

Minutes

**Environmental Reference Group
Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street
Room: Committee Room 1 - Korimako
Monday, 23rd June 2014, 5:30-7:30 pm**

Howard Markland- Chairing

Present

Howard Markland (Co-Chair)
Bev Abbott (co-chair)
Peter Gilbert
Claire Graeme
Paula Warren
Sea Rotmann
Phil Hancock
Nick Crocker

City Councillors

Cllr Iona Pannett
Cllr Helene Ritchie (apologised for leaving early)

Apologies

Sophie Mormede

Jane O'Loughlin (resigned)
Alina Siegfried (resigned)

WCC Liaison Officers

Graeme Shimmin

WCC Presenters

Nicci Wood

1 . Apologies & Resignations Alina & Jane handed in their resignations due to new work commitments.

Action: Liaison Officer to work with Co-Chairs to initiate further recruitment.

2. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the meeting of April 14th were approved.

(Items 3 and 4 on the agenda were switched around)

4. Update/feedback on Water Sensitive Urban Design Guide

Nicci Wood

Nicci's report on the Water Sensitive Urban Design Guide, and the draft guide, went before Environment Committee on 12th June and full Council on 18th June and was approved by both. The report can be found [here](#), the draft WSUD Guide [here](#). The completed version will be available from the [webpage](#) shortly. Some hardcopies will be available from Nicci. A Dutch intern (Rueben) is due to start work on 21st July with the policy team, focusing on a WSUD implementation plan. This will include the following:

- developing a WSUD chapter for the Council's Code of Practice for Land Development (COPLD). This chapter will be a technical design document to provide Wellington-specific guidance for the on-site assessment, design process, selection of appropriate devices and concepts, and the corresponding design parameters. The COPLD will be reviewed before the end of the year.

- some big projects in which Council is involved, which offer opportunities for WSUD initiatives / solutions - the greening of Taranaki Street, the (Kent-Cambridge) Canal Reserve work, the Johnsonville Town Centre Upgrade/roading improvements and implementing the Central City Framework Stream Streets project.
- asset ownership of WSUD devices between the different council units (mainly parks, roading, and drainage teams), including operation and maintenance provisions other ways like the update of the Biodiversity Action Plan and as part of the Integrated Catchment Management Plant work,

Bev suggested a conceptual map, showing how all these projects / plans / initiatives connect and fit together. Howard asked whether WCC had a stormwater/sewer network model that would help with integrated catchment management. Nicci noted that several models exist for individual parts of the district.

Phil noted that having the flood hazard maps in the guide to help people understand where they are in the catchment might be useful to help people establish which solutions are suitable for them. Nicci commented that flood hazard maps are available to people, though not in the District Plan, and should be included in the WSUD guide.

Paula added that it would be good to have principles within the District Plan on what developments should be looking to achieve in different geographical areas, e.g. % permeability etc.

There was discussion around the use of the District Plan to help with implementation of the design principles in the WSUD guide and stormwater issues in general. It was commented that history shows we have not been good at restricting development on flood plains in the district.

Action: Add the District Plan, Stormwater / Implementation of WSUD to the discussion for the group's future work plan and possibly, the Letter of Collaborative Objectives. Loomio to be used to discuss other item the group may want to see?

3. Stormwater Consultative Committee – Potential for Joint work-streams / Increasing Effectiveness of Committee?

Nicci Wood

Nicci talked to the group about the potential for ERG to add to the effectiveness of the Stormwater Consultative Committee.

Background Info

The Stormwater Consultative Committee was set up as part of the new 10 year stormwater consents approved by Greater Wellington in 2011. The consents were designed to drive longer term improvements in the quality of stormwater discharges to Wellington Harbour and the South Coast.

The consents required a Stormwater Consultative Committee (SCC) to be established with representatives from community groups ensuring regular liaison with key stakeholders. The aim of the SCC was 'to report on and discuss progress with, and content of, the management plans, monitoring results, and other matters relating to the exercise of the consent and general stormwater management'.

The SCC recently underwent recruitment with Howard, Paula and Sea all joining the group. There was a feeling that the chairing of the group was quite regimented (by Capacity) and the new members struggled to see the relevance of the group, i.e. what value is being added by the SCC to Capacity and Council.

Capacity currently set the agenda and chair. One improvement may be for a member of the group to chair the SCC. Howard suggested feedback is given to Capacity about the viability / relevance / use of the SCC at the moment and a discussion held for improving. **Action: Howard to co-ordinate.**

Cllr Pannett informed the group that the Environment Committee had just written its Statement of Intent (SOI) Letter to Capacity, which lays out Council's expectations for the year ahead. Unfortunately it is too late to include anything formally in the SOI this year, but this can be looked at next year if effectiveness still needs to be improved. As part of this year's SOI, Capacity have been asked to think about its performance indicators, and Cllr Pannett suggested it would be good for them to receive input from ERG on developing these. (natural waterways, water infrastructure?)

Action: Nicci invite Cllr Pannett to next SCC meeting

Action: Invite CCO to next ERG meeting, with Howard & Bev to set agenda for what they would like to talk about, e.g. potential for ERG to have input to Capacity's KPIs. Nicci to co-ordinate.

There was further discussion about water issues, with Cllr Pannett advising the group that Greater Wellington is due to start work on the Porirua Harbour Whatuia and establishing a [Whaitua Committee to inform the Regional Rules](#). The Wellington Harbour Whatuia will be the next to start within the next 12 months. Comments were made about the likely complexity of the future Wellington harbour Whatuia.

Action: Invite GW representative to update ERG on the Whaitua process for Wellington (and Porirua) Harbours, how this fits with other work-streams and how ERG can add value to the process.

Action: Nicci to forward a copy of the Joint Porirua Harbour Committee report as an example
<http://wellington.govt.nz/~media/your-council/meetings/Council/2014/06/Report-2-18-June-2014-Porirua-Harbour-and-Catchment-Joint-Committee.pdf>

Action: Nicci to share GW whaitua intro presentation with ERG. (see attached)

5. ERG's Terms of Reference Review

Howard Markland

On 28 May, the draft Terms of Reference and an example of an Objectives-setting letter were circulated to ERG members, seeking comment by 13 June. The subsequent Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be discussed at the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee on 24th June. The group discussed and suggested further amendments for the ToR. Cllr Pannett offered to present these to the Committee at the meeting. Members welcomed the collaborative approach to developing ERG's work programme for the year.

6. Feedback on Town Belt Bill & Annual Plan submissions

Bev Abbott

Annual Plan

A copy of the response letter from Martin Rodgers on the ERG Annual Plan submission was circulated prior to the meeting. Bev commented that while it touched on the Blue Belt, she was disappointed it didn't mention performance indicators, which had been the second point of the submission.

Town Belt Bill

Officers are currently studying the submissions received on the draft Town Belt Bill, and are expected to report to the Environment Committee with a revised bill in September. Paula spoke on ERG's submission at the Hearings.

7. Forward Programmes of Council Committees

Graeme handed out relevant sections from Governance, Finance and Planning, Environment, and Transport and Urban Development Committees forward programmes which will help with work planning

Cllr Pannett asked that the group comment on the Environment Committee Forward Programme. Bev is to collate feedback and asked for this to be emailed to her by 14th July.

Action: ERG members to send feedback on the Environment Committee FP to Bev by 14th July.

Biodiversity Action Plan

Myfanwy Emeny, the Council's Biodiversity and Urban Ecology Team Leader, has asked about the groups interest in the forthcoming review of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). They are holding some workshops in mid July and wondered if some members of ERG wished to attend.

Action: A number of members to attend BAP workshop.

8. Review of areas of interest

Howard Markland

(Green Growth, Blue Belt, Communities)

Full discussion postponed till next meeting.

Paula asked that Landfill Consents be considered. She expressed concerns about the way Council is dealing with this, including limited opportunities for community input.

Sea asked who in Council is progressing WCC involvement in the Airport Expansion. Is there a timetable and what/when will info be available?

Action : Graeme to enquire (with MR at present)

8. Matters arising / updates

- Long Term Plan – Draft timeline / process – early engagement likely to be July/August onwards (tbc) with a draft adopted and put out for formal consultation Feb/March time. Have asked about opportunities for ERG involvement.
- Sea Level Rise / Climate Change Action Plan Update - see attached
- Transport – see below/over

9. Any other business

1. Branch Out (Copy can be found [here](#)). You can subscribe to eNewsletters such as this [here](http://wellington.govt.nz/enewsletters) (http://wellington.govt.nz/enewsletters).
2. Conflicts of Interest
3. Graeme informed the group that this is likely to be his last meeting as Liaison Officer for the ERG as he will be leaving Council mid-July.
Action: WCC to arrange a replacement liaison officer.

Transport Update – June 2014

Projects

National War Memorial Park and Buckle Street Tunnel

The underpass structure is substantially advanced with internal walls and the roof now completed. Work is commencing on the portals leading to and from the underpass tunnel. Completion is now expected to be ahead of the October deadline.

The design of the National War Memorial Park has been completed and the purchase of materials and fixtures is underway. Construction work on the Park is now expected to start in October.

Basin Reserve Flyover

The Board of Inquiry has finished hearing evidence from the applicant and submitters. A draft decision is expected in mid-July and that will be pivotal in determining what happens next.

Strategy & Planning

Passenger Transport Spine Study

The decision of the Regional Land Transport Committee is to implement a bus rapid transit (BRT) system along a “core” spine from the Railway Station through to the Basin Reserve with one leg to Kilbirnie and the other to the Regional Hospital. Wellington City supports this approach and will undertake studies and other necessary actions to ensure the needs of all road users and transport modes are considered as BRT is integrated into the transport network.

Transport Strategy

The Transport Strategy 2006 and Urban Growth Strategy 2006 have been pulled together into the Wellington Urban Growth Plan.

Full consultation is likely to occur as part of the Long Term Plan 2015 – 2025 either late this year or early next year. Consultation with key stakeholders and interest groups will occur from June 2014 onwards.

Climate Change – June update for ERG

WCC Our Living City Team

Completed/upcoming

- URS regional greenhouse gas inventory report update, May 2015 ([link to press release](#)).

Adaptation

- Water Sensitive Urban Design guide, approved by the Council.
- Release of a consultant report by Tonkin and Taylor on sea level rise impacts for Wellington (in the next week or so). We also have a prototype web-based model, which we can use to generate great images for planning purposes or for presentations (scoping underway on options for easily public access to map information – eg online tool).

Mitigation

- Smart Energy Capital Fund update – (attached)
- Smart Energy Challenge evaluation report and blog posts (in the next few weeks) – all three teams reached their crowd funding targets on PledgeMe.
- RFP for solar PV installation and financing for Te Whaea and Wellington Zoo.
- Piloting a solar co-op in partnership with Power Shop and Sustainability Trust.

In progress/next up

- Refresh of the WCC climate change landing page of the website, work getting underway next week.
- Draft Spatial Plan Review

Adaptation

- Island Bay seawall – ongoing pre-engagement with community
- Resilience – scoping and groundwork to join Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities network (RC100). Rockefeller provides resources for a Chief Resilience Officer to develop and implement a city resilience plan. Climate change adaptation will be incorporated into this wider resilience context.

Upcoming opportunities for Input

- Contact Phil Squire at the Sustainability Trust and set up a solar co-operative. The solar co-op is community or network that buys solar power via the grid. The solar PV panels go on one of the buildings, with an interest-free loan paid off over time. Once the PV panels are paid off they earn credits for the co-op.
- Spatial Plan – update for August? ERG meeting, may have a draft then.
- Get involved or initiate a WREMO community resilience plan workshop in your community. Climate change presentations available on request through WREMO community resilience planning sessions.

The OLC team's current priorities are the Rockefeller Challenge, Island Bay and Smart Energy Projects. We'll be in touch if opportunities emerge on our projects prior to the Next ERG meeting.

