

RECORD OF MEETING: ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Details of AAG meeting of 25 January 2011 held on 8 February, Council Chambers, Town Hall, 101 Wakefield Street, 5.30 to 7.30 pm

Mihi whakatau (Billie Tait-Jones)

1. Present

- Members: Thomas Bryan (Chair), Lisette Wesseling, Alan Royal, Linda Hobman, Rosemary Cole, Isobel King, Angela Vanderpoel, Kendal Akhurst
- Council Officers: Jennifer Rains, Ken Bowater,
- Councillors: Iona Pannett
- Guests: Jason Strawbridge, Brian Hannah, Rob Tierney, Nicki Karu
- Interpreters: None

2. Welcome from the Chair (2 min)

- Apologies: Rosemary arrived a little late due to work commitments, Iona left to attend a Council meeting from 6pm to 7.20pm
- Not present Errolyn

3. Adoption of Minutes (2 min)

- Minutes of the 30 November 2010 meeting (held on 14 December 2011) were adopted. (Rosemary/Alan)

4. Report from the Chair (Thomas) (5 min)

Discussion

- Documents circulated for further discussion

Actions

- Read and consider terms of reference, guidelines, sub group membership
- Jenny and Thomas to consider key areas of sub groups, circulate ideas for feedback
- Next meeting presentation on the Strategy and Policy Committee forward plan and project plan to consider priorities

5. Officer's Report (Jenny) (5 min)

Discussion

- Noted that Wellington City Council is providing a venue for the Human Rights commission to hold a series of workshops for community input into the a report to the United Nations on the Disability Convention. Information will come form the commission on the date
- The Wellington City Council Draft Annual Plan available for consultation shortly
- Accessibility forum – council wide? or smaller format for interest groups (e.g. Transport focus)? Could promote or consult on the draft Accessible Wellington Action Plan.

Action

- The Council will undertake a trial to change the way we mark mobility parks – solid blue with yellow access symbol), Jenny to report to group next meeting

6. AAG member induction (Up to 15 min each, including questions, = 60 min)

- The Building Act and Building Consents and Licensing [Manager Building (Commercial and Major Projects) – Rob Tierney]

Main points:

Building Act 2004, Section 118, 112, NZS 4121. Role of the Department of Building and Housing and Building Consent Authorities. A key issue is the term 'reasonable and practicable' used in the Code in reference to renovations, as this term is not defined anywhere.

Discussion: Can the financial situation of the building owner impact on a Building Consent Authority decision? Schedule 2 lists public buildings, economic/market advantage in accessible buildings. The answer is dependant on interpretation of the 'reasonable and practicable' requirement.

- The Council and the Treaty Relations (Nicky Karu)]

Main points:

The Treaty Relations Unit work responds to ongoing Treaty settlements and related organisations (e.g. 2003 Wai 145, Port Nicholson Settlement Trust) through memoranda of understanding with the Council. The principles guiding relationships are: partnership, participation and protection. The mandate is set out in the Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-19. The Council needs to include engagement on the full range of Maori aspirations (The profile of the Maori population in Wellington is different than most cities.).

- How the Council works : Manager Research, Strategy, Urban Design and Heritage (Brian Hannah)]

Main points:

Brain shared with the group how the Council works, which included the committee structures, how decisions are made the decisions are made in Council as well as the budgeting cycle.

Council under Local Government Act 2002, the AAG can seek to influence governance and organisation of Council strategies, plans and policies.

Questions:

Around \$10,000 is the trigger for any new projects requiring the full Annual Plan process.

- Urban development

Postponed to later for alignment with progress on the Wellington 2040 Strategy

7. Questions to AAG follow-up actions (See Appendix 2) (5 min)

Discussion

- None

8. Questions to AAG Sub-group reports (See below) (5 min)

Discussion

- Kerb cuts – list of new ones to site visit not yet ready
- Rugby World Cup – Robyn Steel is coming to the next AAG meeting

- Contact centre – working on ensuring issue trends can be analysed to evidence progress or lack thereof over time

9. Other business (5 min)

Discussion

- Cruise Ships – AAG consulted on input to help the elderly cruise ship travellers. The Council is using the Rugby World Cup preparation to address these issues.
- Road works during major events, how this is perceived by tourists/visitors to Wellington.

Sub-group reports

[Sub-group contact people are asked to email in an update on sub-group activity since the previous meeting, a week in advance for inclusion with the 'agenda'.]

Governance [Alan, Thomas, Lisette, Rosemary]

- Web content people have provided a web page, members should have their organisations view and comment on the web page, give feedback, changes can be made

Culture and Economy [Lisette, Isobel, Rosemary]

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Transport and Urban Design [Thomas, Errolyn]

- Three AAG members attended a Safe and Sustainable Transport Advisory Group meeting on 15 December 2010. It is suggested that the AAG has a rep at each of their future meetings (they meet quarterly). This could be someone from the AAG Transport subgroup, if the Group decides to continue to have one. The following are some of the potential aspects of mutual interest:
 - The footpath part of the roading space (clutter, camber, levels, etc)
 - The interface between footpaths and roads (e.g. kerb cuts)
 - Signage and wayfinding
 - Pedestrian safety around road works
 - Crossing controls
 - Parking.

Housing [Errolyn, Linda]

Meeting Closed at 7.30 pm

Next Meeting
February 22, 2011
Committee Room 1

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AAG FORWARD PROGRAMME [DRAFT]**22 February [Committee Room 1]**

- AAG member induction
 - Urban Design and 2040 Strategy
 - City Communities, and community engagement [Jenny/ Karen Hill]
 - Recreation services – [Rec Welly (Julian Todd)]
 - Transport – [Manager, Safe and Sustainable Transport (Paul Barker)]
 - Project implementation – [Project Management Office – (Stephen Simpson)]
 - How the AAG works [Jenny/Thomas]
- Hydrotherapy facilities – Julian Todd (TBC)
- Newlands McMillan Court project - Stephen Simpson
- How we are addressing accessibility for the RWC - Manager CBD and Rugby World Cup 2011 (Robyn Steel)
 - Overview of plans for the RWC 2011
 - Fan Zones
 - Stadium accessibility
 - Accessible walking routes to the stadium (Jenny Rains)
- City Housing tenants and inclusive community building [Rosie Gallen] TBC

29 March [Committee Room 1]

- Local emergency welfare management (TBC)
- AAG forward programme
- Sub-groups: range, alignment with the FP, membership, expectations
- Draft Accessible Wellington Action Plan, and draft engagement plan
- Consideration of Call Centre call logging categories (TBC)

Future meeting dates (the last Tuesday of each month):

- 26 Apr [CR1], 31 May [CR1], 28 Jun [venue to be confirmed], 26 Jul [CR1], 30 Aug [CR1], 27 Sep [CR1], 25 Oct [CR1], 29 Nov [CR1], 20 Dec [CR2]

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS FROM 14 DECEMBER 2010

UN report

- Ken to seek hard copies/ Braille copies of the UN report [See below for links. I couldn't find any option for ordering hard copies. Please let me or the group know if you have any luck.]

The UN report (includes audio and NZSL versions)

<http://www.odi.govt.nz/what-we-do/un-convention/monitoring-implementation/2010-report.html>

The NZ Disability Strategy (includes audio and NZSL versions)

<http://www.odi.govt.nz/resources/publications/new-zealand-disability-strategy.html>

The 2010 report on progress with the NZDS.

<http://www.odi.govt.nz/nzds/progress-reports/2010/index.html>

Research about disabled people

<http://www.odi.govt.nz/resources/research/index.html>

Transport

- Jenny to provide map for proposed park location [Done]
- Ken to seek examples of kerb cuts about to be done so they can be checked for effectiveness. The next ones for the Golden Mile project will be at the Felix Café corner of Cuba and Wakefield. This work will be starting in early January. [request sent 21/12/10 – hoping to hear of others happening around the CBD - Ken]

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Emergency preparedness

- Mike to provide link to AAG and to review promotion of the text warning service to increase awareness and uptake (e.g. on the weekly newspaper page). [Link to main information <http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/emergencymgmt/>. Also, see below (last page) for text service information.]
- Links to hazard maps (flood and tsunami risk zone maps):

Earthquake http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Emergencies--Hazards/combined_earthquake_hazard_map_wellington.pdf

Tsunami <http://www.gw.govt.nz/tsunami-evacuation-zone-maps/>

- Mike to consider accessibility for people who are Blind (i.e. in text and by street) [Mike will have a look at maps for Blind people in the New Year. It might be easier to ask Blind people to contact us or go through the RNZFB rather than trying to convert maps to text.]
- Mike to report back on what, if anything, the Council can do to encourage provision for people with disabilities in high-rise buildings. (Council can't make building owners exceed the Building Act requirements. The Fire Regulations are currently under review (Thomas to forward information when it is available). Building owners / body corporates may be responsible.) [Mike will look at this more in the New Year. This may be more of a local arrangement and relationship rather than something we can legislate.]
- Ken to consider this for inclusion in the Accessibility Action Plan. [Done]
- [The Wellington Emergency Management Office had already decided to add signage to the tsunami warning vehicles (the loud speaker cars), but hadn't considered. The wording hasn't been finalised yet, but will be along the lines of 'Tsunami Warning – listen to your radio or go to www.wemo.org.nz'. These would be mounted on each side of the vehicle, front and rear - either magnetic signs or something else quick

and simple to attach. These will be made early in 2011. Mike and WEMO will consider whether they could also have an LED message display but even these wouldn't be foolproof. The PA/siren units are mounted on a variety of vehicle types and are a strong, rugged design. Getting LED units designed and built to withstand Wellington weather (and CitiOps staff!) would be an expensive endeavour, with uncertain outcomes. Communication via neighbours and friends is likely to be the most effective part of the mix.]

Other

- Ken to forward Sara's offer (user testing from a Deaf perspective) to Stephen.
[Done]

Receiving Emergency Alerts on Your Mobile

Please note this system is not foolproof - it is dependent on technology - and is just one of the tools available.

You can sign up to receive WEMO alerts direct to your mobile phone and hear about any large-scale emergency in Wellington (for example, a tsunami warning).

- Text alerts are free, but sign-up costs you four texts at your standard rate.
- You will receive 3 - 4 test messages a year and any other message will be a real alert.
- The text alerts do not currently work on mobile phones using the 2degrees network.
- If you receive an emergency alert, forward it to your networks, or re-tweet the message if you're on Twitter.

Signing Up

Wait for a reply after each text sent. If you already receive tweets to your mobile phone, go to step 5.

1. Text the word "start" to 8987.
2. Reply with the word "signup".
3. Think of a unique username. (You won't need to remember it again, so you could use your name followed by some random characters, e.g. "Kelly495hgim".)
4. Reply with your chosen username. (If you are already on Twitter, use your existing username and it will ask you for your password.)
5. Send / Reply "follow wemonz" to 8987.