of people with disabilities along with issues of movement and lighting. We've tagged this to particular people and plans.

The next steps are working on engagement with Mātauranga Māori/Te Ao Māori and aligning with Tūpiki Ora, Tākai Here and Mana Whenua priorities along with the night-time hikoi.

The team are working on audio captioning the art installation project about consent and adding a storyline of consent playing out in conversation.

AAG members were generally supportive of the work and had the following feedback:

- Members mentioned there are patches of Newtown with very poor lighting for pedestrians. Olivia will send through an email to Jahla with the areas of concern and Jahla will raise it with the team.
- There was a discussion about the correlation between having learning difficulties and experiencing sexual violence and a broader question around engagement of sexual prevention in the disability sector. Jahla mentioned they would be keen to discuss this further and to please get in touch if you have thoughts.
- Members would like to see the ability for a disabled person to speak up and be heard when they are victimised or assaulted in the plan. Jahla mentioned they are trying to design a process for survivors to come to us and share stories in a safe way while making sure they are partnering with the right organisations.
- Members mentioned it's also important for people to understand what violence means with disabilities. What constitutes abuse? For many disabled people abuse looks different from other parts of the community. Jahla mentioned they that received feedback around improving how bar staff understand what abuse looks like in disabled community. This will be part of the training programme for bar staff.
- Members raised concerns about testimony from the blind community to make sure evidence from them is taken into consideration. Jahla mentioned that when the team talks to the community, they don't require any evidence and rather will respond to every person who comes forward and speaks of abuse.
- Jahla confirmed that the documents will be released in accessible formats.
- Jahla told members to please send through any thoughts and ideas at any time, Jahla.Lawrence@wcc.govt.nz
- Members thanked Jahla for the presentation and work.

5. Proposed District Plan, *Presented by Sarah Dickson, Maggie Cook & Anna Stevens.*

Sarah, Maggie and Anna introduced themselves and the District Plan.

The District Plan was notified last Monday the 18th of July and has been a journey for the last 5 years to get to this point.

It is largely dictated by National Planning Standards and the structure is in 4 parts (currently at 65 chapters). It is [online](#) and is compatible with screen readers.

In the operative District Plan there are two main residential zones, inner and outer residential areas.

In the proposed District Plan there are medium residential zone (up to 3 storey anticipated) and high-density residential zone (up to 6 storeys anticipated).

The Plan has universalizability city outcome contributions where developers need to meet at least two outcomes.

The District Plan includes 5-10 min walkable catchments and in other areas around centres.

The Spatial Plan and the District Plan review is running in parallel with the Let's Get Wellington Moving programme.

Transport sets out requirements for the number and design of parking spaces for people with disabilities and accessible routes from the parking spaces to the associated activity or road.

The plan achieves accessibility in different zones including the Stadium Zone, the Hospital Zone and Tertiary Zone and Development Area – Lincolnshire Farm.

Submissions opened on 18th July and close at 5pm on the 12th of September. Hearings will be in 2023 and decisions early 2024.

Check out the [ePlan](#), come along to [drop-in sessions](#).

[Friend of Submitters](#), Emily Bayliss (friendofsubmitters@wcc.govt.nz or call 027 803 0080) can help to navigate the District Plan and make a submission.

AAG Members had the following feedback:

- Councillor Matthews mentioned that WCC put forward amendments about disability in the Spatial Plan that these have impacted on the approach that was taken in the District Plan. Councillors feel like we are coming to the full extent of what we can require given the building code. Where we're trying to do more to meet the needs of the disability community is in our own Council housing and city housing where we want to improve our targets for inclusion and accessibility.
- Members raised an issue with the wording "all ages and mobility" as it does not include many of them and many others too. Melissa mentioned that the statement should be changed to "all ages and disabilities".
- Members asked if there would be disability specific drop-in sessions? The District Plan team responded that they will look into grouping submissions from the disabled community together. They noted that they are here to listen and to hear from you about how we should go forward with engaging with the disabled community.
- Members noted that when engaging with the disability community the team need to be clear from the outset on the difficulties, possible solutions and capacity the Council has in addressing housing issues.
- Members questioned the use of the word accessibility – how does the District Planning team understand the word accessibility? It's used all over the place and we're not sure WCC understands what accessibility is. We use the same words but we're not understanding each other.
- The 10–15-minute walking catchment is concerning for some members of the community. It is an ableist concept that is not possible for some members of the disability community to fit within. The District Plan team mentioned that this is a central government issue and in the national policy statement of urban

development, however they will take these comments on board and look at how they can elaborate around it. Sarah elaborated that walking catchments are a mechanism brought in by Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development through the National Policy Statement on Urban Development. Section 5 of [this report](#) may be useful to show how the walking catchments have been intended within the national context. There are also [this information](#) about how WCC is using walking catchment information.

- Members asked if there can be a requirement to put a lift in three-story buildings? Sarah provided this link that explains the lift requirements in the building code: [Lifts | Building Performance](#)
- There was a suggestion to target certain areas with customised material. For example, mail drops to properties identified as likely to be high risk coastal inundation. There are elderly and people with disabilities living in some of these areas, and the impact of what is being proposed may have a big impact of these people and be quite upsetting. Hence some proactive communications, identifying what is proposed and how to get involved would be great.
- Members mentioned the Plan and framing is missing things that make a place home for people with disabilities.
- Members asked if they need to do a written submissions as they are giving feedback to the team now? The team responded that for the legal process connected to the resource management act, it is necessary to do written submissions. Emily from friends of submitters is available to provide support with submissions.
- It is possible to submit as an individual and/or as an Accessibility Advisory Group collective.
- Members thanked Sarah, Maggie and Anna for their presentation and time.

6. Councillor Matthews shared the following updates with the group:

- Council has been in recess in July. We have made all our big decisions and are now in the election period where we don't make big decision until the elections in October.
- There's concern and mixed feelings about the release of the Golden Mile by LGWM and the pedestrianisation of the Golden Mile. Now is a good time to be giving detailed feedback. While there is an increase in disability parks there's concern about access of the inner city with limited private vehicles. Councillor Matthews would like to see a more diverse group of disabled people making decisions and making sure there is internal expertise on accessibility.
- There is frustration with the process of residents trying to get disabled parking in inner suburbs. It's challenging and needs some work. We want to try to streamline this process to make it more user friendly.

Melissa shared the following updates with the group:

- The engagement strategy is being reviewed internally. George, from the engagement team, has been in touch with Melissa and the new central engagement team is now 3 people and they are reviewing the engagement function within council as well as internally how we engage with communities. Melissa has sent around 4 questions around engagement to members. Please share anything and everything about engagement.
- Another piece of work is the new residency for deaf or disabled artist at Toi Pōneke to develop new artwork. It includes a \$3700 stipend and access to a paid mentor and 6 weeks in a studio space. Melissa has sent around more information and applications close Monday 15 August.
- The national ethics advisory group is seeking an update on this ethical guide, as in light of Covid-19 the current guide doesn't cover things such as use of digital technologies. Melissa sent around the information via email.
- The Te Matapihi team have delayed when they will return to AAG by a month. Next month, in August, we will have the Wellington Design Library come to AAG instead.

Kym shared the following updates with the group:

- 60% of the organisation reports through Kym's portfolio. Kym has requested his direct reports to put a disability lens on all activities to be more inclusive. The business units will be coming back to AAG to see what you'd like to see in some of these business plans.
- On 5 September the Accessibility Charter is going to the Executive Leadership Team then the action plan will come from that.

The following updates were also shared with the group:

- Erikka noticed on The Terrace that Wahikaha, the new Ministry of Disability, at 56 The Terrace initially had new accessible carparks but now there is road works they are no longer there and they haven't created temporary parks. Kym will look into this.
- Nick raised the mobility parks in Brooklyn. They have been waiting now for 2 years for the second mobility park to be reinstated to Cleveland St in Brooklyn. Kym will look into it.
- Rachel wants to put on the agenda 15-20 minutes for a discussion about priorities for coming on and areas of interest are and to put in a position of leadership. Tautoko by Erikka and Dave.
- Emily mentioned that AAG's workplan and annual report needs to be complete by 22 August, to go to Pūrora Rangaranga | Social Cultural and Economic Committee on 1 September. Melissa sent around a draft workplan for member's input.
- Emily has organised a 30-minute zoom meeting for members to discuss priorities and the workplan for Tuesday 16 August at 5.30pm.

7. New members stayed online following the close of the meeting to go through the induction information.

The meeting concluded at 7.27pm with a karakia.

Information

Next meeting date: 30/08/2022