

MINUTES of ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday 29 September 2015 in Committee Room One, Wakefield Street 5.30pm to 7.30pm

1. Present

Members: Tim Pate, Julia Aguilar, Michael Bealing, Christine O'Sullivan, Tristram Ingham, Lee Rutene Christine Richardson

Councillors: Cr David Lee; Cr Andy Foster

Officers: Greg Orchard (Chief Operating Officer), Jenny Rains (Community Services); Jaime Dyhrberg (Service Development & Improvement); Steve Spence (Transport Planning); Trudy Smith (Community Services)

Apologies: Greg Orchard (Chief Operating Officer)

2. Welcome from the Chair

Michael welcomed everyone including the four potential candidates and opened the meeting.

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Johnsonville Library Development

Jaime Dyhrberg, Service Development & Improvement Manager, spoke to the group about the new Johnsonville Library development. Council are at the beginning stages of this development and have just appointed Athfield Architects to help design the new library which will sit next to the community centre and pool along Moorefield Road. This development will combine the three facilities into a community hub and is a major development costing around \$17 million providing a new library service for all the northern suburbs. This is the first of the new library developments. Council want to receive feedback from the AAG about their expectations for the development so that Council can weave accessibility into the design. Council are aware that getting accessible ideas into the design especially in the initial stages is really important. The architects will not just stick with the building code but will use the Australian standard as the basis for the design. Council will also look at engaging someone like Barrier Free to audit the designs as we go along. At the moment Council are highlighting that the development is happening and ask what things we should be considering as part of the design. No pen has been put to paper yet because we are just starting but thought it was important to get input now about expectations of design so that we can make sure the building is as accessible as it can be for all kinds of needs.

Michael commended Council coming to the AAG at this early stage and noted that he hoped Council would work to Standard 4121. He noted that the provision of mobility parks was important as the latest disability survey states that 5% of people in the Wellington Region have some form of impairment and half of these have a mobility impairment. Accessibility benefits everyone and if the building is designed to 4121 it will not only be accessible for people in wheelchairs it will also be accessible

for people with prams. Toilet facilities are another issue that need to be considered. They need to be made big enough for wheelchairs with the correct measurements.

Council have considered the physical accessibility of noise and children and will make sure there are spaces that will meet both needs. Council will hire an acoustic engineer to make sure the sound levels are correct. This is a large building at 1,800sqm and will include quiet and noise spaces.

This development will showcase what a modern library is like. Co-working versatile spaces will be included in the library and Council will make sure they are fit for purpose. The facility will be managed as a hub with shared management spaces.

This development is a flag ship for libraries. There will still be branch libraries but they will be smaller and may combine with community centres in the future.

Council have about one year to complete the design process beginning with the concept design this calendar year. Council are aware of the need to have professional accessibility input at this stage. Preliminary designs will be developed at the beginning of the next calendar year to May and Jaime will come back to the AAG with the preliminary designs that will show how 4121 has been adopted into the design.

Steve Spence spoke on the transport issues in Johnsonville noting that there is a whole of Council working group looking very closely at the link with the new library. Council have just completed major road works in Johnsonville and are now waiting for the mall development. Council are hoping that DNZ will come back with further details on their development proposals.

Tristram noted the underground carparking that was provided in the redevelopment of New World in Newlands. He encouraged underground or covered parking to be provided as part of this development. He also noted that the interface with public transport should be considered.

5. Street Audits

Ellen Blake from Living Streets gave a quick overview of Living Streets. They advocate for people walking more often and for enjoying public spaces. She noted that 'pedestrians' means people who are on foot and in wheelchairs. Living Streets produce walking maps and promote the Walk to Work day. They also clean up walkways and have recently cleaned up the walkway on Grafton Road. They carry out community street reviews so people can assess an area from a walking or wheelchair point of view. The group have just completed a review from Lower Hutt to Melling Station and are keen to review streets in Johnsonville and Karori.

There was some discussion about sandwich boards and cars parking on footpaths. The Footpath Management Policy talks about no clutter on the footpath. There must be public space available for the public to use. There is also an issue with tables and chairs on footpaths and the policy still not being used.

Street Audit from the Railway Station – Living Streets have completed a number of these and have noted a number of concerns with the last one completed in 2010. Some changes have been made but not all. They are happy to undertake another audit but would like to know that something will come out of this.

Process: Get together a group of 5-6 people and identify what bits to look at. Decide on a date and time. Group/s can then walk or wheel the route completing

forms on the way. The form considers how you feel about the space, traffic, variables, and engineering slopes. The information from the forms is then collated and information put into a software tool that grades the information.

David put the suggestion forward that Bunny Street be looked at becoming pedestrianised. Ellen noted that this is a difficult issue and if taxis were allowed to come in and drop off passengers then this is still not considered a pedestrianised space.

Steve Spence noted that Bunny Street was last reworked in 2000 where Council tried to make this a less car dominated area. If this space was pedestrianised it would take out the connection to other streets and this is a well used road. Creating pedestrian streets in Wellington is an issue. Wellington is very short on streets and when making decisions Council have to juggle with a lot of advocate groups and claims on the footpath. Regarding the street audit he noted that there is no budget for footpath improvements but it would be useful to be given a few key priorities that could possibly be budgeted for in future.

If there are recommendations that come out of the audit could Council respond to what they can and cannot do. Steve noted that if the recommendations were very ambitious then this would not go anywhere but if they could be included as part of the maintenance programme there could be potential for this work to be undertaken.

It was also noted that some footpaths on Newlands Road before you reach New World are cracked, uneven and narrow and are not acceptable for use especially by someone on crutches.

Michael asked for assurance from Council that they will look at any recommendations from the audit and provide feedback on what they will look at.

The routes to be considered for auditing are: across the waterfront; Bunny Street and through the underpass or along Thorndon Quay.

It was agreed that Helen Walker would put together a doodle poll to arrange a suitable date and time for everyone to get together.

It was noted that Be Accessible had carried out an audit from the Railway Station heading south towards the library. Has Council done anything about these recommendations? Jenny will send a copy of this report to Steve Spence.

The question was raised asking whether the forms were accessible. *Ellen was unable to answer this but said she would provide a copy of the forms.*

Councillor Foster confirmed that Council would look at the recommendations from the audit and would explain any reasons for not being able to undertake the work. Council will look at the report and state what they can and cannot do. Council will prioritise and will highlight major improvements that can be looked at in the future.

6. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes

Michael moved that the draft minutes for 25 August be accepted as true and correct. Julia and Tim seconded the motion and it was passed.

7. Other business

Recruitment update

There is a shortlist of four people and interviews will be held next week. Michael,

Christine R and Deborah Howse will be on the interview panel.

Work Programme

The AAG have agreed a work programme with Council and Gunther Wild has sent through a draft work programme which members can comment on. Gunther will attend the next meeting and members can give feedback at this meeting. Michael will forward this onto members just in case they have not received the report.

Mobility Parks in Grey Street

The issue of contractors using the mobility park for their mobile generator was brought up. This is causing congestion in the area as well as their trucks. Michael will follow this up with Parking Services. We want to make sure that the level of service is not diminished. Tim noted that this issue occurs on a regular basis. Christine said that contractors are supposed to provide another mobility park if they are using the current one.

Tristram asked who in Council would receive accessibility issues raised via the FixIt app and how would they be notified. He asked if there was a list and, if so, could the AAG see how accessibility issues were being logged. He has logged two issues in Newlands and has not had a response and would like to know where they go. Jenny said that if an issue was logged around kerbs that would go to roading and traffic but noted that there is not a secondary tag to send the information onto our team. Jenny will look into this and see if this can be added.

Safe & Sustainable Transport Forum

Michael attended the above forum and noted that it was good to hear about the range of initiatives being presented. This is also a good networking forum and is another way for the AAG to provide advice to Council.

Disaster Forum

Lee attended the above forum and said that there was good feedback received from this forum. He noted that it is CCS's 80th birthday on 20 October and a celebration will be held from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. Lee has invitations to this if anyone is interested.

Health Passport

As some of the AAG members are unfamiliar with this it would be good to have this as an agenda item for the next or a subsequent meeting.

There is a plan to move to an electronic version of this form. They want feedback on how this is being used and if anyone has any feedback please talk to Tristram.

Regional Aquatic Centre

This has been followed up and a letter will be sent to the CEO of the District Health Board stating that it is the AAG's understanding that there are three locations across the district providing this service. They should be looking at ways to improve this service and a review is being carried out that may align well with this.

Botanic Gardens Tour

Michael attended the accessible spring tour and noted that only three people attended this tour. It was not publicised very well and he also noted that there was no accessibility parking provided. The tour itself was very good. This is a good

initiative but he noted that for the future it would be good to take bookings and this would enable the organisers to look into what needs should be catered for.

Update from Jenny Rains

The new regional community directory is about to go live. The directory is an amalgamation of all of the Council's directories and is in partnership with the DHB. The directory has a focus on fields for accessibility of services and physical access. It also includes maps with the nearest bus stops and parking information fields. There will be a soft launch of the directory on 1 October. The DHB are keen for this directory as it will assist navigators to provide advice to clients. Jenny will send the link out to AAG members.

Island Bay Cycle Lane

Michael noted that the AAG have been approached to give their comments on the cycle lane by the group in Island Bay opposed to this lane. He noted that the AAG do not want and cannot be involved in this court action. The AAG could forward their submission made to Council to this group as this is a public record. Councillor Lee noted that the court action has been withdrawn.

Catering

Tim requested that some vegan options be included in the catering for the meetings.

Update on Action Points

- Jenny will talk to Trish about the roading issues.
- The mobility park audit is in the drop box and Michael noted that he will see if he can get the parks audit as well.
- Interviews are next week
- Michael is still to arrange a meeting with Westpac Stadium
- Communications will present at the next meeting on the accessibility of Council systems
- Still waiting to hear back from the TAG group.

AAG chair

There will be a discussion on this at the meeting in October.

Next meeting

The next meeting is on 27 October at 5.30. Speakers will be:

- Gunther Wild – Manager Policy & Reporting
- Linda Fisher – Emerge

Actions

Action points from 29 September	Person	Status
Doodle poll to arrange date and time for Railway Station street audit	Helen	complete
Jenny Rains to provide a copy of the Be Accessible audit to Steve Spence	Jenny	
Addition of secondary tag to job logging system	Jenny	
Send CommunityFinder link out to AAG members	Jenny	
Arrange for someone to attend a meeting to discuss the Health Passport	Helen	Nov meeting

Action points from 25 August	Person	Status
Hataitai roading – Lee to raise issues with Trish	Jenny to put Lee in touch with Trish	
Requirement for accessibility to be included in briefs and scoping templates.	Jenny to follow up	
Arrange a meeting with Westpac Stadium and David, Michael and Lee to discuss mobility parking	Michael	Emailed and waiting for a response

Action points from 30 June	Person	Status
Develop an AAG communications strategy before thinking about whether and how to run a social media site.	Tim, Julia, Christine, Michael	

Action points from 26 May	Person	Status
Contact the Chair of the TAG to discuss how the TAG is incorporating NZS4121 into its work and to discuss how the TAG minutes could be made more useful for the AAG	Michael	