

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera ō Poneke

MINUTES

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP

*COMMITTEE ROOM 2
101 WAKEFIELD STREET*

FRIDAY 8 MAY 2007

5.30PM – 7.30PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Chair's Welcome

The chair welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

Thomas Bryan

3. Present:

Members

Kendall Akhurst
Councillor Gill
Ollie Goulden
Ross Livingstone
Nick Luger
Rosie Macleod
Kaeti Riggarsford
Jules Taniwha
Sandy Waddel
Lisette Wesseling

Guests

Councillor Shaw
Baz Kaufman
Adele Gibson

4. Draft Annual Plan, Councillor Shaw

The Draft Annual Plan proposes:

- The Wellington City Council enter into a partnership with the Crown which will give Wellington City Council \$220 million dollars to upgrade social housing units and which will also bond the Council into staying in social housing for the next thirty years. The proposed work includes renovating kitchens and bathrooms, addressing issues around poor ventilation, noisy environments, and seismic upgrades of vulnerable buildings.
- That the annual grants pool be increased by \$117,000 to account for inflationary pressures on groups and clubs that currently access the pool of grants. A new pool of \$100,000 has also been proposed for sports clubs to develop professional coaching programmes for young players.

- A graffiti flying squad to address the issue of graffiti in the city. This will cost \$225,000. Any proposed effort will work with existing graffiti prevention and restoration measures.
- A wet hostel to give those with alcohol and drug addictions a location to sleep if they are intoxicated and cannot find shelter elsewhere. Any efforts would be made in partnership with the Capital and Coast District Health Board and other public and community social agencies.
- Additional funding for the Museums' Trust of \$500,000.
- A Newlands Community Centre with an onsite co-ordinator.
- An increased events pool of \$500,000 to ensure that Wellington can remain the national events capital.
- An open access and high powered broadband infrastructure to be installed by 2012.
- \$100,000 to be put towards the planning and installation of a tsunami warning system.
- Increased funding for the inner and outer city town belt tracks.
- An increase in a number of fees and charges. More information on these increases is detailed in the DAP document.

Submissions for the DAP are possible up to 18 May 2007.

Action: The Group was encouraged to make submissions in as much as they would improve the quality of Council's decision making process.

5. Adele Gibson, Engagement, Terms of Reference

The Group heard updates on the Policy Unit's work on an engagement framework for advisory groups. Engagement was explained as being a process that informs and empowers the public. It is hoped that an effective engagement policy would help the public know how to become involved early on in any submission or decision making process.

Reasons for the existence of advisory groups were also explained to the Group. These included:

- To ensure that Council has access to a diverse range of perspectives.
- To serve as a first stop for advice on further consultation.
- To provide a sounding board for different areas in Council.

Next the Group heard the Policy Unit's thoughts on what requirements are needed to ensure that advisory groups are effective. These included:

- Advisory groups need a support mechanism.
- They need to contribute meaningful advice.
- They need to have a clear purpose and have clear all round roles.
- They need to have community buy in.

Potential changes to the Disability Reference Group's terms of reference were then explained. Potential changes include:

- Clarification regarding the resignation of a chair and election / re-election.
- Cross representation in other advisory groups.

The Group took this opportunity to note that representatives from the DRG have already appeared in other advisory groups and that further meetings are scheduled.

Action: Members to email all members of group with their thoughts following dissemination of relevant material

6. Community Advisor report on work in process

The International Terminal upgrade at Wellington Airport has been inspected by members of the Group. The report given was that the upgrade is very inclusive, has good access for wheelchairs and is very spacious. However, concern was expressed regarding the lack of colour contrasts on some rails, and not knowing the exact building level that one could be on at any given time given sight impairment. Members of the Group have been invited to a re-inspection of the upgraded facility on Thursday 10 May.

Related to the Airport, the Group raised two further issues. The first was in relation to the number of accessible toilets located at the Airport and the problem related to their use by parents with babies and toddlers and also by travellers with baggage in excess of the room an inaccessible toilet cubicle affords. A possible solution was mooted as encouraging the installation of more universal toilets. It was noted that this issue is one that not only affects the Airport, but also public places at large and that further discussion on the subject would be beneficial. The second issue raised regarded the number of mobility parks at the Airport.

Action: Representatives of the DRG to re-inspect the Airport on Thursday 10th May. Ross Livingstone to raise the issue of mobility parking at the Airport inspection.

- A tourism seminar which discussed the issue of the value of disability tourism was held this week in Wellington.
- The Wellington City Council has held Sign Language teaser courses during Deaf Awareness Week. 73 Council staff signed up for the courses.
- The ongoing project at Chew's Lane was made note of as was the lack any pedestrian crossing between Victoria Street and Harris Street.

- A campaign has begun to discourage motorists from parking on footpaths. An advertisement to this effect was published recently in the 'Our Wellington Page' appearing in the Dominion Post.
- The community advisor is having regular meetings with the Office of Disability Issues and developing a working relationship with representatives from the Office.

7. Report back from DRG members

- Further research has been carried out pertaining to the DRG Sub Group on Accessible Transport. It revealed that the system in Auckland, whereby a speaker is attached to bus stops from which people can ascertain the location and the next bus, would not suitably solve the accessibility issues confronted in the original study. Further research is being embarked upon at present to follow up this issue.

Action: Lisette Wesseling to get in touch with contacts regarding solutions to problems experienced in the UK.

- The inaccessibility of Cobham Drive was revisited. The Group received plans from the project manager.

Action: Members of the DRG will inspect Cobham Drive on Thursday to inspect progress.

- The new roundabout in Miramar was noted as being potentially dangerous.
- The location of the mobility parks in the retail zone next to the southern end of the Airport were noted by the Group as being unsatisfactory.
- The Group discussed the lack of a curb cut on Molesworth Street and Hawkestone Street.
- The Group also made note of the congestion of footpaths in Tawa.

Action: Ross Livingstone to investigate the existence of the footpath building plan

- Inaccessibility of sports clubs was also raised.
- A meeting was held between representatives of the DRG and representatives of the Greater Wellington Regional Council in order to discuss the benefits of having a disability advisory group for the Regional Council.

Action: Kendall Akhurst and Ross Livingstone to work on a presentation expressing why a disability advisory group would be beneficial for the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

8. Other Business

- The Group discussed the different submissions that are being worked on by different members in relation to the DAP. Different members of the Group chose which areas they would be interested in making a submission on.
- The Group discussed possible participation in the upcoming 'Funday' event, especially as an opportunity to highlight the areas of inaccessibility in the transportation sector. It was agreed that more discussion needs to take place before an official representation of the DRG in 'Funday' take place.

9. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes were passed.

Meeting closed at 8pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 12th 2007, commencing 5.15pm.