

Minutes

A4A Forum Accessibility for All

Friday 13 May 2016 – 10.00am
Wangapeka-Heaphy Room, Tasman District Council

Present

Cr Judene Edgar (Chair), Dwayne Fletcher, Jenna Neame, Jeannie Homesley, Megan Bell (Tasman District Council), Brian Say, Mike Stevens, Kaye Halkett, (Association of Blind Citizens – Nelson Branch), Simon Horrocks (Independent), John Harwood (Hearing Association)

Apologies

Krista Hobday, Marg Parfitt, Donna Smith, Colleen Plank, Cr Eric Davy, Gillian Clayton, Judy Burke

1. Confirmation of minutes from the meeting of 5 February 2016

MOVED Judene Edgar
SECONDED John Harwood
CARRIED

Judene introduced Dwayne Fletcher, the Councils Activity Planning Manager for Engineering, who will now be present at meetings and taking on Sarah Downs role. Dwayne introduced Jenna Neame, the Councils Senior Activity Planning Advisor in the Activity Planning Team. Dwayne advised that Jenna would be present at meetings as needed and would also be available for advice relating to bylaws, policies and strategies.

2. Matters Arising – Action List

- Mobility taxi in Motueka (Dwayne Fletcher) – This is a work in progress. Dwayne has had discussions with Paul Hawkes and Danny Fowler in regard to sourcing funding for this service. The group agreed that we should gather some historic statistics on the use of such a service and information from groups such as the Blind Foundation, CCS and Age Concern. The group will then attend an appropriate Motueka Community Board Meeting to raise the issue and try and gain some support. This will also be a good opportunity to find a representative from Motueka to attend the A4A forums.

3. Correspondence

- A4A Forum submissions on the Queen Street Reinstatement Project, the Richmond Town Centre Plan Change and the Housing Choice for Richmond Project that Judene drafted and submitted on behalf of the group.
- Update on the Housing Choice for Richmond Project from Jacqui Deans.
- Email from Cr Eric Davy in regard to his concerns with the lack of action being taken over disability and accessibility issues.

4. Nelson City Council Updates

Marg Parfitt was unable to attend as she was overseas. Marg is sitting on a working group for the Road Controlling Authority Forum looking at conflict on footpaths and shared paths and will update the group on this at the next forum.

5. Queen Street Reinstatement Project

Jeannie Homesley presented the group with an update on the Queen Street Reinstatement Project. The aim is to replace the street surface to provide a safer, more pedestrian-focussed design. Currently the project is progressing design in stages from the underground layers to the key structures and then the street top amenities. Some key updates of the reinstatement are:

- Road crossings – No raised crossings. There will be three zebra crossings and facilitated crossings at roundabouts.
- Bus Stop Locations – There would be a stop at the Mall entrance, a stop near the Noel Leeming, and a stop in proximity to the Council. There will be bus shelters and allowance for kneeling buses. The new bus routes are still being developed, but one proposed route would go down Talbot street then back up Queen Street, with a new stop on Talbot near the Kmart. Separately, a proposed Oxford loop is also still being developed. This raised some concerns from the group that the proposed routes are for shoppers rather than commuters. It was agreed that Gary Clark (Councils Transportation Manager) should attend meeting to discuss further.
- The whole of Queen Street will be asphalt (outside of pavers at Sundial Square). The buffer zone between the carriageway and footpath will have both visual and textual delineation.
- Way finding signage will be taken into account and Jeannie would like to have further input from A4A when this layer is being developed.
- There will be an independent review for accessibility. A representative of the Blind Association will also review the design to provide further input per their guidelines for the visually impaired.

Jeannie agreed to include the A4A feedback in the scope for the accessibility review.

6. Revision of the New Zealand Disability Strategy

A Nelson event was added for consultation relating to the Revision of the NZ Disability Strategy. The event was the first phase which asked people how they could feel valued and participate in their communities. The aim of this was to provide clear direction to government on making informed decisions on issues that impact disabled people.

Kaye Halkett advised that there would be good representation from the Blind Citizens Association attending.

The next step in the process is for the draft strategy to be produced in which people can then make comment on. This is set to occur in late July.

It was agreed that the group would keep an eye out for the release date of the draft and align the next forum date so that the group could make comment on the draft.

7. Survey of Nelson CBD Sandwich Boards

Brian Say carried out a survey of retail premises in the Nelson CBD. The survey made clear that there is no real compliance by retailers in terms of keeping two metres of footpath clear for pedestrians. It was agreed by the group that Brian should take these findings and supporting photographs to the appropriate Nelson City Council Meeting to make these issues known and to get the Nelson City Council to take the compliance issue seriously.

8. General Business

- Updates on the Housing Choice for Richmond and the Town Centre Plan Change – The two open days and the response from feedback forms raised the issues of car parking within Richmond and walkability and Town Centre access for pedestrians. Majority of replies also in favour of no sandwich boards. The officers working on the projects will be meeting with the team working on the Richmond car park strategy to ensure these projects are integrated.
- Proposed Champion Road/Salisbury Road supermarket. Judene advised that Council is only the administration body in this project as the consent comes under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Agreed that the group should submit neutrally and raise concerns about accessibility, traffic and roading issues.
- Cr Eric Davys email re: Concerns with lack of action on disability issues. Agreed that the group should look at possibility of blindfold/wheelchair workshop for the new Councillors, maybe mid-December.
- John Harwood raised concerns at the how Civil Defence communicate with those who have disability or accessibility issues in a civil emergency. Suggested that we get Roger Ball to attend the next forum to provide information.

Meeting closed: 11.50am