

Environmental Reference Group Minutes

Monday, 4th April 2016 | 5.30pm – 8.15pm

Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield St, Committee Room 2

Co-Chairpersons: Mark Fenwick, Sophie Mormede and Kate Mitcalfe (Current Chair)

Members:

Sophie Mormede, Paula Warren, Stu Farrant, Graeme Sawyer, Kate Mitcalfe (Chair), Mark Fenwick, Martin Payne, Mark Higham, Daniella Biaggio, Hamish McGillivray, Chris Watson, Lynn Cadenhead, Shenagh Gleisner

Councillors: Iona Pannett, Helene Ritchie

Staff: James Mather, Moana Mackey, Baz Kaufman, Tom Pettit, Michael Oates

1.	Apologies & Icebreaker James Mather Mark Fenwick (Extended Apologies) Cr Iona Pannett Cr Helene Ritchie	5.30pm
2.	Conflicts of Interest All Hamish declared that he has a conflict of interest relating to the Urban development agency. Discussion related to his position as an employee of the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment. Stu is working on the Makara peak and Michael Oates is also coming to discuss the Outer Green Graeme mentioned he had a potential conflict of interest in relation to the 'Laterals' policy (should it come up) Daniela has an ongoing conflict as a manager of conservation at Wellington Zoo Shenagh noted she volunteered at Zealandia, should it pose a conflict at any point	5.35pm

3.	<p>Confirmation of last meetings minutes</p> <p>Minutes are moved to be carried by Sophie; seconded by Stu</p>	5.40pm
4.	<p>Low Carbon Capital Moana Mackey & Tom Pettit</p> <p>PowerPoint presentation is made, this is available to members on DropBox</p> <p>WCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tom and Moana noted that they had been to ERG previously, and the strong feedback was given that they have aimed to incorporate; particularly how the initial focus was on 'climate change'. The framing has since been reworked, now the 'low carbon capital' - Climate change incorporation at a high level in council is still in its beginnings; detail work is upcoming (material selection etc.) - Next week there will be greenhouse gas emissions figures released. Airport was identified early on as something that the plan wouldn't focus on due to the inability to influence it (when compared to relative effort and spending applied to other areas, such as car sharing) - Behavioural calculator tool will include the impact that aviation makes on emissions - Council can make steps, skype used more, electric fleet when possible - Public transport is used for commuting, however weekend travel is still reliant on cars and car ownership <p>ERG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elimination of carparks, whilst promoting alternate transport; how would this work within say Johnsonville – a car focused area that already lacks carparks? - (WCC reply) Johnsonville has been identified as an area that would be hard to undertake the car initiative, also we are not proposing eliminating carparks, we are reallocating. A shared space carpark would generate more carparks as they become freed up in other areas - Minimum parking requirements often cause issues; Porirua was cited as an example. Business community 	5.45pm

	<p>often knows best about how many parks are required rather than leaving it to mandatory minimums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members praised the “cut out for climate” message - Members raised concerns over the airport, emissions especially 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Urban development Agency Baz Kaufman</p> <p>Presentation is available to members on Dropbox</p> <p>WCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Out for consultation, 29th March to 29th April. - Council currently operates in a passive manner in the development space, sets rules and lets market dictate. - UDA would allow a bridge between council and the market, would not act as a developer however - UDA is a tool for council, could be deployed in order to address a variety of community issues. Earthquake prone buildings may be one such example that aren’t strongly identified in the current UDA examples that the UDA could work toward solving - Key aim is to be light and nimble, not exist for revenue collection for council. - Risks of establishing a UDA are acknowledged, though also recognised that not doing anything poses its own risks - Hoping to be established 1 July 2017, provided good feedback from public and councillors - Aim is for a compact city with ease of access for pedestrians, this aim to be incorporated into developments such as the proposed Convention Centre - MDRA issues are often focused around landholding costs. If council wants to show exemplar cases, council may have to hold some land and dictate some terms to developers - If land does come to market, council can purchase and hold then title - Council would also be looking into using its own land - “Arm’s length” organisations allow mobility and speed to be delivered. Developers expecting to work with commercial partners - <p>ERG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members raised that block size and pedestrian linkages may be an issue. Johnsonville Mall and the 	<p>6.15pm</p>

	<p>Victoria University were cited as issues in their relevant areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How spaces between buildings work is an important issue to consider, council may have to step in to address the issue - Johnsonville MDRA development was cited as an issue, didn't/doesn't make financial sense - Concern raised that the new structure shouldn't just act as a subsidy for developers, implementation must be done carefully - ERG expressed frustration that they had not been consulted earlier - Shenagh is preparing a group response to send to Baz. 	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Outer Green Belt Management Plan Michael Oates</p> <p>Presentation made available to members via Dropbox</p> <p>WCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At first stages of reviewing the plan - Off to council next month to provide scope for review - Outer Green Belt is largely Western edge of urban Wellington - Plan is being reviewed as it is old, to bring into synch with other existing plans and policies. Largest driver is that a lot of land has been added to the Outer Green Belt - Primary issues; as city grows do we need to extend the belt; where should this occur; should it be by acquisition and/or protection? - Cases for acquisition of land have become more stringent, economic considerations taken into account - Walking and cycling in Churton Park identified as an issue, lack of links and connector routes - User conflict is something council are looking at, new recreational activities may pose an issue - Changes to ecological management and the ecological restoration of the area is a priority - Open tops sustainability in the long term is being looked at - Draft plan to be prepared in next 6-8 months pending council approving the scope - ERG wanted for engagement in early 2017 	<p>6.45pm</p>

	<p>ERG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important to keep in mind in the scope discussion of the potential growth in areas. Having a long term vision is important - Group praised the questions being considered for scope by Mike and his team - ERG also thanked Mike for coming early to inform the scope of the management plan, group looking forward to him returning - 	
7.	<p>Councillor Update</p> <p>Both councillors gave their apologies; no updates tabled</p>	7.25pm
8.	<p>Animal Bylaw</p> <p>Daniella gave an update on the animal bylaw, there was a brief discussion on its relation to microchipping and registration of cats</p>	
9.	<p>Discussion regarding state of ERG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ERG has many new members, a review/refresh of ERG's priorities and strategies needs to be undertaken. - This should enable all group members to participate fully, past context can inform viewpoints and allow members to understand decisions made - ERG felt that there needs to be a change in meeting format; moving toward more in-group discussion time with less time spent on presentations. - Council officers to provide clear direction on what they are after - Papers can be circulated ahead of time, rather than just before the meeting so they can be considered - ERG further emphasised how important early engagement is – citing the contrast between the UDA and Outer Belt Management Plan and their ability to provide feedback - End of the meeting will include some time to outline what action ERG is going to take about each issue raised (submission, reply to council officers etc). 	7.30pm

Meeting concluded at 8.15pm

Action Points

1. Daniela working on the animal policy, and Shenagh preparing a reply for the UDC, to be finalised in-between meetings through Loomio and/or emails
2. James to look into bringing water/waste based policy work in sooner
3. James to review meeting format with Chairs

Portfolio groups

Working group	ERG lead	Council officer
Transport	Paula Warren	Elise Webster, Principal Advisor Transport Strategy
Climate Change	Yvonne Legarth	Moana Mackey, Programme Manager Sustainability
Waste	Martin Payne	Adrian Mitchell, Waste Operations Manager
Urban Growth	Graeme Sawyer	Trudy Whitlow , Urban Design & Heritage Manager
Water	Paula Warren (interim)	Yon Cheong Manager, Regional Strategy and Policy Wgtn Water
Biodiversity	Stu Farrant	Myfanwy Emeny, Team Leader Biodiversity & Urban Ecology

ERG Outputs from 4.04.2016 Meeting

1. Submission for annual plan.