

Environmental Reference Group Minutes

Monday, 11 August 2014, 5:30-7:30 pm

Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, Committee Room 1

Bev Abbott – in the Chair

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

Apologies

Sophie Mormede

WCC Liaison Officers

Lisa Matthews

WCC Presenters

Myfanwy Emeny, Lucie Derosiers,
Tim Park

1. Apologies & Resignations

Apologies from Sophie Mormede and a request to take a leave of absence for 6 months. Approved.

Claire Graeme signaled that her last meeting will be in October.

Sea Rotmann requested to take a leave of absence for 3 months. Approved.

Action: Liaison Officer will work with Howard Markland and Paula Warren to recruit.

2. Conflicts of Interest

None

3. Update about review of Biodiversity Action Plan

Myfanwy Emeny

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: Myfanwy to send draft to ERG and have an ERG specific workshop.

4. Briefing on Wellington's Draft Growth Plan

Lucie Derosiers

Wellington's Draft Growth Plan is a combination of the Wellington City Council's Urban Development Strategy and Transport Strategy 2006. The goal is to manage growth in Wellington over the next 30 years. It is anticipated that there will be an extra 50,000 people living in Wellington and an extra 22,000 new homes.

The impact of that growth will be the need for more infrastructure etc and the Growth Plan will give direction to that growth. It is not a fresh strategy – the two strategies were reviewed and were considered fundamentally sound. The biggest challenge was to implement them. This plan aims to do that by being more action orientated. There are new considerations also including increased focus on hazards and natural resilience post Christchurch earthquake, trends in transport, changes to housing makeup and affordability.

The vision for Wellington is to be prosperous, liveable, resilient and environmentally sustainable (mitigates the effect of natural hazards, minimising the impact of urban growth and maintain the natural environment). The approach will be to focus on the compact form of Wellington (by focussing growth where it can happen), an integrated transport network and to be resilient and set in nature.

Looking at:

- Transformational growth areas
- Liveable and vibrant centres
- Real transport choices
- Housing supply and choice
- Natural environment and city resilience

The focus will be on the first ten years to keep it in line with the Long –Term Plan. Actions will be scheduled and funding will be sought. An Economic Development Strategy is being developed as well.

Discussion:

The impact of the Basin Reserve decision will impact on ideas for the central city including plans for Kent and Cambridge Tce and Adelaide rd. etc. Other workstreams can go ahead.

Phil said that there was a need for a strategy for the area so that single decisions such as the Basin Reserve Flyover do not impact so heavily on plans.

Paula noted that there should be a set of principles that guide decision-making instead, especially as both sides can't always agree in Council. There could be design guides for green fields and brown fields development. This could help with correcting issues in Johnsonville.

Sea noted that there is a gap in the document around State Highway one.

Lucy outlined the process from here – there is limited time as it needs to be part of the Long-term Plan. They are working with Infrastructure to cost the services required for projects. ERG will receive the draft in confidence to review. Formal consultation will begin in October.

Phil queried the resilience of having the new greenfield development (in the north) being so far from the sewage processing plant in Moa Point and from the water supply from the Hutt Valley and that it would be more resilient to link the green fields development to Porirua.

Bev gave some statistics from the 2040 strategy.

Paula noted the importance of community in resilience.

Action: Lucie to distribute the Draft Urban Growth Plan to the group for comment.

ERG to look at the Biodiversity Plan in conjunction with the Urban Growth Plan.

5. Development of ERG Work Programme

Bev outlined the process for determining the ERG's Work Programme. ERG was asked to look at the Annual Plan for items of focus. This has been done but the ERG also determined that they would be looking also high level, strategic work for their work programme.

Bev presented a draft work plan for ERG to begin the planning process. ERG discussed the plan and made amendments.

Action: Bev to make changes and resend the draft plan.

6. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the meeting of June 23rd were approved.

7. Revised meeting dates for remainder of 2014

ERG now have 12 meetings a year and ERG now has to schedule more meetings.

Lisa spoke to the results of the "Doodle" poll which showed that the majority of those who completed it preferred the first Monday of the month. ERG determined to meet monthly on the first Monday of the month. Another meeting is to be scheduled in October to manage workload and the December meeting is to be cancelled.

Action: Lisa to send out calendar invites to all the members.

8. Finalised TOR and recruitment for ERG - skills required

Recruitment is to go ahead. A diverse range of people are required. Paula and Howard are to interview (Bev Abbott is away).

The terms of reference are much improved and ERG is grateful for the work done by Council officers and Councillors.

9. Matters arising / updates

1. Long Term Plan - outline presented from Long Term Plan team. Attached.
2. Future servicing of ERG will be done by Simon Wright and Lisa Matthews from the Consultation and Engagement team until a replacement is in place.
3. Capacity's indicators – Capacity should be asked to present to ERG.

Action: ERG to determine what they want to know from Capacity.

4. Airport extension (Sea's letter to Dom Post, Council's role(s))

Action: Lisa to find out the contact point in the Council.

5. Performance indicators in the LTP.

Action: Lisa to request a meeting between ERG and Martin Rodgers.

Attachments:

- Link to Capacity's indicators, Report 4 Appendix 2, Environment Committee agenda, 12 June 2014)
<http://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/committees/environment/2014/06/12>
- Transport Update
- Our Living City Update
- Long Term Plan – Draft timeline and process
- Sea's letter about airport extension

Action Points summary

1. Myfanwy to send the draft Biodiversity Plan to ERG and have an ERG specific workshop.
2. Lucie to distribute the Draft Urban Growth Plan to the group for comment.
3. Bev to make changes to draft plan based on ERG feedback.
4. ERG to determine what they want to know from Capacity before inviting Capacity to present.
5. Lisa to request a meeting between ERG and Martin Rodgers on performance indicators.
6. Liaison Officer will work with Howard Markland and Paula Warren to recruit.

Wellington City Council - Approach to developing the 2015-25 Long-term Plan

Summary for ERG meeting dated 11 August 2014

Engagement process - phase 1 (15 – 30 September 2014)

- Engagement on the 'framework' within which the LTP will be developed
- This will include:
 - our priority areas of focus and why
 - the principles we are applying to infrastructure investment and what this is telling us
 - the settings for our Financial Strategy and what this may mean for rate rises and borrowing levels
- We will also present a draft Significance & Engagement Policy, which is a new requirement as a result of recent legislative changes
- We are planning meetings with interested groups and an information campaign
- This could include presentations / discussions with reference groups if requested
- We will be inviting feedback on the above to inform the next stages of the planning process and elected member decision-making

Formal consultation process – phase 2 (March – April 2015)

- Formal consultation with all Wellington residents and ratepayers
- Draft plan will outline key issues and proposed responses / changes
- Interest groups, residents and ratepayers will have the opportunity to formally make submissions to Council on the key issues and matters important to them
- Interest groups, residents and ratepayers will have an opportunity to speak to their submissions in May 2015 before Council
- Feedback will be given to all submitters on Council decisions

Climate Change – August update for ERG WCC Our Living City Team

Completed/upcoming

- Long Term Plan – pulling together the Our Living City project narrative for the next LTP.
- Refresh of the WCC climate change landing page of the website – underway

Adaptation

- Island Bay seawall –project and engagement plan going to Environment Committee 4 September. Draft plans are available for public input – let Nicci know if want a copy.
- Connecting with wider resilience context – 100 Resilient Cities application in progress, due September 10. Funding and support to hire a chief resilience officer and develop a holistic resilience plan for Wellington.

Mitigation

- Completed year 1 of the Smart Energy Capital project. Highlights include:
 - Installing 40kW worth of solar energy across 10 schools (4kW each)
 - Completing the Smart Energy Challenge (crowd-funding project)
 - Solar-smart communities project
 - Smart House research project with PowerCo
- Smart Energy Challenge evaluation report and blog posts drafted, will be used to create an impact report on the prototype challenge.

In progress/next up

- Draft Spatial Plan Review
- Release of a consultant report by Tonkin and Taylor on sea level rise impacts for Wellington. 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 – e.g. online tool).

Adaptation

- Island Bay seawall – ongoing pre-engagement with community
- Intern working on Implementation Plan for WSUD – to feed into the draft LTP process

Upcoming opportunities for Input

- Input welcome on draft project Plan for Island Bay seawall.
- 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.

Updates for ERG

Transport Update – Aug 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 with traffic using the Underpass from late September 2014.

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 will start in October. The Basin Reserve decision means that the eastern end of the Park will now remain uncompleted from Sussex Street to Cambridge Terrace.

Basin Reserve Flyover

The Board of Inquiry declined the application for the Bridge. WCC was not the applicant nor did it make the decision. What happens next is uncertain but will be up to NZTA. There will be implications for a number of transport projects potentially including BRT, walking and cycling improvements.

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. It is unclear which aspects of this project can now be implemented.

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.

A number of projects for implementation identified in this document may have to be reassessed in the light of the Basin Bridge decision.

Who will pay for the expensive extension?

Can we now expect a titanium-plated, state-of-the-art, hybrid floating runway extension with its own dehumidification system (Dom Post, July 26)? All for the same 'cheap' price of \$1m per meter (or \$300m), which was an optimistic estimate based on dumping the fill from the second Mt Vic tunnel? Even though it cost US\$7.5 BILLION to build in Japan (granted, for 2500m runway length, but that would still mean over \$1b here)? So, unless the Mayor has found a titanium deposit in Lyall Bay, this is just more pie-in-the-sky dreaming and lazy journalism. We should insist on two very important questions being answered first: 1) Who will pay for this folly seeing the airport says it's not economic and they will only stump up \$50m of the price (even though they own 2/3 and will gain all the benefits from the increased asset base)? Ratepayers? Richard Taylor? Asset sales? 2) Who has said they will actually fly here long haul? Despite wasting \$1.6m in a 'Long Haul Attraction Fund', so far this mayoral pipe dream is still firmly based on 'Build it and they'll come' economics.

Dr Sea Rotmann
Moa Point (Abridged)