

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP

MINUTES

5.30 P.M. – Tuesday 10 March, 2009

Committee Room 2

Members Present

Sara Pivac Alexander (Co-Chair)
Rosie Macleod (Co-Chair)
Alan Royal
Philippa MacDonald
James Tait
Jules Taniwha
Sandie Waddell
Lisette Wesseling

Also Present

Marie Retimanu-Pule (WCC)
Councillor Pannett (Cllr)
Sinéad Roe (WCC)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the group

2. Apologies

Thomas Bryan

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. Jules confirmed and Alan seconded.

4. Stefania Chrzanowska – Urban Development and Transport

The Urban Development team within Wellington City Council have been working on a review of the District Plan rules for the past 12 – 18months. A review of Suburban Centres has formed part of this review.

Public consultation in relation to the District Plan rules has been open from 8 December 2008 up until 1 April 2009. The team will then be reporting back to Council on the 6 of August 2009. Notification of the formal plan will be acknowledged in 2009.

The group commented that accessibility for all people is important to be included in the District Plan. The group discussed the need for private businesses to obtain a resource consent for proposed car parks of more than 30 parks, stressing the need for

all car parks to observe the minimum number of mobility parks provided for under NZS4121:2001.

5. Fabian Todd – City Communities Mobility Parking

The Council is reviewing its guidelines for installing mobility parking. This review has arisen because not all residential mobility parks are requested on streets where all CCS permit holders can use them.

Currently, residents requesting a mobility park outside their homes must:

- be a current CCS card holder
- own their own car
- have no access to off street parking

Wellington has many steep and narrow streets which become a problem for installing mobility parking. The new guidelines will include what is considered a safe and useable mobility park in terms of the gradient of the street, camber of the road, traffic volume and the clearance of 1500mm for safe exit and entry of the vehicle.

The group had two comments about this approach:

- While the Council may assist residents where possible, ultimately it is the responsibility of the individual to make sure their accommodation is accessible and suitable for their individual needs.
- As people become older and less mobile parking becomes a need which they may not have considered at the time of purchase. The Council should support residents wherever possible to remain in their homes.

The Mobility Parking Policy (stipulating 2% of all car parks in the CBD will be mobility parks) this is likely to be completed by the start of 2010. Initially this date was meant to be the end of 2009 however internal restructuring has pushed this date back.

Mobility parks that are due for resolution this year:

- May – Park Rd (Miramar), Oxford Terrace (Newtown)
- August – Marion St (CBD), Inglewood Place (CBD), Johnston St, Stout St (CBD)
- Sept – (special round) Hanson St (Newtown), Toru St (Lyall Bay) Also to be included in this round is Normanby St which will have a P60 restriction to the existing mobility park.

Concerns were raised about mobility parking in Miramar, where new parks are being proposed for Park Rd. as opposed to Miramar Ave. where there had been mobility parking in the past. Miramar Ave. experiences heavy traffic volumes and is not considered a safe location for mobility parking.

Fabian asked the group to forward any comments, suggestions, or questions regarding mobility parking to: fabian.todd@wcc.govt.nz

6. Report from the Co-Chair (Rosie Macleod)

Proposed Council changes to recycling: – The Council had an online e-petition for this paper which the group was able to contribute to. In February the proposed changes went back to Council officers for further investigation.

LTCCP: The DRG took part in a workshop on the LTCCP in February. The group gave officers a clear message that inclusion and access should be central to the LTCCP across all strategies. Sinead Roe and Aroha Rangi also gave a presentation on the LTCCP to the Deaf Club on February 27th.

New Zealand Sign Language Week: Deaf Aotearoa are working with the Council to organise eight New Zealand Sign Language taster classes during NZSL Week, May 4-10, 2009. Deaf Aotearoa are also strengthening ties with the Council to promote communication and understanding between WCC and the Deaf community.

Sub-Group Updates

ICT Sub – Group – Alan

Though the Web Centre had undertaken in December to give regular updates on improvements to the accessibility of the website, there have been no updates so far this year. The Web Centre was to meet with Sara to discuss including New Zealand Sign Language videos on the website, they have been approached about this and have requested more information on these from Sara. They have suggested a provisional meeting for August though Sinead will ask for this date to be brought forward. A demonstration of how the website responds to use by screen readers had also been discussed. This has been provisionally arranged for late April/early May.

Action: Sinead to arrange for an update to be brought to the group on progress since December.

Housing Sub-Group – Rosie

The group met on 5th March with Rosie Gallen director of City Housing's Community Action Programme. Community Action is mandated with supporting tenants and ensuring their quality of life. One of the sub group members also attended a Housing Upgrade Project Pre-Upgrade Evaluation Exercise on the 4th of March.

Accessible Art Sub-Group – Lisette

Sara Pivac Alexander and two other members of the Deaf community met with Hilary Beaton, Director of Downstage Theatre, on March 4 to choose NZSL interpreted theatre performances in 2009.

Transport & Urban Design Sub-Group – Thomas

The group met on 26th February with Tom Beard, a representative from Urban Design.

7. Report from the Council Officer

Dates confirmed for DRG meeting in April: 14 April, 5:30 pm (monthly meeting) and 23 April, 5:30 (DRG LTCCP meeting)

Accessible Wellington Forum:

The 2009 Forum will focus on Housing Design. There will be presentations on designing accessible, adaptable and affordable homes from the CEO of the Lifetime Design Foundation and Bill Wrightson. The proposed Accessible Wellington Design Competition is planned to be launched at the Forum. As the Forum is happening during the public consultation period for the Draft LTCCP, information on the LTCCP and how the public can prepare submissions on the Draft Plan will be available at the forum.

Update on research into kerb crossing design:

This report has been sent back to Opus for some adjustments it is expected it will be back by early April. Sinead will set up a meeting with Trish Ubels and the Urban/Design Transport sub group to discuss this and other matters.

Dog Control Policy:

The Council's Policy on Dog Control is going before the Strategy and Policy Committee in April. Policy Advisors have consulted with the Guide Dog Society and RNZFB regarding how any proposed changes might affect Guide Dogs and other assistance dogs. The DRG stated that they were happy to support the Foundation's comments and suggestions as none of the current members use Guide Dogs.

8. GRWC – Proposed changes to bus timetable layouts:

The members were asked to give some feedback on around contrast and readability in proposed changes to bus timetables published by metlink. The group felt that all downloaded timetable files need to be readable by those with visual impairments, and that the timetable needed to be as clearly read as possible for all passengers, including seniors, people with visual impairments and people with head injuries or neurological impairments.

9. Other business:

No other business.

The meeting closed at 7:20 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 5:30 pm.