

Minutes

A4A Forum Accessibility for All

Friday 10 August 2012 – 10.00am
Wangapeka/Heaphy Room, Tasman District Council

Present

Judene Edgar (Tasman District Council) (Chair), Donna Smith (Victim Support), Ruby Aberhart (Nelson/Tasman Positive Ageing and VCC), Mike Tasman-Jones (Tasman District Council), Sarah Downs (Tasman District Council), Simon Horrocks (Independent), Karen Brookes (Golden Bay Community Board), Marg Parfitt (Nelson City Council), Liam Butler (Support Works), Hobday (Tasman District Council, Minutes), John Harwood (Hearing Association), Mike Rodwell (Nelson Residents Association), Geoff Patterdon, Jane Chamberlin, Marion Edwin (Ergonomics Specialist and Barrier Free Adviser), Karl van Hoppe (Tasman District Council), Barbara Gould (CCS Disability Action), Matt Wilson (individual) and Mike Stevens (Association of Blind Citizens).

Apologies

Brian Say, Ben Smithies, Kaye Halkett, Joy and Wendy Wadsworth

Judene Edgar welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes from the meeting of 18 May 2012.

MOVED Marg Parfitt

SECONDED Simon Horrocks

CARRIED

1. Business Checklist

Judene circulated the latest version of the checklist. We are now waiting for the Council's Long Term Plan to be ratified. Marg is 99% sure that Nelson City Council will also endorse the checklist. Once final sign off is received it will be distributed to targeted audiences including various Council networks, community boards, business groups (Richmond, Nelson, Motueka, Chamber of Commerce) etc.

Liam suggested that the forum investigate how we can celebrate good examples of accessibility in key areas. Judene said this was planned as part of the launch. Sarah noted that letters had already been sent to some "good example" businesses. It was suggested that these letters should be "open" and included in Council media, ie Newline or noted in the Engineering Services committee agenda.

2. Tasman District Council – Building Control

Karl van Hoppe outlined the role of the building inspectors and building consent officers. Their main role is to ensure that building plans comply with the Building Act. Any non-compliance must be resolved before building owners can receive sign off.

Karl noted that there are two main documents in terms of accessibility within buildings:

The Building Act which includes the Building Code; and
NZ Standard NZS4121

Sharon Medcalf and Ben Smithies are the Council experts for commercial buildings.

When it comes to accessible facilities, alternative solutions cannot be used. However with other parts of a building, alternative solutions can be used.

Judene asked Karl if he would keep the A4A forum aware of any changes in the Building Act.

Ben Smithies noted that changes are proposed to the Building Act later this year in terms of “fire” and he will update the group about these changes at the appropriate time.

3. Nelson City Council

Marg Parfitt noted that Nelson City Council is making some procedural changes to their parking and vehicle control bylaw. They are also consulting on the Parking and Vehicle Control policy which is the background to the bylaw. There is one amendment around a ban on skateboard areas.

Marg also noted that the Ministry of Social Development has a “Make a Difference” fund. Applications to this year’s round close on 3 September 2012.

Accessibility car parking map – Nelson City Council has funding for this. Tasman District Council staff are also hoping to get funding. Once funding has been agreed a working group will be set up to produce these maps. It was suggested that the maps include where hearing loops are available. It was suggested that a smart IT solution could be used for the maps, ie click on the baby and see where baby/parent parking is available.

Barbara Gould from CCS is writing the A4A submission on Nelson City Council’s parking policy which is due on 17 August 2012.

4. Survey – A4A Forum Feedback

Donna and Judene have drafted a survey form so that we can get feedback on the A4A Forum. Feedback on the draft form was requested. The form would be sent to current and past A4A members along with groups/people that we feel should be part of the group to find out why they are not attending.

Under the question “what type of organisation do you represent”, change Council to Council/Community Board.

Under Health Provider – have space for people to list what they do.

It was agreed that the survey needs an introduction and what A4A is about – Judene to do.

5. Correspondence

- Nelson City Council – Pokies Bylaw letter.
- Kaye Halkett on behalf of ABC – Email to Adrian Humphries (copy to Sarah) about sandwich boards and flags. In particular the new Souvlaki business in Sundial Square who put their sandwich board and flag by the ANZ Bank. This limits visibility around the courtesy crossing and could be a distraction for drivers. The forum asked for feedback on this issue including any further correspondence/dialogue from Council.
- Sarah reminded the forum members that any issues like the one above should be referred to the Customer Services staff so they can log a request and the issue can be resolved.

6. Bouquets

Kaye Halkett thanked whoever was responsible for the removal of the thorny bush that had been growing just past the former Network Tasman building in Queen Street.

7. General Business

Richmond Mall Car Park

The issue of able-bodied people using the accessibility car parks in the Richmond Mall car park was discussed. These car parks are on private land and the Mall owners do not have to comply with the standard for accessible car parks. Sarah will email David Hill (Mall Manager) and remind him about the issue of able-bodied people using the accessibility car parks. Sarah also noted that a number of changes are underway with the mall adding a new entrance and the Gibbons land development next door. These developments will result in a reconfiguration of the parking area at both the mall and the new Countdown supermarket.

Decks Reserve Car Park

This car park has recently been resurfaced and the previous two accessibility car parks need to be reinstated. Sarah will follow up with Steve Elkington.

Be Accessible Seminar, Wellington

John Harwood advised that he recently attended the above seminar in Wellington. Sarah advised that she was the Tasman contact for Be Accessible but did not receive information about this seminar. John will follow up.

Actions

Action	Who	Timing
Placement of bins and bags on driveways so they don't hinder access – follow up with contractor	David Stephenson	ASAP
Write to Maurice Williamson re accessibility issues	Judene	ASAP
Email David Hill at Richmond Mall re use of accessibility parking	Sarah	Done
A4A Survey	Judene	ASAP