

Minutes

A4A Forum Accessibility for All

Friday 31 May 2013 – 10.00am
Wangapeka-Heaphy Rooms, Tasman District Council

Present

Donna Smith (Chair), Sarah Downs, Bettina Koessler, Krista Hobday (Tasman District Council), Mike Stevens, Brian Say, Kaye Halkett, (Association of Blind Citizens), Marg Parfitt, David Jackson (Nelson City Council), Jane Chamberlain (NMIT), Ruby Aberhart (Nelson/Tasman Positive Ageing and VCC), John Harwood (Hearing Association), Bridget Thompson (Hearing Association), Karen Brookes (Golden Bay Community Board), Ian McKittrick (NZ Police), Liam Butler, Kirsty Glen (Workstar).

Apologies

Simon Horrocks, Wendy Wadsworth, Cr Judene Edgar, Mike Tasman Jones, Robyn Scherer

1. Confirmation of minutes from the meeting of 15 March 2013

MOVED Brian Say
SECONDED Sarah Downs
CARRIED

2. Matters Arising – Action List

- Although absent from the meeting, Simon Horrocks wanted noted that it was not him who raised the issue of the lights at the pedestrian crossing by Halifax Street in the previous meeting. Kaye mentioned that this was in fact Brian Say. To be amended in previous meeting minutes.
- Sandwich Boards - Sarah advised that this issue has been postponed as a meeting first needs to take place between Tasman District Council and Richmond Unlimited to get an estimate of the cost as part of the Queen Street upgrade. Sandwich boards will be discussed at that meeting. There is a potential for a bylaw change, and Tasman District Council will work in conjunction with Nelson City Council on this.

Brian also brought up the question of flags as they are getting larger and larger. A discussion is to be held with Nelson City Council as to how to deal with this issue. Sarah's advice is to keep contacting the council and adding service requests on this issue, as the more requests there are, the more likely it will be looked into. Ruby emphasizes that Council is trying to get the bylaw out and to trust them.

- Sarah has sent a letter of thanks to Mayor Richard Kempthorne for the donation of the plaques for the Business Awards.

3. Correspondence

- Letter received from DOC regarding provision of off road wheelchair facilities at key locations on public conservation land. Unfortunately the department is not in a position to manage, maintain and locate mobility devices at track entrances, however, they are willing to take this issue into account with track design and allow for their use. They are also willing to allow their website to be used to link people with disabilities, with agencies who hire out different accessibility devices.

- Letter received from Otago University thanking Sarah and Mike for their participation in the research project 'Promoting physical activity for people with physical disability.' Sarah to send out copy of the letter with the minutes.

4. WorkStar Presentation

Liam from WorkStar gave a presentation on the services which are provided by WorkStar. Some points from the presentation included below:

- WorkStar is a programme funded by the Ministry of Social Development and is a free service which provides ongoing support during the working life.
- WorkStar has been operating in the Nelson region for 23 years.
- WorkStar seeks to raise awareness of employers. Their hope is that before a job advertisement is placed, that WorkStar is contacted first.
- Their main aim is to work together with people with disabilities to assist them in finding sustainable employment, which means overcoming the many barriers that disabled people face when it comes to finding employment.
- A key factor is being open and honest with the employer and in turn, for the employer to provide continuity of employment.
- Community reach plays an important role.
- They provide services such as C.V. assistance which provides a great avenue into employment for people on the DPB or a benefit.

The main point Liam wanted to get across was a call for action to the A4A. This is a simple service providing an essential link between employee and employer. A4A can play a role in raising awareness out in the community.

5. Total Mobility Vouchers

Marg gave an update on the Total Mobility vouchers. Currently Shane Davis is looking after the project; however, the ownership of it has yet to be sorted out. A photo ID or plastic card is currently being explored at a national level. It was noted that all the information regarding the scheme was available to the public on the Nelson City Council website. It is also available on the TDC website.

6. Sandwich Board Bylaw

David (Nelson City Council) noted that the current bylaw regarding trading and sandwich boards is coming up for review. A copy of the current bylaw was handed out to those present, and David asked that if anyone has any questions that they contact him directly. Ruby asked if a copy of the bylaw could be emailed to her, as well as Mike Tasman Jones, so that it could be forwarded to the Positive Ageing Forum.

David also noted that before a decision is made, a draft of the bylaw will go out for public consultation. This is an opportunity for the public to voice their concerns. The draft bylaw will be reviewed by council who will ultimately make the final decision. He went on to say that he will have more to report at the next meeting.

David also expressed his thanks to the A4A for the work that they do. He is very appreciative of groups such as this who look out for people with disabilities within their community.

7. Annual Plan Submissions

Sarah advised that she had put a submission forward on behalf of the A4A with regards to lowering the speed limits, especially on Lower Queen Street. This section of the road will remain at 50kph. Croucher Street's speed was also left as it currently is. Most speeds have had a reduction agreed to. Going for approval to Council in June.

8. **Speed Limit Review**

Marg noted that the speed limit review is currently out for public consultation. A bylaw for flashing lights in certain areas is also out for review. Marg mentioned a number of locations around Nelson where speed limit restrictions are being looked into. This topic was discussed at length. Marg's main point was for people to get their submissions in so that their voices could be heard.

Brian noted that central reservations were an excellent resource, especially for the blind. It would be good to see more of them around the district. This will be explored further in July at the renewal of the budget.

9. **General Business**

- **SBL Bus Service**

Kaye noted some positive news after being in contact with the bus companies regarding issues with accessibility to bus stops on busy roads on a return journey. SBL offer a service called a 'Transfer Ticket' which allows a user to step onto the bus on the same side of the road, but stay on the bus to travel again in the opposite direction. The ticket comes at no extra charge to a standard fare, so long as you are travelling within the same zone. It applies to several different areas, but the passenger will need to clarify where they are heading with the bus driver.

Ruby asked if information about this could be included in the Newline and Live Nelson. Sarah advised she will also look into getting information on this included on the website.

Marg to talk to Simon and Neville to get correct wording.

Marg spoke to Simon about wheelchair stability on buses. This was addressed within a week. Sarah to email Simon and ask how the process works.

- **Captel Phones for Hearing Impaired**

Bridget on behalf of the Hearing Association gave a presentation regarding Captel Phones. This is a specially adapted phone for the hearing impaired, which is provided free of charge, to assist the hearing impaired with using the telephone.

There is currently a phone available for the public use in the Nelson City Council and it was suggested to provide the same service in the Tasman District. As the Tasman District Council covers such a vast area, the exact location of the phones will need to be considered, such as Golden Bay, Murchison, Motueka and Richmond. Each phone comes at a cost of \$323 so Sarah will need to speak to Suzanne Westley, Customer Services Manager, and discuss how these will be funded.

Bridget went on to say that this is an excellent service which was introduced on 31 March 2013. As this is a user driven service, the more people that use it the better, or else the Government will scrap the funding.

Bridget also did a quick presentation on the Assistive Hearing Device, which is a handy tool for those who do not wear hearing aids. Bridget emphasized the idea that this is only a short term solution, for example, when a family member comes to stay. They can be borrowed from the Hearing Association for up to 6 weeks at a time, but are also available for purchase for the cost of \$360.

- **April Floods**

Ruby noted that during the April flood event there were many people alone in their homes, unaware of the flooding, or unable to do much about it. She was concerned at the lack of communication from Civil Defense, and the Police. Donna responded

that it is the task of the Neighborhood Support Group to know their neighbours and correspond with the police in events such as this. Common sense must prevail in these things.

- **111 Texting Service**

John noted that there is a 111 Texting service available for the hearing impaired, to register with the police. Although the service was rolled out 12 months ago, many of those present had not heard of this service. Sarah will look into getting information onto the Council website, as well as the Civil Defense website. Donna will also distribute this information out amongst the various groups. Ruby will talk to Sarah, also pass to Tara.

Kaye asked if at the next meeting Sarah could make a presentation to the forum as to issues surrounding Richmond Unlimited's changes to Queen Street, also Kmart and the roundabout.

Meeting closed: 11.50 am

Next Meeting: 16 August 2013.

Action List

Action	Who	Timing
Previous meeting minutes to be amended with regards to pedestrian lights on Halifax Street. This was suggested by Brain, not Simon	Sarah Downs, Tasman District Council	ASAP
Copy of letter from Otago University to be sent out to all those in attendance.	Sarah Downs, Tasman District Council	ASAP
Copy of Sandwich Board Bylaw Ruby to be emailed to Ruby, as well as Mike Tasman Jones, so that it could be forwarded to the Positive Ageing Forum.	David Jackson, Nelson City Council	ASAP
Information regarding bus 'Transfer Ticket' to be included in the Newline and Live Nelson. Also the Council website.	Sarah Downs, Tasman District Council	ASAP
Marg to talk to Simon and Neville to get correct wording for information on transfer ticket to be included on the website.	Marg Parfitt, Nelson City Council	ASAP
Email to be sent to Simon Horrocks to gain some clarity on how the process of wheelchair stability on buses works.	Sarah Downs, Tasman District Council	ASAP
Suzanne Westley to be approached about Captel phones being available for use in TDC's Customer Services.	Sarah Downs, Tasman District Council	ASAP
111 Txting Service information to be included on the Council website. as well as the Civil Defense website. Also to be distributed amongst the various groups.	Sarah Downs, Tasman District Council Donna Smith, Victim Support	ASAP
Presentation of Richmond Unlimited's proposed changes to Queen Street, Kmart and the roundabout.	Sarah Downs, Tasman District Council	The next A4A meeting