

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP

MINUTES

5.30 P.M. – Tuesday 14th July, 2009
Committee Room 2

Members Present

Sara Pivac Alexander (Co-Chair)
Jules Taniwha
Thomas Bryan
James Tait
Sandie Waddell
Lisette Wesseling

Also Present

Marie Retimanu-Pule (WCC)
Sinead Roe (WCC)
Councillor Iona Pannett

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the group. A round the table of introductions was held

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Alan Royal, Rosie Macleod and Philippa McDonald.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record by Jules Taniwha and then by the whole group

4. Anna Wood – Central City Framework

Anna Wood (WCC Urban Design team) presented to the group about the Central City Framework.

In summary the Central City Framework is a proposition to plan the growth and enhancement of Wellington's central city over the next 30 years.

The Framework recognises that the success of the central city is vital to the success of Wellington as a whole.

It is intended to act as both a reference point and a strategic programme of work for all investors (both public and private sector) in Wellington's central city. It will be developed over the next 18 months and is similar to other strategic planning documents used by major cities overseas.

Presentation notes were provided for the group.

Action: Anna Wood to return in September for an in depth discussion about Central City Framework with regard to accessibility.

5. Kilbirnie Town Centre Project – Update

Summary of consultation is available on Council's website. A Word version is also available. Consultation identified a number of issues of concern to people with disabilities and seniors. These included traffic movement; pedestrian crossing layouts; parking and mobility parking; the availability of public toilets and public seating. Many of the respondents were aged 51+, indicating the high number of seniors who live in the area.

1st phase of project - completed May/June

2nd phase of project – a series of interviews with stakeholders (businesses, stake holders etc) will be held on 31 July 2009.

Workshops for the general public to be held in August and September 2009

Comments:

The DRG feel they can still input or fill gaps that may have been missed.

Action: Paul Kos to be invited to return and talk to DRG about the updates in September/October.

6. Council Disability Action Plan

During the DRG submission on the LTCCP, mention was made of a Council Disability Action Plan, referring to a series of projects have been committed to by Council to improve the accessibility of the city. The Council would like to develop and formalise such a plan together with the DRG to inform a work programme over the next year or two years.

For the coming year it is not on the Council's forward programme to develop a Disability Policy or Strategy.

Comments and Questions:

DRG are disappointed with this position. The group feels an Action Plan is different from a Council Strategy and feel that there is a will and need for a strategy. The DRG needs to think about what commitments they would like to see made as part of an Action Plan. The Plan will be signed off by the Management Board

DRG needs to consider what they would like to see included in a strategy. If the Council adopts the NZ Disability Strategy this will represent a solid commitment from Council. The group feels there is perhaps room for the NZDS to be added to for a better fit for Wellington.

Action: A subgroup will meet before next DRG meeting and put together some concrete arguments for a Disability Policy or Strategy to make a stronger case for this. Thomas, Sandie and Lisette to action this.

7. Report from the Chairs

Please use red hands if you are wishing to speak.

Sara hasn't had a chance to talk to Rosie.

James is to job-share his role as mental health representative. Another DRG member is to be recruited to join the Housing subgroup, perhaps a City Housing tenant who has experience of mental illness. James will continue to come to monthly meetings. James was thanked for his work/effort while serving on the Housing subgroup.

8. Accessibility Advisor Report

Accessible design competition

Judges met for the first time on Thursday 2 July 2009. They have chosen 3 finalists from the entries and would like DRG to choose the winning entry. 7 entries were received and all were of a high standard.

Action: Jules, Rosie, Sara and Philippa to be involved in judging. Thomas and James are happy to provide pointers for the judges

Wellington International Airport

Draft 2030 Master Plan:

Work to be done in phases, first phase to be complete 2015. This includes some expansion of the terminal building and extra parking (2-3 levels added to the current car park building).

An invitation has been extended to the DRG to look at the current work on the International Terminal expansion early next year.

DRG feel it is very important for them to be involved in consultation on accessibility early.

Action: John Horvath to be invited to speak to the group in the coming months.

ACC Wellington Map

Large print version is being printed in 18pt font. Copies are available from Sinead

Relay Video Interpreting

Plans to install a video phone the Central Library in the coming weeks and will be available for the Deaf community. Video phone will be advertised to the Deaf community.

Pedestrian ramps

Gradient recommendation is 1:12 for smooth transition from road to footpath.

Faulty ramps and kerbs to be upgraded as part of an ongoing programme informed by research carried out in 2008 by Alexia Pickering.

Trish or Sinead can be contacted if a crossing is identified as faulty or potentially hazardous.

Diversity Forum by Human Rights Commission in August 2009

It is a chance for Council and City Communities in particular to showcase their work. Vincents Art Workshop will be used as a case study.

Cuba St shared space

Gerald Blunt to report to the DRG in August

Bus stop design

Council is working on adopting the ARTA Bus Stop Design Guidelines for use in Wellington. Guidelines will need to be amended to suit the Wellington environment.

Forum for Accessible Arts

Provisional date for this forum will be 4 December 2009. See Lisette's report for further info.

9. Subgroup reports

Urban Design subgroup

Reps met with Sarah Bishop regarding John St intersection upgrade. Thomas & Sandie were impressed with the 3D model that was provided and would like to formally acknowledge the work Sarah had undertaken.

Art subgroup

Meeting to be arranged that suits everyone. City Gallery reopening and would like to include everyone and meet the DRG.

ICT subgroup

Nothing to report as they haven't had a chance to meet

Housing subgroup

Nothing to report as they haven't had a chance to meet

10. Other business

James involved in Mental Awareness week. A sports & whanau day is being organised and would like feedback on how to make the day more accessible for people. James will send out information to the group.

Jules has a meeting with Ken Whelan as community advocate.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm