

Environmental Reference Group

Minutes

Date: Monday, 8 August 2022

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16 Tahiwī, 113 The Terrace, Wellington, and Zoom

Purpose

- Advise Council on the best ways to improve Wellingtonian’s quality of life environmentally, socially, culturally and economically by protecting and enhancing the local environment.
- Bring knowledge and insight into Council around the environment, including water, energy, waste, biodiversity, urban design, climate change, heritage and transport management, in the context of Council’s roles and priorities.

Attendance

Chairperson:	Michelle Rush (Co-chair)
Members:	Steven Almond, Mike Britton, Sally Faisandier, George Hobson, Shannon Wallace, Sam Satterthwaite, Ben Zwartz, Spencer Clubb
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Tamatha Paul
WCC Staff:	Siobhan Procter (Chief Infrastructure Officer), Moana Mackey (Chief Advisor to the CIO and CPO), Leteicha Lowry (Democracy Advisor), Kristine Ford (Principle Policy Advisor), Sean Audain (Manager Strategic Planning), Adam McCutcheon (Team Lead District Plan 2), Anna Stevens (Team Lead District Plan 1)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:03pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:
 - Moana Mackey – for early departure;
 - Clare Stringer and Arran Whiteford – for absence.
2. George Hobson declared a conflict of interest as a member of Forest and Bird regarding the Proposed District Plan and noted that the views expressed were their own and not necessarily those of Forest and Bird.

Items

3. Councillor Paul shared the following updates with the group:
 - Hearings for the Botanic Gardens ki Paekākā to city transitional cycleway were held last week and a decision by committee will occur this week.
 - On the 15th of September, there will be a traffic resolution decision on the Newtown cycleway. Consultation closes on the 31st of August and hearings will take place on the 8th of September.
 - Guidance is coming from Waka Kotahi to make low carbon transport modes safer and more accessible.
4. Community Facilities Plan, *Presented by Kristine Ford.*

Kristine presented to the group on the Community Facilities Plan which will encompass Council-owned and Council-managed facilities. City-wide surveys will be carried out to identify who does/doesn't use the facilities and why/why not. This will inform the plan which intends to make community facilities more welcoming, accessible, and equitable. A focus will be on pools, community centres and recreation centres.

Members' comments included:

- It will be important to look at the services around existing facilities to consider convenience and accessibility, the "15-minute city," and use of active modes of transport.
- Connection to public transport links is important. Idea of priority car parking to those carpooling at facilities.
- Would like this plan to reflect the work of other Council plans eg. Our Natural Capital and the Green Network Plan.
- Investigating why people don't use facilities is important to identify barriers to services.
- Asked whether current buildings will be optimised for use. Officers responded that this is the intention in this plan and there won't be a lot of building new.

Kristine will return to the ERG with an update, following the survey process, in December 2022. Feedback from consultation will inform development of the plan post December.

5. Proposed District Plan, *Presented by Sean Audain, Anna Stevens, and Adam McCutcheon.*

Officers presented to the ERG on the Proposed District Plan, which was formally notified in July 2022. This will follow a hearings process in March of 2023 with the entire plan being operational in 2025. Submissions on the Proposed District Plan are open until the 12th of September.

Members' comments included:

- There was a range of levels of understanding of the E-Plan with some members finding this useful and other finding it challenging to navigate.
- Asked whether SNAs for residential areas were included in the officers' recommendation. Officers responded that they were recommended in the report to the committee. The next annual plan will look at incentives for residential SNAs.

The following members were interested in working on a submission on behalf of the ERG: George, Sam, Shannon, Ben, Sally and Michelle.

6. Annual workplan discussion

Members discussed the upcoming annual workplan that will be presented to Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee on the 1st of September. Timeline is as follows:

- 22nd August – draft of workplan due.
- 25th August – meeting agenda published.
- 1st September - Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee meeting – advisory groups to present from 3:30pm.

Michelle will begin work on the written document. George volunteered to present the ERG's workplan at the Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee meeting on the 1st of September. Sally may be able to assist. Discussions will continue offline.

7. Leadership election and portfolio review

The portfolio/working groups were reviewed by members. A draft of the new portfolio/working groups is included in these minutes.

A leadership election was conducted to fill the vacant co-chair position on the ERG. Nominations were called for and Shannon self-nominated. As the sole nomination, Shannon was declared the winner of the election and co-chair of the ERG.

8. Minutes

No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.

Minutes carried – SS/SA

The meeting concluded at 7:07pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 12/09/2022

Actions from previous meetings:

1. Leteicha to reschedule Economic Wellbeing Strategy update presentation.

Portfolio / Working Groups:

Portfolio Groups	ERG lead	ERG Support	Council Officer
Transport	Arran Whiteford	Shannon Wallace	Joe Hewitt, Team Lead Transport Strategy
Climate Change	Sally Faisandier, Arran Whiteford	Steven Almond, Sam Satterthwaite	Alison Howard, Climate Change Response Manager
Waste & Circular Economy	Spencer Clubb	Clare Stringer, Steven Almond	Emily Taylor-Hall, Waste Operations Manager
Water	Shannon Wallace	Michelle Rush	Zac Jordan, Principal Advisor Resilience Infrastructure
Resilience	Sally Faisandier	Spencer Clubb	Chris Matthews, Manager Waste, Water & Resilience
Urban Design Agency/ Urban Growth	Ben Zwartz	Sam Satterthwaite	Vida Christeller, Manager City Design & Place Planning; Phil Becker, Manager Build Wellington
Mana whenua and treaty relations		Spencer Clubb	
Biodiversity/Open Space	George Hobson	Clare Stringer, Mike Britton	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Heritage		Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Heritage Manager