

Environmental Reference Group Minutes

Monday, 6 October 2014, 5:30-7:30 pm

Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, Committee Room 1

Howard Markland – in the Chair

Present

Howard Markland (Co-Chair)
Peter Gilbert
Paula Warren
Phil Hancock
Kate Micalfe
Janet Young
Yvonne Legarth
Mark Fenwick
Stu Farrant
Martin Payne
Graeme Sawyer

Apologies

Bev Abbott (Co-Chair)
Sophie Mormede
Councillor Ritchie

City Councillors

Cllr Iona Pannett

WCC Liaison Officers

Martin Rodgers

WCC Staff Present

Tim Park

1. Apologies

Noted above.

2. Conflicts of Interest

None. New members are required to sign a Conflict of Interest declaration on starting, and to notify the Co-Chairs of any conflicts that arise afterwards.

Action: Martin to arrange for new members to sign Col forms.

3. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the meeting of 1 September 2014 were approved.

4. Welcome & introductions

All members introduced themselves.

Councillor Pannett welcomed the members and said she was impressed by the calibre and collective skills of the members. She noted that the mandate of the group had broadened to cover urban development and transport. She also highlighted that the group only meets two hours each month and so needs to focus on the important things. She also said that Council needs to more clearly articulate what it is doing in different areas as we have some great strategies (such as the Climate Change Action Plan) but we need to implement them and the long-term plan is the opportunity to do that.

Howard noted that members of the group do have divergent views from time to time but that people often take a pragmatic approach in discussions to reach a

shared 'ERG view' where it exists. Members always have the opportunity to make a submission as an individual if they would like to.

5. LTP workshop for Reference Groups

The role for this group in the context of the LTP was to look at the development proposals and consider their environmental impact. Yvonne gave a summary of the session that was hosted by the Youth Council for people from the other reference groups. The presentation started with the results of the recent Quality of Life Survey. A key message was that Council should maintain what it is good at and focus on doing better in some areas. The session finished with a binary question about whether people supported Council pursuing its growth agenda or continuing as per the existing LTP. People at the session felt this question was too big and simplistic. However, there was a consensus view that any growth should be sustainable.

6. Development of ERG Work Programme

Martin distributed copies of the letter outlining the proposed work programme for the ERG over the coming 12 months. He emphasised that the intension of the programme was to identify areas of Council's work where the ERG would have ongoing and deeper involvement with officers at each stage of the project, programme or policy. As noted in the letter, this does not preclude ERG considering other matters as they arise with the agreement of the Chairs and the Liaison Officer.

Howard noted that the matters identified touched areas that had been discussed previously by ERG, or flagged as areas of interest. He was pleased that there was a clause allowing other items to come in. Other members agreed that it was consistent with discussions that had been had about what they wanted to see in the work programme.

Councillor Pannett wanted to see some specific items identified in the programme including the airport runway extension, the Southern Landfill extension and the Climate Change Action Plan.

There was also discussion around possible ERG input to Council target setting and performance measures.

It was agreed that Martin would liaise with Councillor Pannett to incorporate these additional considerations into the proposed work programme.

Action: Martin to liaise with Councillor Pannett to finalise the letter and circulate to all members.

4. Wellington's Draft Growth Plan

Howard summarised the issues raised in Bev's email on the draft plan. Others also shared their issues. Together, these included:

- concerns expressed about the impact of the projected population increase on qualities about Wellington that people value, such as the walkability of the city
- a lack of information on some things that are referred to in the draft, e.g. the Urban Regeneration Unit and Social Housing provision
- that the draft does not seem to address projected changes in the demographic make-up of the city e.g. more older people
- concern about some of the fundamental assumption in the draft (which were not well articulated in the document)
- that the draft does not clearly distinguish between what the Council *wants* to happen and what is *projected* to happen – and then say what will be done to achieve the goal.

Action: Martin to set up Loomio discussion. Comments to be made by Thursday. Paula to pull together input from members and circulate a consolidated ERG response.

5. Update on Council restructure

Martin outlined the key changes in the structure of the Strategy & External Relations directorate that oversees the work of the advisory groups. Most notably, the Engagement team is being combined with the Policy team, which means that future Liaison Officers may be Policy Advisors. Martin expected that the new Liaison Officer would attend the 20 October meeting.

6. Letter to Chair of Urban Development & Transport Committee

Paula introduced the letter she had drafted at the request of ERG, which had been circulated by email before the meeting. It had arisen as a result of the group now having a role in work of the Committee. Its purpose is to highlight the relationship between the environment and transport / urban development and identify priorities.

Action: Members to give feedback on the letter to Paula

The meeting was closed.

Attachments:

1. Biographies of members as at October 2014

Action Points summary

1. Martin to arrange for new members to sign Conflict of Interest forms.
2. Martin to liaise with Councillor Pannett to finalise the letter and circulate to all members.
3. Martin to set up Loomio discussion. Comments to be made by Thursday. Paula to pull together and circulate summary.

4. Members are to give Paula feedback on the draft letter to Chair of Urban Development & Transport Committee.

Attachment1:

Wellington City Council

Environmental Reference Group

Profile of members as at October 2014

Bev Abbott (co-chair) (joined 2009)

Bev recently retired after many years in a variety of central government organizations'. Her ten years with the Department of Conservation included national roles in conservation education, visitor services and tourism concessions. During five years with Tourism New Zealand, she helped resolve issues between the tourism sector and government departments. Other jobs have developed her passion for strategic alignment and informative reporting. Six years on the Wellington Conservation Board provided insights into local and regional conservation challenges. She's a long-term active member of the Wellington Botanical Society, and has drafted and presented many submissions on their behalf. The joys of retirement include increased opportunities to attend a wide range of public meetings, seminars and conferences, and joining the team of voluntary guides at Otari-Wilton's Bush. She's been on ERG since early 2009.

Peter Gilbert (joined 2009)

Peter works for the Royal Society of New Zealand, where he helps run the Marsden Fund (Government funding for research projects in science, mathematics, social sciences and humanities). An interest in restoring the environment through native tree planting with Woodridge Planters and the Seton Nossiter Park Working Group has led him into extensive community initiatives in Newlands involving schools, scouts, corporate groups, churches, residential homes, and Community Work. He is on the committee of Nga Hau e Wha o Paparangi, the Wellington Regional Manager for Trees for Survival, and a founder member of the WCC-supported Jay St Community Garden and Nursery.

Claire Graeme (joined 2010)

Claire studied Ecology and Geography at Otago University and has worked for over fifteen years in the environmental field. She has worked primarily for the Department of Conservation; as a regional resource management planner, ecologist and later at the national office in central government environmental

policy with a particular focus on freshwater issues. She has also worked for four years in London as a planner for local councils and also at the Environmental Protection Agency. Claire lives in Seatoun with her husband and 3 boys and so is involved in kindy and school activities. She is currently doing part time contract work for DOC helping produce RMA guidance for activities that affect Freshwater values. She has also been a member of the Wellington branch Forest and Bird Committee.

Phil Hancock (joined 2010)

Phil has worked with resource efficiency since completing a degree in Environmental Studies at Victoria in 2001. He has worked as a Waste Minimisation Officer for Masterton and Carterton District Councils, and managed resource recovery at Trash Palace in Porirua. More recently Phil has worked with energy efficiency, managing significant residential insulation and lighting projects across New Zealand. Phil represented the Insulation Association of NZ on the Standard's committee rewrite of the recessed lighting standard.

Phil is a founding member and current Trustee of Mt Hiwi Charitable Trust, which manages a QE11, covenanted 400ha block in South Taranaki ranging from wetland to sub alpine.

Nick Crocker (joined 2012)

The way that Wellington presents itself is important as it affects the perceptions of future visitors or residents. I have a Bachelor of Architecture from VUW, undertook post grad research in energy use, lecturer Building Environment at CIT [1996-1999]. I am interested in being involved in considering the city's natural environment and environmental policies.

The Appropriate Technology for Living Association [ATLA] is a local environmental group I was actively involved in for over 10 years. Group held talks/workshops on technical and environmental issues, earth building, passive solar design, solar collectors and cookers.

Involved with a group interested in environmental & sustainability issues which formed to develop a sustainable development organisation, arranged a Green Wellington day in Newtown with stall and a series of talks - this has now become the Sustainability Trust.

Howard Markland (co-chair) (joined 2012)

Howard is currently working as a Senior Adviser with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, with previous work experience in the UK, Australia, United States and Bolivia. Much of his 25 year career has focused on environmental management roles, such as research scientist, regulator, consultant, programme manager and policy adviser. His experience most relevant to the work of the ERG includes 5 years as an environmental regulator with the Greater Wellington Regional Council, and 6 years in Environmental Health roles with local councils in the UK. He is also involved in community work, which has included starting an environmental restoration group in Northland, helping with the Kaibosh food recovery programme and coaching children at the Karori Pirates swimming club.

Dr Sophie Mormede (joined 2012)

Sophie is a fisheries scientist with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, providing some of the science which informs the quota management system. She previously worked as a consultant in the water industry (drinking and wastewater) and as a process engineer in that field. In her spare time, she is a board member of the Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve, a committee member of the Wellington Underwater Club and active scuba-diver, with strong involvement in community clean ups and advocacy for the marine environment. She is also a volunteer at Zealandia, although not as much as she would like.

Paula Warren

Paula is an ecologist who works as a policy advisor for the Department of Conservation. Her work over the last 26 years has covered a wide range of legislation and systems reforms, including development of the Resource Management Act, foreshore and seabed legislation, development of an outcomes approach for conservation management and prioritising, and reform of protected areas legislation. She was New Zealand's lead technical delegate for the Convention on Biological Diversity for 6 years, including being a member of the technical bureau for the Convention, and being the NZ Clearing House Mechanism and Global Taxonomy Initiative focal point. She has done voluntary and paid work in countries in Latin America, focused on biodiversity and biosecurity systems reforms and is Secretary of the Friends of Galapagos NZ. She manages or is involved with a number of restoration projects in the region, including chairing the Growing Places Trust that has been set up to implement place-making initiatives in transport corridors. She is also a walking and public transport users' advocate, and has been a member of the Regional Transport Committee.

Kate Mitcalfe (October 2014)

Kate is an environmental lawyer. She has a broad range of legal experience having worked for the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of NZ as well as Russell McVeagh. Kate has lectured in environmental and local government law at Auckland University's School of Planning and worked as an academic adviser for the Open Polytechnic of NZ. Kate was a member of the Ministerial Reference Group on proposed changes to the Resource Management Act in 2004. Kate was also a member of the Environmental Legal Assistance Panel, making recommendations on environmental legal aid, for over six years. Kate has a keen interest in the environment and conservation. As the mother of three, Kate spends many weekends exploring Wellington's natural environment.

Janet Young (October 2014)

Janet fell in love with New Zealand's people and environment while on exchange at Otago University and she's never looked back. Three years as a technician in an analytical water laboratory taught her the value of meaningful work and personal relationships. Since making a career jump from microbiology to environmental education, she's worked as an EnviroSchools Facilitator, a Youth Action Facilitator for Sustainable Dunedin City, and is currently a Sustainability Advisor for Sustainability Trust. Janet's expertise lies in on the ground practical sustainable solutions, and she is excited about bringing her experience to the table at the local government level.

Yvonne Legarth (October 2014)

Yvonne is an experienced RMA planner with a comprehensive knowledge of all aspects of planning practice. She has a background in managing environmental issues from both a policy and planning perspective, primarily while working for public sector organisations.

At the moment Yvonne works for the Department of Corrections on land management and RMA issues. She also gets involved in community issues from time to time, preparing submissions and appearing as an expert witness before the Environment Court and Board of Inquiry. She has worked at a national level providing policy advice, and in the past worked for New Zealand Historic Places Trust, the New Zealand Defence Force, the Department of Conservation and Wellington City Council.

Most aspects of public policy development have been covered in Yvonne's career, having operated in senior and management roles, worked in solo roles and as part of teams small and large. She has prepared and implemented policies for the protection of heritage buildings for the Wellington City Council, and heritage strategies for the NZ Defence Force and Department of Corrections.

Mark Fenwick (October 2014)

For the last six years Mark has been employed by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA) as a marine ecology technician. He has a varied role, working on the environmental impacts of fishing on marine habitats and fisheries stock assessments for hoki, oreo, orange roughy, blue cod and crayfish. He also works on environmental impact studies for major developments including roading and sea floor mining. Mark is a beneficiary member of the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, the Wellington Tenths Trust and the Palmerston North Maori Reserves Trust and he affiliates to Te Atiawa and Taranaki Iwi and is a descendant of Te Whiti O Rongomai. His marae is Te Tatau o te Po in Petone and he currently sits on Te Atiawa ki Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui Potiki Trust (the marae fisheries trust). Mark has an MSc from Victoria University, Wellington where he studied the genetic relationships of the New Zealand freshwater mussels (Kakahi) in conjunction with DoC, Iwi and Te Papa. While studying he worked in various roles at the National Museum, Te Papa Tongarewa in the Natural Environment department - the highlight of which was his involvement with the defrost and preservation of the colossal squid where he had a high profile role as the lead technician. Outside of work Mark is a keen fisherman and diver and a part-time dive instructor helping other people discover our fantastic coast and underwater world. He spends time tramping in the Tararua Ranges chasing trout and just generally enjoying the great outdoors. Mark is passionate about our natural environment and believe that tangata whenua have a key role to play in ensuring that our environment is used in cautious, sustainable ways.

Stu Farrant (October 2014)

Stu is an Ecological Engineer who specialises in the water aspects of ecologically sustainable development, particularly integrated urban water cycle management and water sensitive urban design (WSUD). In this capacity he works closely with ecologists, urban designers, landscape architects and engineers to deliver design solutions which respond to site specific constraints and opportunities to enhance project outcome for both stakeholders and the environment. Stu has recently returned to Wellington

following a recent 5 year stint in Melbourne working alongside some of the global leaders in urban water management. Stu also brings a strong personal interest in community driven restoration ecology and has been involved in a number of large scale projects in Wellington and elsewhere. He is currently involved in the formation of a group to participate in restoration activities across Matairangi/Mt Victoria and assists with the Clyde Quay School's enviro-group activities. As a keen diver he is an avid fan of Wellington's blue belt and the benefits of a healthy and diverse marine environment. Other personal interests include tramping, travel, photography and anything to do with plants.

Martin Payne (October 2014)

Martin, as a professional qualified engineer, runs a design and consultancy company focussed on sustainable water and energy management systems. His particular interest in Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles recognises the impacts of stormwater, transport, waste management and land development on aquatic environments. He has currently completed several papers towards a Masters in Public Health (Environmental Health) with a focus on residential rainwater harvesting. As a long time environmental advocate, urban water researcher and resident in Wellington City, Martin firmly believes that the natural environment makes an essential contribution to the prosperity and liveability of Wellington City and that protecting this taonga can be achieved by an engaged community. As co-ordinator of Friends of Owhiro Stream, he has been involved in the physical restoration of this urban stream and as well as acting as a strong advocate for the protection of these sensitive environments at local and regional government levels.

Graeme Sawyer (October 2014)

Graeme comes from a background in the water industry, and latterly has gained experience in public policy development in waste, science commercialisation and environmental monitoring. He is currently self-employed as a stakeholder engagement consultant. Graeme is active in his local Johnsonville Community, where he presides over the local residents group, the JCA. With a degree in Zoology and a strong interest

in native trees and ecology, he recently began a project to construct new walking tracks and re-vegetation of endemic canopy species in the parks & reserves of northern Wellington. Graeme has a particular interest in how the city may ensure that higher density suburban development is complimented by improved “livability”, particularly with regard to quality and quality of public greenspace, and endemic biodiversity.