

Minutes

A4A Forum Accessibility for All

Friday 15 November 2013 – 10.00am
Wangapeka-Heaphy Room, Tasman District Council

Present

Donna Smith (Chair), Sarah Downs, Krista Hobday, Roy Liddelow, Bettina Koessler (Tasman District Council), Mike Stevens, Kaye Halkett, (Association of Blind Citizens), Peter Kortegast (Opus International Consultants Limited), Belinda de Clercq (Richmond Mall Manager), Wendy (Plunkett), Gail Collingwood (Nelson/Tasman Positive Ageing), Marion Edwin (Independent), Simon Horrocks (Independent), Ruby Aberhart (Independent).

Apologies

Judene Edgar, Joy Aiton, John Harwood, Marg Parfitt, Roy Reid, Brian Say, Gill Clayton.

1. Confirmation of minutes from the meeting of 16 August 2013

MOVED Simon Horrocks
SECONDED Kaye Halkett
CARRIED

2. Matters Arising – Action List

- NBus Transfer Ticket information has yet to be publicised as Sarah still awaiting to hear about the correct wording to be used. Marg was to discuss with Simon and Neville. Needs to be followed up on.
- Handholds to be fitted to buses to provide support for those in wheelchairs. Simon has spoken to Tom Heaphy of SBL and has been provided with assurance that the Bus service's Richmond Office has been notified and given a directive to fit handrails to all buses. Simon to follow up on this.
- 111 Txting Service information has been distributed. Sarah to follow up on the progress of this.

3. Correspondence - Nil

4. Captel Phones

The forum was introduced to Captel Phones in a previous meeting and as an outcome it was decided an application be made to Tasman District Council's Community Grants scheme to fund the installation of 3 of these phones in the Tasman District. The application was successful and \$1000 was granted. Three phones have been purchased and they will be located in the Takaka Library, either Councils Richmond office or the Richmond Library, and the Murchison Information centre. The phone for the Motueka Library should be installed before Christmas. This will be publicized to the general public once all the phones have been installed. The Hearing Association will be responsible for maintaining the phones.

5. Johnston Cup

Sarah shared this as a good news story in that Kaye was nominated for the Johnston Cup by Brian for the leadership she has displayed in advocating for the rights of blind and vision impaired people. Brian's nomination proved to be a success as Kaye was awarded the cup. Sarah holds a copy of Brian's nomination. Sarah was also thanked from Mike for her supporting submission on behalf of A4A for the nomination. Sarah suggested getting the media involved so that Kaye could gain some recognition in the community for this outstanding achievement.

6. Sarah's Role

Sarah advised the group that the changing nature of her role within the Council means the day to day management of the A4A forum will be passed to Bettina. Sarah will however continue to front the meetings. Bettina has yet to be provided with confirmation of this change from her manager.

7. Sandwich Boards

Mike provided an update of the sandwich board bylaw. He has been advised by Nelson City Council that this bylaw is not set to be reviewed until 2017. Mike would like to see this brought forward as this issue needs to be dealt with as soon as possible. Gail suggested getting in contact with the new Councilors' and gaining their support. This topic will continue to be ongoing.

8. NBus

Brian was not present at the meeting to provide an update. This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

9. Building News

Roy was present on behalf of Tasman District Councils building team to hear the expectations that the A4A Forum has of the Council's building department. He emphasized the fact that the building team do take into consideration accessibility issues when inspecting new developments however, they are limited to what they can do according to the building code and also local engineering standards.

Barrier Free NZ was mentioned as an organisation which takes accessibility into account when it comes to the environment and design of new developments. Marion suggested that that Barrier Free NZ be contacted with regards to building codes and practices and how these are applied to the construction of new developments. Donna will contact Barrier Free NZ to obtain this information.

The issue of accessible car parks in Richmond was also raised. Marion emphasized that Tasman District Council needs to look at accessible car parks signoff as part of the final building inspection when new buildings are constructed. Sarah mentioned the NZS 4121-2001 standard – which is the standard that must be met with the construction of new accessible parks. Donna suggests looking at this as consent for a new building cannot be granted unless these standards are met.

A4A is to put forward a submission to Council regarding Engineering Standards and a review of Richmond car parking. It was agreed that a group submission would be forwarded to both Councils with regards to car parks. Peter would also offer his support as part of his role as advocate for Living Streets.

MOVED: Peter Kortegast

10. Mobility Scooters

Sarah indicated an NZTA document which can be found at the following website:
<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/keeping-mobile/>

Sarah asked the Forum to advise her if the agencies represented in the room are interested in copies of this document to distribute among their members. Krista has also forwarded a document 'How to Use Your Mobility Scooter Safely' to Mudcakes and Roses.

As an aside, the steepness of the ramps on Queen Street was questioned. Marion suggested that the ramps be looked at and actions be taken to make these safer. Krista emphasizes the need for people to contact Council if they do have concerns around Temporary Traffic Management Plans so that solutions can be found and issues remedied. Krista is happy for people to contact her directly at Council with their concerns.

11. Local Body Elections – A4A Information + Voting

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

12. A4A Meeting Dates for 2014

Sarah advised the A4A Forum dates for 2014 will be as follows:

- 21 February
- 9 May
- 8 August
- 14 November

13. Richmond Mall Manager – Belinda de Clercq

Belinda introduced herself to the group as the new Richmond Mall Manager. Judene was going to walk the mall with Belinda prior to the meeting, but this unfortunately has not yet taken place. Sarah is to arrange a walk around the mall early next year.

Belinda is open to any suggestions that the A4A may have on how things can be improved in the mall. Carparking is currently being looked into, and Belinda does have some influence on the decisions made with regards to these. Ruby suggested that parking in front of the NZ Post Boxes be looked into and perhaps cut down to 10 minutes so that people who are checking or delivering their mail do not use the designated disability parks in this area.

Donna also suggested that those using the disability parking areas need to be better policed as often people are taking advantage of these parks when they shouldn't be.

The slipperiness of the tiles at the entrance of the mall was also questioned as they cause a safety concern in wet weather. Belinda mentioned that the mall does have safety measures in place to make this area safer at these times.

14. Roundabouts – Peter Kortegast, Opus

Peter provided the group with an overview of the safety and effectiveness of roundabouts. His opinion was that roundabouts are the safest form of intersection for an urban environment and are great for vehicle safety but unfortunately they have an adverse effect on pedestrians and cycle safety.

Peter gave examples of how roundabouts can be made safer for pedestrians such as raised crossings and lights. It was emphasized that the new roundabout on Wensley Road in Richmond was a temporary measure until 2016 when the whole road is to be upgraded.

General Business

- **Community Boards**
Marion suggested that it would be a good idea for the forum to get in touch with the new community boards now to introduce the group and invite them along to future A4A meetings. Sarah will get in touch with the boards.
- **Attendance at Meetings 2014**
Gail questioned whether Sarah and Krista will continue to be attending these meetings in 2014. This was confirmed by Sarah.
- **Thanks from A4A to TDC**
Donna wanted to express her thanks to Council for the construction of the new footpath by the police station and Countdown in Motueka.
- **Living Streets**
Prior to providing his presentation on roundabouts, Peter explained to the group that he is a member of Living Streets Aotearoa which is an organisation which promotes walking. He is a member of the organising committee for the National Walking and Cycling Conference which will be held in Nelson in October 2014 at the Rutherford Hotel. This committee also looks at issues around mobility and is keen to run workshops on mobility. Peter welcomed anyone from the forum who might be interested to join this committee to contact him.

Meeting closed: 12:05pm

Next meeting: 14 February 2014

Action List

| Action | Who | Timing |
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| Bettina to include hyperlink to information about mobility Scooters to the NZTA website in the minutes of the meeting. | Bettina | DONE |
| NBus Transfer Ticket information - Sarah still waiting to hear about the correct wording to be used. Marg was to discuss with Simon and Neville. Needs to be followed up on. | Marg | ASAP |
| Confirmation was provided by SBL that handrails would be fitted to all buses. This needs to be followed up on to see whether it has been actioned. | Simon | Next Meeting |
| Follow up on the distribution of information on the 111 txting service needs to be completed to see how the progress of this is going. | Sarah | ASAP |
| To report back on the progress with Nbus and possible subsidized rates for those living with a disability. | Brian | Next Meeting |

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| To contact Barrier Free NZ in order to find out what information they can provide with regards to accessibility and on building codes and practices | Donna | ASAP |
| Forward a submission to Council regarding engineering standards and a review of Richmond Carparking | Sarah and Peter | ASAP |
| Local Body Elections A4A information and voting to be deferred and added as an agenda item for the next meeting. | Bettina | Next Meeting |
| Brian was not present at the meeting to provide an update on progress with Nbus. This item will be deferred to the next meeting. | Bettina | Next Meeting |
| A4A dates for 2014 to be finalized and added to the minutes of the meeting. | Sarah and Bettina | DONE |
| Get in contact with the community boards and invite a member along to join future A4A meetings. | Sarah | DONE |
| Judene and Belinda de Clercq to walk the mall together to as an opportunity to view and discuss the mall's accessibility. | Sarah | ASAP |
| To get in contact with the new Nelson city councilors regarding the Sandwich Board Bylaw and possibly getting the date brought forward for its review. | Mike | Ongoing |