

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP (DRG)

MINUTES

5.40 PM
Tuesday 10 October 2006

Committee Room 2

Members

Kendall Akhurst
Ollie Goulden
Ross Livingstone
Nick Luger
Lorraine Offord (Co-Chair)

Jenny Rains
Kaeti Riggardsford
Jules Taniwha

Attending

Adele Gibson (Policy Advisor Policy Unit)
Martin Henson (Project Manager Corporate Services Group)
Maurice Priestley (Disability Policy Advisor CCDHB)
Marie Retimanu-Pule (Senior Advisor City Communities)

1. **Welcome**

Lorraine Offord welcomed the group.

2. **Apologies**

Joanne Ward
Thomas Bryan (Co-Chair)
Councillor Leonie Gill

3. **Adele Gibson, Draft Engagement Policy**

Adele Gibson from the Wellington City Council Policy Unit introduced the group to the draft Engagement Policy. The proposed Engagement Policy will replace the present Consultation Policy. The aim of the policy is to improve communication between Council and the public. Part of this is to define what consultation (or engagement) is, and what the public can expect as a result of its participation. The hope is to clear up the misunderstanding in the public around what consultation means. The end result aims to be engagement where the council will consider the feedback/submissions in a fair and careful way.

Principles to consider in the policy are:

- Early involvement

- Clear and open process
- Encouragement of feedback from a variety of groups
- Time allowed for comment/feedback
- Provision of relevant information
- Provision of feedback around decisions made

It will not be incumbent upon council controlled organisations to adhere to the proposed engagement policy.

There was a question regarding the new terminology/branding involved in this policy:

- 'Consultation' will become known as 'engagement' (Adele Gibson mentioned the need to maintain the usage of 'consultation' in some respects as this is the word used in the Local Government Act 2002 [LGA]).
- 'Submissions' will become known as 'feed back'.

The deadline for feedback/submissions is 20 November 2006. The policy will be put forward for council consideration on 6 December 2006.

4. Martin Henson, Project Manager Newlands Community Centre

Martin Henson the Project Manager for the Newlands Community Centre gave an update, timeline of the project and presented a concept design. Martin Henson joined the project in July 2006 after problems related to the location of the site had been encountered. A new site has proposed. The philosophy of the concept design was for form to follow function. Accordingly the facility's multi functional nature has taken into consideration:

- Catering for different activities
- Need for community
- An ability to meet future needs
- Awareness of environmentally sustainable design

The hope is to make the centre the focal point for Newlands.

The concept was designed in co-operation with the Newlands Community Reference Group (made up of a number of interested local community groups) Wellington City Council and an architect. The philosophy behind the concept is to meet current needs and be able to meet future needs. The concept includes:

- A reception
- A youth facility including a break out area and a half court
- A multi functional meeting room
- A food bank
- A performance area (including a stage)

- Storage area and theatrical practice area
- A cyber library
- A Kiosk/Senior meeting area (multi use space)
- A Toy Library

The next step is to proceed to the detailed design phase and then the construction phase. The Design stage is forecast to be completed by May 2007 following with the construction being tendered and then construction beginning in mid June 2007 and being completed 10-12 months later.

Once the detailed designed phase has commenced there will be a workshop with the DRG to make sure that it meets DRG needs.

The question of future capacity was brought up. The Community Centre will be designed in a way that will have the ability to be added to. This capability will be able to accommodate for a second level and a lift.

5. Maurice Priestley, CCDHB, Intersectorial Collaboration

Maurice Priestley presented information on the C&C DHB and Disability Support Advisory Committee (DSAC) and Disability Groups Forum and his hope to see greater intersectorial collaboration on regional level between disability and other interested groups. He distributed the Working Together Towards a Well Connected Community document which lists the results of the latest forum.

The blank spaces left in this document demonstrate need for action and can be filled through the contribution of other disability groups which have insights into the issues raised.

Maurice Priestley would like to create a spot in the next DSAC forum for the DRG to make a presentation.

6. Senior Advisor Presentation, Marie Retimanu-Pule

Marie Retimanu-Pule explained her portfolio in City Communities to the group. She is the Senior Advisor for the Southern Ward with an overall portfolio encompassing Pacific Island Health and general social services and Strengthening Families with some key contracts including the Wellington City Mission, Wesley Wellington Mission and Presbyterian Support Services. Marie is also responsible for Vasi Siohane, Advisor (Pacific Communities) who is responsible for the Pacific Island community in Wellington including the Pacific Advisory Group and Ollie Seumanufagai, Strengthening Families Co-ordinator who works with families in Wellington City.

She would like to see the relationship between the Pacific Advisory Group (PAG) and the DRG developed with the DRG making a presentation to the PAG. The PAG is made up of two representatives from each of the 6 main

pacific nations (including Samoa) with the exception that Samoa has three representatives. The council officers on the PAG are Vasi Siohane, Marie Retimanu-Pule, Ollie Seumanufagai, Alice Cowan and Councillor Alick Shaw.

The PAG will be disestablished with the hope for re-election in April next year. Ollie Seumanufagai role was also discussed with special emphasis on the discretionary fund at the unit's disposal. The possibility was mentioned of having a presentation which focused specifically on Strengthening Families.

7. Other Business

Lorraine Offord mentioned some matters including:

- Free places on VUW course on discourse theory. The course will look at different perspectives depending on the discourse that is used.
- The community sector task force puts out a weekly newsletter which regularly contains disability information. There is a possibility for Iris Pahau to come and give a presentation to the DRG.
www.nzfvwo.org.nz/cst

Kaeti Riggallford proposed that a new time and day for the meeting be discussed. The group agreed that the subject would be returned to at the time that new members to the DRG join.

Jules Taniwha mentioned that National Mental Health Day is Friday 13 October. There will be an event held at Cuba Mall from 10am-2pm.

The Group agreed to send a letter to Paul Sisson letting him know that in light of his extended leave he will be stood down and any reapplication will be reassessed when appropriate.

Regarding the community forum of 30 September, it was agreed to collate a list of potentially interested parties that would take part in future meetings. There may also need to be some following up of the groups that failed to attend the forum of 30th September.

9. Confirmation of minutes.

NEXT MEETING: 14 November 2006