
TAWA COMMUNITY CENTRE ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Tawa Community Board on the recommendations from the accessibility audit of the Tawa Community Centre, and note that improvements to access will be considered as part of the centre's asset management plan.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Tawa Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Note recommendations from an accessibility audit of the Tawa Community Centre.*
- 3. Note that improvements to access will be considered as part of the centre's asset management plan.*

3. Background

Community centres support communities, groups, families and individuals to meet social needs, achieve community wellbeing and strengthen local resilience through provision of programmes, activities and services.

Tawa Community Centre supports the need of the local community through arts, cultural, educational, and recreational and leisure activities; accommodation for voluntary groups and as an important gathering point in civil defence emergencies.

The Community Facilities Policy identifies the need to ensure centres are 'fit for purpose'; that is they

- Meet the minimum requirements of the current building code for fire safety, energy efficiency, washrooms and universal access.
- Meet basic safety and security requirements.
- Are suitable for use by a range of users including people with disabilities.

Ongoing assessments of centres ensure they are maintained to the appropriate standard and are

- multi-use, designed to be flexible and cater for a wide range of needs and interests, planned and unplanned interactions
- safe and easy to use
- affordable and accessible

As part of the usability assessment of the Tawa Community Centre an accessibility audit was carried out and the resulting recommendations are highlighted below. Ultimately undertaking any of the actions recommended in this audit report would give an improved access.

4. Discussion

Accessibility and usability are considered jointly as part of the audit and in the consideration of the accessible journey. The report identifies non-compliant features and options are presented to improve the accessible compliance of the building with consideration to practicality.

The overall provision of access at the community centre does not meet the current legislative requirements. However with some remedial and upgrade work the centre could provide good access and facilities for persons with disabilities.

Non-compliance included:

- Signage.
- Access to, from and around the building.
- Entrances to the building.
- Parking.
- Kerb ramps.

Solutions require different levels of work to be undertaken, some of which would require downtime of the facilities or would be unfeasible due to costs. There are some quick fixes such as signage which can be achieved within existing budgets and could be undertaken without much interruption to the centre's activities. Other recommendations, such as the journey from the eastern accessible car parks, would be a capital project requiring new funding and would be considered as part the asset management plan for the centre.

Summary of Suggested Actions:

Works which are minor and could be readily carried out with little to no downtime for the building include:

- Upgrade and installation of signage.
- Repainting and upgrading of existing mobility parks –including kerb cuts

Works which would involve downtime and require integration into the asset management plan include the completion of the accessible journey from the eastern car park to and into the building including the installation of accessible ramps.

5. Conclusion

The Tawa Board note the recommendations from the accessibility audit of the Tawa Community Centre and that improvement will be considered as part of the centre's asset management plan.

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Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

Consistent with the Social and recreation Strategy

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

Could require increased capital expenditure

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

n/a.

b) Consultation with Maori

n/a

6) Legal Implications

N/A

7) Consistency with existing policy

Community Facilities and Mobility Parking Policy