

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera ō Poneke

MINUTES

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP

*COMMITTEE ROOM 2
101 WAKEFIELD STREET*

TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2007

5.30PM – 7.30PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Chair's Welcome

The chair welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

Rosie Macleod
Kaeti Rigarlsford
Councillor Gill

3. Present

Members

Kendall Akhurst
Thomas Bryan
Ollie Goulden
Ross Livingstone
Nick Luger
Jules Taniwha
Sandy Waddell
Lisette Wesseling

Guests

Ian Abram
Jerry Hewitt
Luke Troy

4. Luke Troy, Johnsonville Project

The Group heard information about the Johnsonville Town Centre Draft Plan as part of the Council's strategy to direct and manage growth. Later stages in this strategy plan to include the area from the Basin Reserve to the Hospital and the Eastern Suburbs area. At present the Johnsonville project is at the consultative stage.

The draft plan anticipates the redevelopment of the Johnsonville shopping centre as well as an upgrade of the rail services. Other areas dealt with in the plan mentioned in the meeting were:

- Johnsonville Road being confirmed as the main street in Johnsonville. This will include plans of making it pedestrian friendly, reducing traffic on that street, and creating a new highway interchange.

- Investment in new community facilities such as a library and a new bus-rail interchange.
- Upgrading infrastructure such as intersections, pedestrian crossings, and tunnels.
- The appointment of a community co-ordinator to facilitate, advocate and liaise with all relevant parties upon the approval of the draft plan.

Public submissions on the plan are available up to the end of June 2007 in anticipation of the final plan being completed at the end of 2007 or early 2008.

It was mentioned that the main concern hitherto expressed by the public was the issue of traffic and parking.

The obligation for private developers to consult with the public was discussed, as was the difficulty in installing overhead parking at the rail station. The possibility of the DRG meeting with the developer to discuss relevant issues was raised. It was agreed that the opportune time to pursue this would be August of 2007.

Action: Ross Livingstone to contact Luke Troy to gather the contact details of the developers.

5. Ian Abram, Jerry Hewitt, Indoor Community Sports Stadium

The architects of the proposed indoor sport stadium asked the Group advice and access issues to be taken into consideration in the process of designing this new stadium. The Group first heard that the stadium would be designed to hold a total of 2500 people should the need arise and 1000 on a permanent basis. The stadium would also be designed to house a café/restaurant, and space for other sports besides the room afforded by the main courts.

The Group raised the following issues:

- Parking/mobility parking / multipurpose parking.
- Flat access to the entry of the proposed stadium.
- Spectator access for wheelchair users.
- Accessible toilets / multipurpose toilets.
- Accessible showers.
- Appropriate signage, both in terms of location and colour contrast.
- Colour contrasting handrails.
- Accessible lifts – push buttons with Braille.

The issue of induction looping was also discussed. It was agreed that a further meeting would be scheduled with the Group at the stage that a site has been selected for the construction of the stadium.

Action: Details of Deaf Association of New Zealand to be forwarded to the guests presenting.

Note: Further questions regarding the stadium are to be forwarded to Ross Livingstone and then discussed at a later date.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes were passed. The Group took this opportunity to review the following issues:

- The Group's visit to Wellington Airport
- The roundabout at Miramar and footpath along Victoria Street

Action: The Group is to pursue the issue of safety surrounding the Miramar roundabout.

7. Report Back From Disability Advisor

- A proposal for a disability reference group for the Greater Wellington Regional Council has been sent to the Greater Wellington Regional Council to consider.
- The Disability and Seniors Forum will be held on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 June 2007.
- A meeting was held between the Business Development Manager of Go Bus and members of the Group. From this meeting it was learned that Go Bus are investing money into customer training for their drivers. The Group discussed the need to have paid trainers with disabilities working in this customer training. It was also learnt from this meeting that in the next 18 months 80-90% of Wellington's buses will be accessible.
- Wellington libraries stock of audio descriptive DVDs was mentioned.
- The 2007 Tech Hui was discussed. The Hui helped to reveal the lack of resources available for blind students in Wellington.
- Courtenay Place is scheduled to be audited in respect to access
- An associate member from the Barrier Free Trust is putting a programme together for Urban Design.

8. Report back from DRG members

- South and East Community Primary Health Organisation is moving into new premises on Monday 18th June 2007. The Group asked if an audit had been carried out.
- Positive feedback was given about the recent oral and written submissions given by the group regarding the Draft Annual Plan.

- Research has been carried out by the DRG Sub Group on Accessible Transport pertaining to GPS locators which could be installed in buses. The point was made this would be in the interests of the bus company and that the cost of accessible services as a result of such installation would be minimal.
- A meeting was held between the Business Development Manager of Go Bus. The issue was raised that since that meeting there has been no feedback to many of the points that were raised. Ross is to contact Garth for an update.
- Courtenay Place is scheduled to be audited in respect to access. The DRG discussed and suggested that an approach be made to include a couple from the group to be involved with this from a user's perspective.
- The Group discussed the issue of shared access for pedestrians and cyclists and the problems created for vision impaired with the different crossing signals having the same sound. This was specifically on the bypass and the northern end of Adelaide Road. Lisette was going to forward some contact or more information to Ross for Ross to follow up with WCC.
- The Group discussed the possibility of the Wellington City Council supporting the 2007 white cane day. Ross and Lisette to catch up how this might happen.
- The Cable Car has been upgraded without consultation with the DRG. Ross was to follow up re this. The work that was done and what issues there might be.
- The Wairarapa trains have been inspected by the Group. Thomas reported that he had identified some concerns and forwarded those back to Greater Wellington through Ross.
- The topic for the Disability Forum was discussed. A decision needs to be made and it was decided that it should be an item for the next meeting.
- The Group discussed the need for guidelines for presentations for guests. This also included access to information on the WCC website.

Action: Thomas Bryan to formulate guidelines which will be later reviewed by the Group.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 10th 2007, commencing 5.15pm.