

Environmental Reference Group Meeting
11 December 2006
Minutes

Present:

Councillor Celia Wade-Brown (Chair)
Debbie Firestone
Graeme Hastilow (Ngati Toa)
Liz Hibbs
Chris Horne
Tushara Kodikara
Ruth Paul
Stephen Sargent
Ian Shearer

Apologies:

Ralph Chapman
Mike Ennis
Jennie Francke
Ian Hunter
Dave Kettell
Murray McLea
(GWRC) Fiona
McNamara (Youth
Council)
Charity Stuart

WCC Officers:

Jim Ebenhoh (Strategic Advisor)
Moana Everson (Treaty Relations)
Amber Bill (Open Space and Recreation Planning)
Dave Campbell (Property)

Other Guests:

Councillor Glen Evans (GWRC)
Councillor Terry McDavitt (GWRC)
Jane Davis (GWRC)
Brian Baxter (GWRC)
Mike Mellor (Living Streets Aotearoa)

Information-Sharing and Announcements

Members shared the following:

- An Australian Green Cities conference will be held 11 – 14 February 2007.
- Council should consider being a member of the NZ Green Building Council.
- Consultation on the Department of Building and Housing's discussion document on Improving the Energy Efficiency of Buildings closes 22 December.

Energy Management Planning

Dave Campbell, WCC's new Energy Manager, gave a short presentation on his role in helping the Council find energy savings and meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals as part of the CCP-NZ programme. He explained that this role will expand to community energy planning once progress is made with in-house Council energy use.

Members of the ERG had the following comments and questions:

- The baseline CCP-NZ data may not be robust.
- The Council should get its electricity supply from renewable sources.
- Solar waters could be installed on Council buildings, including housing units.
- Public transport vouchers could be used for staff remuneration instead of vehicles.
- Windows could be double-glazed in Council buildings.
- The design brief for the Newlands Community Centre should take sustainable building principles into account.
- How will the Council energy management plan be linked to the community energy management plan?

Dave said that it is too early to decide on those specifics now, but he will consider all these suggestions and questions as he moves forward.

Biodiversity Action Plan: Update

Amber Bill (Planner – Ecology and Diversity) listed the members of the Steering Group (including Chris Horne, DoC, GWRC, NZILA, Ngati Toa and Tenths Trust) and said that Myfanwy Emeny will be taking over her role while Amber is on parental leave. Amber summarised the content of the draft plan, including key issues, objectives (identify, protect, restore, knowledge and capacity), and draft actions and priorities. She said a final draft Plan will be completed by June 2007. Pairs of ERG members each came up with 3 top biodiversity actions to share with Amber.

Draft Regional Land Transport Strategy and Draft Regional Passenger Transport Plan

Mike Mellor (mike.mellor@livingstreets.org.nz) introduced himself as the environmental sustainability representative on the Regional Land Transport Committee (RLTC).

Greater Wellington's Councillor Terry McDavitt, RLTC Chairperson, gave an introduction to the draft Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS). Jane Davis (GWRC Transport Division) then gave a presentation on the draft RLTS. She highlighted the following points:

- The RLTS covers the entire transport network
- It's related to the Wellington Regional Strategy and the Regional Policy Statement (the RPS will be drafted by September 2007)
- Consultation is occurring at the same time as the Regional Passenger Transport Plan consultation
- No radical changes are proposed; the existing network is a good base.
- The top transport issues include public transport capacity.
- The various objectives need to be balanced and may even be contradictory.

- There are various specific priorities for improvement, including travel planning, freight, walking/cycling, public transport, and catchup rail maintenance.
- Submissions are due 16 February 2007, with hearings held in March, and finalisation by May.

Greater Wellington's Councillor Glen Evans gave an introduction to the draft Regional Passenger Transport Plan (RPTP) for 2007 – 2011. He highlighted an 11% increase in passenger transport usage in the past year, which has only eased slightly recently with a drop in petrol prices. Bryan Baxter (GWRC Public Transport) gave a presentation on the draft RPTP, pointing out the key policy direction of increasing mode share for public transport. He said submissions close on 16 February 2007, the same date as for the RLTS.

Members of the ERG provided comments and asked various questions, including:

- When will rail electrification be extended to Waikanae and Otaki?
- Could the RLTS mention the Ngauranga-to-Airport study in more detail?
- How will climate change be addressed? A 22% increase in greenhouse gas emission is projected over the 10 years of the RLTS.

Next Meeting

The ERG suggested meeting again on Monday, 12 February 2007, from 5:30-7:30 pm at the WCC offices (Committee Room Two) at 101 Wakefield Street.