

Minutes

**Environmental Reference Group
Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street
Room: Committee Room 2 - Korimako
Monday, 3rd March 2014, 5:30-7:30 pm**

Bev Abbott - Chairing

Present

Howard Markland (Co-Chair)
Bev Abbott (Co-Chair)
Alina Siegfried
Peter Gilbert
Paula Warren
Sea Rotmann
Nick Crocker
Jane O'Loughlin
Sophie Mormede
Phil Hancock
Mayor Celia Wade-Brown

City Councillors

Iona Pannett

Apologies

Charles Barrie
Claire Graeme
Cllr Helene Ritchie

WCC Liaison Officers

Graeme Shimmin

WCC Presenters

NB. Matt Barclay & Alex Hannant have resigned from ERG.

1. Mayor & Draft Annual Plan 14/15

The Mayor spoke to the group, thanking them for their contribution to the Council's work, and updating them on the Draft Annual Plan 2014/15 and the 8 Big Ideas. She highlighted the upcoming report of the Regional Transport Committee which is likely to recommend Bus Rapid Transport as the preferred option as part of the Wellington Public Transport Spine Study, while keeping light rail as an option for the future.

The Mayor was asked if the increased funding for restoration work in the DAP got resources back to previous levels.

Action – Graeme to query with Parks officers.

2. Minutes of the last meeting were adopted.

3. Updates

i. Environment Committee Forward Programme

Cllr Pannett explained that the Environment Committee's (EC) forward programme falls out the Policy forward programme, and that it will be considered at the committee's meeting on 20th March.

A discussion was held around the best way to link together ERG's and Council's forward programme, especially the Environment Committee's programme. The overall aim is to have ERG working in a more proactive rather than reactive way. It was noted that increasing meeting frequency for ERG would help with this.

Cllr Pannett suggested timing ERG meetings a week before the Environment Committee's meetings so ERG could comment on issues coming up. This approach, however, would go against ERG's wish to encourage officers to engage with ERG at an early stage. This timing may also be too late for ERG to develop a position or to have any influence as policy/projects are often nearly complete by the time they are ready to go before EC.

The discussion had to be closed due to time, but it was agreed that Cllr Pannett would circulate the forward programme to ERG so members could flag items in which they are interested. The Environment Committee would also look to flag items on which they would particularly like ERG's input.

Action: Cllr Pannett to forward copy of the Environment Committee's forward programme to ERG.

ii. Water Sensitive Urban Design

ERG is awaiting feedback following the ERG's discussions with Nicci Wood. (A report is scheduled to go to Environment Committee on 8 May 2014.)

Action: Graeme to ask Nicci Wood to feedback to ERG on changes to the document following consultation.

iii. District Plan

Graeme was asked to find out which chapters of the District Plan were being reviewed as this is a potential item for ERG's work programme.

4. Briefing Template

Howard shared the draft briefing template he had prepared to help officers establish what they wanted to get from their engagement with ERG.

ERG decided that the form may be a too formal an approach, but that it could form the basis for a discussion between Graeme and officers. It would be more of a question and principle-based approach.

5. Advisory Groups Terms of Reference Review Update

Graeme updated ERG on the review of all advisory groups which is underway. He had given ERG's previous comments to the officer carrying out the review.

A brief discussion was held to identify any additional points to raise. It was noted that the feedback loop to the group is often missing, with lack of updates on projects/policies that the group have contributed to.

Action: Howard and Bev are to meet the officer for a discussion. The officer plants to attend the ERG's April meeting to discuss his findings and draft recommendations.

6. Annual Plan

Some members had used Loomio pre-meeting to discuss the Council's Draft Annual Plan 2014/15 and whether or not the group should make a submission.

This discussion continued in the meeting. It was decided that the most impact ERG could have would be to raise a couple of key points, namely focussing on the lack of funding for the Blue Belt and the inadequacy of the current performance measures

Action: Bev, Howard, Sophie and Paula would work on the formal submission, and arrange to present it at the hearings.

4. Loomio

Alina gave a presentation on Loomio and demonstrated how to use the tool. It was agreed it would be useful for working outside of meetings.

5. Any other Business

The proposed Petone to Grenada link road was discussed and whether ERG should raise issues that Wellington City Councillors and officers might like to consider when responding to NZTA. It was suggested that Loomio be used to continue this discussion and agree any advice that should be forwarded.

6. Transport Update

7. Next Meeting

14th April 2014 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Outstanding action points and feedback

Feedback	Person responsible
Water Sensitive Urban Design	Nicci Wood
Climate Change / Sea Level Rise	Nigel Taptiklis
Other?	

Action points	Person responsible
Water Sensitive Urban Design	Nicci Wood