

## Minutes

Environmental Reference Group  
Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street  
Room: Committee Room 2 - Korimako  
Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014, 5:30-7:30 pm

**Bev Abbott- Chairing**

**Present**

***Present***

**Bev Abbott (co-chair)**  
**Alina Siegfried**  
**Peter Gilberd**  
**Claire Graeme**  
**Paula Warren**  
**Sea Rotmann**  
**Sophie Mormede**  
**Phil Hancock**

***City Councillors***

**Helene Ritchie**

**Apologies**

**Howard Markland (Co-Chair)**  
**Nick Crocker**  
**Jane O'Loughlin**  
**Charles Barrie (resigned)**  
**Cllr Iona Pannett**

***WCC Liaison Officers***  
**Graeme Shimmin**

***WCC Presenters***

**Nicci Wood**  
**Mark Jones**  
**Amber Bill**  
**David Sole**

### **1. Briefing on the Children's Garden in the Botanic Gardens**

David Sole & Amber Bill

David gave an overview of the Children's Garden. It aims to be a catalyst for enquiry and raising awareness of plants connectivity to their lives. \$2.5 million is the funding target, with \$800,000 already raised through Plimmer Bequest funding (\$750,000) and other sources. The garden is a stand alone project with costs to be met through fundraising and grants, not core Council budgets.

Detailed design work is currently being done. Current timeline going forward is envisaged to be: tender for work will go out later in year and expected to close Dec/Jan. Main build will take place until June 2015, with a soft opening and testing of the garden. An official opening will be held in January 2016.

Further details here:

<http://wellington.govt.nz/recreation/gardens/botanic-garden/attractions/childrens-garden-2016>

The group discussed the project. Claire asked how the project was prioritised against other environmental projects or initiatives that may need funding? Amber answered that this occurs/would occur as part of the process for Annual Plan and the Long Term Plan discussions and funding. There were some concerns raised if further funding was required and investment was diverted from other worthy causes.

Sea queried whether stormwater would be included in the educational remit of the garden. David acknowledged that this would be referenced. Peter commented that it would be important to engage migrant communities with the project.

## **2. Update on review of ERG's Terms of Reference.**

Mark Jones

Mark Jones presented to the group outlining the review of Advisory Groups and current thinking on improvements. The aim is to focus on the big picture and have clear expectations. To help it is envisaged that there will be an Annual Letter of Joint Objectives to each group outlining key priorities and projects where Council sees that group adding greatest value. Groups respond to letter with additional suggestions for how they can best contribute to priorities, in line with Council expectations. The agreed list of priorities and projects then become the work programme for the year.

The group asked that the ToR clarifies conflicts of interest further as currently this quite vague. Could also be touched on through Induction for new members. This should include 'How decision making works'. (Could be useful for a ll AGs to recruit at a similar time so that all new members can be put through an induction process together)

The group also noted that there should be a way/process for AGs to raise new/key issues.

Claire queried how the forward programme for committees featured into this.

**Actions: Mark Jones to send out draft Terms of Reference end of April. Include example of Letter of Joint Objectives. ERG to provide feedback.**

Report then goes to Governance, Finance and Planning Committee 21<sup>st</sup> May.

## **3. Update on the Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) guide**

Nicci Wood

Nicci outlined the current thinking for the WSUD guide. Originally it was trying to be too many different things to too many people. The introduction will now include why we are doing this in Wellington.

It was also decided that there was a need to separate out the 'Design and Compliance Process' section and the 'how to, engineering & technical detail etc. The idea now is to place this under Code of Practice for land developers (?)

Nicci asked if the group felt this was the right direction and for comments

There was discussion with comments including:

- The Compliance Process detail has been expanded as a result of consultation feedback.
- How do we make people do it?
- Included Wellington specific case studies
- Increased direction around what you can do specifically in Wellington (with steep hills) has been added.
- Use Webmap / online tool to help understand what you can at your specific address. The future E-Plan would/could make reference to it.
- Car washing – ensure new developments provide provision for people to wash cars safely on their property (not using stormwater drains) and not always possible on steep Wellington sites.
- Online process for people to go to and guide them through ideas.
- Suggest Native Plants to use.
- An implementation plan is recommended as part of Annual Plan deliberations.
- What discussions are happening with GWRC about receiving bodies of water (Wellington Harbour) etc - through the Whaitua process – community to be engaged on stormwater and what outcomes they would like. Links to our catchment management plans. Concerns with how the community will be kept engaged.

Bev commended Nicci on her submission analysis.

#### **4. Draft Town Belt Bill**

Bev Abbott

Paula drafted a submission for the group's approval, this was circulated prior to the meeting.

Discussion focused on the strengthening the case for compensation if land is required under 'Public Works Act'.

**Actions: Graeme /Paula Put the submission up on Loomio and ask members to approve.**

#### **5. Draft ERG Annual Report 2013**

Bev Abbott

Action: The report was approved, but bios of the group should be updated and placed in order members joined the group.

## **6. Feedback on ERG's submission on Draft Annual Plan**

Bev Abbott

Bev feedback to the group on the ERGs submission. This was well received by Council and Nicci commented that it was appreciated by Councillors.

## **7. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting**

The minutes were approved

## **8. Matters arising / updates**

- Environment Committee's Forward Work Programme comments from ERG were circulated prior to the meeting. (To be discussed further at next meeting)
- Cllr Pannett to update the group on how their comments on the Petone to Grenada Link Road have been received.

## **9. Any other business**

### **Greater Wellington Public Transport Plan**

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/ptplan/>

This includes asking about future Fleet options:

1. Current mix of diesel and trolleys, and new trolleys
2. Modern diesel buses
3. Hybrid buses
4. Electric buses

### **Island Bay Sea Wall Replacement Project**

<http://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/projects/island-bay-seawall-replacement>

Report going to Urban Development committee on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Submit on potential options using link above.

## **Updates**

### **Transport Update – April 2014**

#### **Projects**

##### ***National War Memorial Park and Buckle Street Tunnel***

The trench for the new road is complete and construction of the side walls for the underpass has commenced. The first roof section has been poured.

Completion of the underpass is forecast to be October 2014.

The design of the National War Memorial Park has been completed and signed off. The purchase of materials and fixtures is underway. The

Australian memorial is progressing with detailed design and approvals underway.

### ***Basin Reserve Flyover***

The Board of Inquiry is currently hearing evidence from the applicant and submitters. This process has taken considerably longer than initially envisaged with a 3 month extension being granted to the Board to complete the Inquiry. As a result significant additional costs are being incurred by the applicant and submitters.

WCC resolved to “support in part” and will be asking the Board to grant consents but with conditions over mitigation.

## **Strategy & Planning**

### ***Passenger Transport Spine Study***

Submissions have been heard by a sub committee of the Regional Land Transport Committee. Recommendations were made to the Regional Land Transport Committee on 3 March 2014. A number of action requests have been made to Wellington City who are yet to determine how it will respond in facilitating bus rapid transit along defined core spines.

### ***Transport Strategy***

A refresh of the current Transport Strategy 2006 is continuing. As intended this will be run in parallel with a refresh of the Urban Growth Strategy pulling both documents together under the umbrella of a Spatial Plan. To be able to give effect to the objectives and outcomes in the 2015/18 Long Term Plan this process needs to be completed by June/July 2014.

Full consultation is likely to occur as part of the Long Term Plan 2015 – 2025 either late this year or early next year. Consultation with key stakeholders and interest groups will occur from June 2014 onwards.