

Minutes

A4A Forum Accessibility for All

Friday 5 February 2016 – 10.00am
Wangapeka-Heaphy Room, Tasman District Council

Present

Cr Judene Edgar (Chair), Megan Bell, Anna Gerraty, Mary Honey, Jacqui Deans, Dwayne Fletcher (Tasman District Council), Marg Parfitt (Nelson City Council), Mike Stevens, Kaye Halkett, Gill Clayton (Association of Blind Citizens – Nelson Branch), Paul Richardson (Blind Foundation), Simon Horrocks (Independent), John Harwood (Hearing Association), Donna Smith, Barbara Gould (CCS Disability Action)

Apologies

Krista Hobday, Chris Allison, Ruby Aberhart, Brian Say, Annette Nistor, Cr Eric Davy, Tracey Perry, Colleen Plank

1. Confirmation of minutes from the meeting of 13 November 2015

MOVED Judene Edgar
SECONDED John Harwood
CARRIED

Judene introduced Megan Bell who is taking over from Bettina's role. Judene also introduced Dwayne Fletcher, the Councils Activity Planning Manager for Engineering, who will now be present at meetings when he is available and will advise who will be taking over from Sarah Downs.

2. Matters Arising – Action List

- Barbara Gould from CCS Disability Action to email Judene in relation to the number of cards which are within the region.
- There is still an outstanding issue with the Richmond library steps. They require a further reflective strip to be added. Judene will follow up with relevant Council staff.
List of wheelchairs for public use - Agreed that a consistent message needs to be put across the region in terms of phoning in advance to check availability of wheelchairs. Barbara to provide list from CSS, Marg Parfitt for NCC and Megan the Council. Judene to also contact CAB. Will look at providing consistent messaging and annual updates to the public as to where they can get information as opposed to specific lists of all premises.

3. Correspondence

Nil

4. Rabbit Island RMP Review

Anna Gerraty, the Council's Policy Advisor for Community Development, advised that they were in the initial consultation stage of the review and looking for suggestions and input from the public and groups such as the A4A Forum.

The Council has a survey underway that already has over 330 responses. Inclusive in the plan is Rabbit Island, Rough Island and Birds Island.

Anna stated the Council is also after any specific feedback in terms of any issues with access to the beach, parking, barbeque areas and amenities.

The main points of discussion and feedback are summarised below:

- Currently there is only one ramp down to the beach. It is acknowledged that the area is very tidal and prone to storm damage so multiple ramps may not be viable but should be investigated.
- Accessibility and parking close to amenities and barbeque areas is an important aspect, including the actual design of the amenities such as changing rooms. Must consider that people in wheelchairs may want to access quieter areas of the Island and be able to be involved in other activities
- The cycle way is very good for wheelchair access – but the Mapua Ferry is not access friendly.
- Increase of the availability of beach wheelchairs to hire through CCS.
- Signage – suggestion of a large site map at the start of the Island. This would show key landmarks, amenities, beach access and parking. Some bilingual signage around the islands would also be appreciated.

The forum was encouraged to contact the Council should they have any further feedback or comments individually or through the organisations they represent.

5. Proposed Richmond Town Centre Plan Change

Mary Honey, the Council's Policy Planner for Environment and Planning, advised that the Council is in the initial feedback phase of planning. This phase will close on the 29 February 2016. This is the same time that initial feedback also closes for the Richmond Urban Intensification Project and the Queen Street Reinstatement Project. Although these are separate projects all three run into each other.

The planning team will then release the new plans later this year for formal consultation.

The A4A group were very pleased that Sandwich boards/flags have been made part of this plan change. The forum will be pushing for boards/flags to become a separate by-law and be removed from the TRMP for better enforcement and easier administration.

The proposed Plan Change covers the CBD. It was discussed whether the boundary of the CBD zone needs review also as part of this Plan Change, as businesses have expanded outside of the zone over time e.g. McGlashen Avenue and around this area.

Footpaths on one side of the road only were discussed and were felt to be difficult for accessibility for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Whilst in greenfield areas it may work better it is important in the town centre area to have footpaths on both sides wherever possible.

The forum was encouraged to contact the Council should they have any further feedback or comments. It was agreed that Judene will draft feedback on behalf of the forum on the proposed Plan Change and circulate for feedback prior to submitting.

6. Richmond Urban Intensification Project

Jacqui Deans, the Council's Policy Planner for Environment and Planning, advised that the Richmond Urban Intensification Project is aimed at enabling opportunities for slightly denser housing around the Town Centre. The Council is looking at medium density housing such as small two storey homes and low rise apartments. Some of the reasoning behind this project are:

- Changing community – ageing population
- Need for smaller properties with lower maintenance
- Proximity to bus and town services
- Rise in single person households
- Trying to stop residential developments sprawling onto productive land.

Jacqui advised that like the Town Centre Plan Change the Council are in the initial consultation phase of planning. This phase will close on the 29 February 2016 but there will be opportunity for formal consultation later in the year.

The main points of discussion and feedback provided from the Forum are summarised below:

- Need to think about accessibility if more than 1 storey for wheelchair users/less abled – lifts? However, it was noted that putting lifts in a building makes them more expensive and there are reliability and safety issues
- Think about the walkability from housing into Richmond town centre. Is it accessible? Avoid narrow footpaths and steep gradients (cross falls). Paths need to have a berm and path to avoid clutter on the path. Pathways are needed on both sides of the street. Chance to consider during LDM preparation. Are they wide enough for scooter users? Pedestrian crossing areas very important from residential areas into the town centre
- Avoid roundabouts, they are dangerous for less abled. Have a good look at the walking routes.
- Daylight and privacy standards are still important for denser housing.
- Encourage developers to build housing that is disabled friendly – bathrooms, stairwells etc.
- Lifetime homes – Can lifetime homes standards be written into design guidance? Do we have Building Inspectors who are qualified to certify new homes on lifetime standards? If we don't can we subcontract? Is it even a Building Act requirement yet? Anything in the Plan on this? Jacqui to investigate.
- Consider reducing the Council charges for developers to encourage them to build this type of housing acknowledging the general rate saving in provision of infrastructure.

The forum was encouraged to contact the Council should they have any further feedback or comments individually or through the organisations they represent.

7. Queen Street Reinstatement Project

A new brochure has been released after the initial one was recalled after feedback from the A4A group. It was advised that feedback for the consultation phase closes on the 29 February and that there will be no formal submission stage after this date.

The A4A group will collate and submit to the Council on the project. Main points of the submission were discussed in last meetings minutes. The need for consistency in design of pavements, crossings and kerbs, including tactile pavers, gradient and visibility, was expressed to Dwayne Fletcher to pass onto the Engineering team.

Judene to draft a submission and circulate for feedback prior to submitting.

8. Nelson City Council Updates

Marg provided an update on the following:

- Saxton Field – enhancements to accessibility to amenities.
- NBus – Stoke loop started 5 December. The bus has been relatively empty. It is a hail and ride service. Issue with not being able to see the bus in time to hail it down. Marg reiterated that it was a friendly service and it could be made even more user-friendly to get numbers up. Users could ring SBL to arrange a nominated stop on the route.
- Trafalgar Street Parking – Finally has traction. Locations should be released by June 2016.
- Request for accessible carparks next to toilet block at Montgomery - Suggestion of a P30, but not if it means another car park will be taken away.
- Founders Park – Not very accessible. Suggestion that Donna Smith carry out an audit for Nelson City Council.

9. Mall Carpark

New pathways considered a vast improvement and user friendly. Suggestion that the A4A group sends a letter of recognition.

10. General Business

- Engineering Standards Review – Stakeholder workshop in May before draft is released. Dwayne has taken points from the A4A forum to pass to Dugald Ley.
- Marion Edwin has resigned from the Forum – she has posted an item on Motueka online for another representative. There is also no representation from Sport Tasman – look at filling this space.
- As there is no longer a taxi service in Motueka, it was queried what services were available for card holders. Dwayne Fletcher to follow up.
- Dangerous crossing on Queen Street (north side) close to Edward Street – needs to be investigated by the Council's Engineering team.

Meeting closed: 12.05pm