

**Environmental Reference Group Meeting Minutes
6th August 2012, Committee Room 2, Wellington City Council**

Present:

Sea Rotmann
Bev Abbott
Sophie Mormede
Howard Markland
Sarah Free
Peter Gilberd
Claire Graeme
Hamish Allardice (Co-Chair)
Jane O'Loughlin
James Wall-Manning
Matt Barclay
Nick Crocker

Apologies

Charles Barrie
Phil Hancock

WCC Officers:

Sandra Crews(Consultation & Engagement
Advisor)
Mark Jones & Mike Oates (Policy and Open
Spaces & Rec Planning)
Zach Rissel (Climate Change Office)
Paul Barker (Transport Planning)

1. **Welcome to new members** - Nick Crocker and Matt Barclay
2. **Adoption of Minutes from last meeting**
The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June were adopted.
3. **Conflict of Interests** – No new conflicts of interest were raised.
4. **Thanks and congratulations** - Bev and the members of the group thanked Hamish and Sea for their excellent service as co-chairs. Mayor Celia Wade-Brown came to personally thank Hamish and Sea and presented them with gifts.

ERG voted in Sarah Free and Howard Markland as new co-chairs.

5. **Councillor representation** – it was noted that Helene Ritchie was not available on Monday nights to attend ERG meetings. Members wanted to ensure that there is councillor representation at future meetings.

Action

- Hamish to call Helene to clarify her availability and to discuss options for future representation.

6. **Zach Rissel, Chris Berry and Johnny Parker presented on Home and Energy Saver Programme**

A presentation was given about free in-home assessments to make homes warmer and healthier. Home & dry is keen to utilise the networks of ERG members to distribute information about the Home Energy Saver programme and to apply for free assessments.

This could include:

- Sarah's idea of inviting friends to your assessment so that they can see first hand what the assessment involves
- encouraging friends and family to book an assessment (go into the draw to win a prize from a conscious consumer café when you refer a friend who books an assessment)
- sending an email or posting a social-media message to your personal/professional networks letting them know about the programme and Zach is happy to draft generic emails for people to use if necessary
- leaving flyers with your colleagues or in a common areas.

Action

- ERG agreed to give flyers to their contacts and to promote the service and give feedback to Zach from personal experience of the service and Sandra will send around the promotional email on the service
- Zach to follow up with Jane, about how his team can use EECA's new online heating assessment tool and Jane to advise Zach about the tool's development and when it is ready for public use.

7. **Open Spaces Framework** – Mark Jones and Mike Oates

The framework is closely linked to the four Wellington 2040 goals

In May 2012 the Council agreed that a new framework is needed to:

- guide investments and activities across all open spaces
- align with community and environmental needs
- identify gaps and opportunities.

The Council will look at the community or environmental needs that open spaces do not currently meet and reasons for this. They will also explore strengths of open spaces and weaknesses that need improving. It is expected to have a local through to regional outlook.

When considering open spaces the Council needs to balance different needs and uses for open spaces while always considering the greater good of the Wellington community and the environment.

ERG gave the following feedback at the meeting:

- don't forget about the small open spaces in the CBD that are not reserves. They are disappearing from the city
- consider more inner city parks with greater accessibility
- include the harbour and coastline in the thinking around the plan
- there are conflicts between dogs and wildlife. Need to plan carefully for where dogs can go
- look at conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists in high use areas. Are there enough places for them to go? On south coast look at separating bikers and walkers
- look at coastal conflicts between 4WD vehicles and walkers (and consider whether it is time to restrict vehicle access to the foreshore)
- look at provision of dog walking around Chest Hospital
- Need to look at the role of open space for storm water control and the value of keeping large permeable surfaces
- look at weed management as part of overall vegetation management. Not always related to ecosystem restoration
- advantages of integrated multi use open space such as Karori Park.

Mike raised the question of what role do open spaces play during emergency management e.g. earthquakes.

Mike and Mark are keen to have ERG's involvement going forward and will seek more input as the framework develops.

Action

- Mike to send Sandra link on background data for ERG and any further key questions for ERG

8. Wellington Cycling Programme –Paul Barker

Paul Barker is responsible for road safety, walking and cycling. Walking projects bus priority and road safety all have had funding deferred for three years. There are some minor road safety projects underway.

2012-2015 the proposed cycling programme is well funded with a range of key projects underway including:

Tawa shared pathway

Some members expressed concern for user's safety and emphasised that lighting

and low growing plants were important to maintain safety along the pathway.
Great Harbour Way

It has NZTA funding from Petone to Ngauranga connection and WCC will pick up the costs from Ngauranga to Sinclair head (4km).

Reactive programme/safety improvements

Including advanced cycle stop boxes, route signage, intersection improvements, monitoring.

Some members were concerned about painted stop boxes being slippery. Paul confirmed that the stop boxes were painted with non-slip surface paint.

Markings can effectively segregate cyclists and pedestrians on shared paths, but needs consideration or it can actually create hazards.

There were questions about cycle commuter parking, Paul said that WCC is not funding for cycle stands or cycle parking sheds it was up to building owners.

Some members were very supportive of more shared space on roads for cycles and vehicles.

Feasibility project

Island Bay to CBD commuter cycle route

Petone – Wairarapa to Wainuiomata cycle way

ERG is keen to be involved in early engagement in transport planning particularly before any consultation.

Action

- Sandra to send out link to the www.thefriendlycyclist.co.nz

9. Feedback on Local Government Reform Submission –Howard

ERG submitted feedback to Allan Prangnell on the Local Government Reform options. There was no oral submission given because the feedback was specific to individuals rather than the whole group. Howard noted that there had been a complimentary acknowledgement from the Council on the submission.

Feedback on the submission was that it would be better for the group to work together on submissions and that people always have the option to send personal submissions separately. If members have something to say about particular points in a submission it is important to speak out early, particularly if they disagree with something which will be presented as an ERG output. It was also

discussed that it would be useful to come together with a draft and moderate and discuss whether it reflects the views of the group. This could be done on an online forum.

Members felt that the timeframe for LGR feedback was too short and emphasised how important it was for Council to engage early with ERG for feedback.

It was a priority for the group to work to a forward plan so they can plan ahead for submissions. It was noted that all councils appear to be against amalgamation and they hope that the Government will listen.

10. Any other business

Wellington Airport proposed barrier arms - Sea

Sea raised awareness that there will no longer be free access from the south to the airport departures area or through the airport from north to the south. A series of barrier arms are proposed to stop through traffic and Strathmore residents are protesting against this. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

11. Next Meeting

Monday 1st October 2012