

# DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP (DRG)

## MINUTES

5.30 PM  
Tuesday 14 October 2008

Committee Room 1

### Members

Kendall Akhurst (Co-Chair)  
Rosie Macleod (Co-Chair)  
Alan Royal  
Jules Taniwha  
Lisette Wesseling  
Thomas Bryan  
Councillor Pannett  
Philippa McDonald  
Sara Pivac Alexander

#### **1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed the group.

#### **2. Apologies**

Sandie Waddell

#### **3. Peter Kundycki – Urban Design (W.C.C)**

Wellington City Council and the Urban Design team have adopted the Courtenay Precinct Strategy improvement for public access 24/7.

The area includes the top part of Kent Tce. where it intersects with Courtenay Place, both Blair and Allan Streets up to the intersection of Courtenay and Taranaki Street. There has been a lot of support from the local retail economy in this area. Urban Design's concept is to have a flexible streetscape which will transition between Morning – Day – Night – Early Morning; however this is only the preliminary conceptual stage of the project. The precinct hopes to be flexible 24/7 by allowing the carriageway to be used by cars during the morning and day times whilst pedestrians could use the same carriageway at night time. Peter also suggested that council may look at closing Blair and Allan Streets (Courtenay end only) from a certain time at night (11pm – 7am) during the weekend; this

would allow for greater pedestrian areas and reduce clutter. Additional Mobility parks could be installed on both these streets. Furthermore, the design team is looking at extending the footpath area out on to the carriage way making the road become part of the footpath. This would also reduce the existing 150mm kerb to a 50mm kerb whilst still maintaining a channel to direct storm water. The slope of this ramp would be 1:4, (1:0 being flat). Alexia Pickering had concerns around the 50mm lip and the storm water channel. Thomas raised concerns that families using the extended footpath at night may try to use the same area during the day if they didn't know any better.



Urban Design's concept for a 24/7 public space will possibly be achieved with the use of flexible bollards. The bollards would exist on the kerb side of the footpath during the morning and day and then moved out to the part of the road side to allow greater pedestrian access at night and early morning (these could possibly be hydraulic bollards which would remove the need for physically moving each bollard). It was suggested the bollards could also house banners of the retailer establishment. Lisette made a point that bollards don't give a continuous line for visually impaired persons. Peter suggested a tactile edge which could be a possibility. The group raised concerns about being caught within the confined area of bollards if an individual is parked after the time of bollards being moved, Peter informed the group that a sensor could be built into the bollard allowing cars to leave but not enter. (An example of the hydraulic bollard can be seen in Chews Lane – these cost \$2,500 each unit) Sarah suggested the bollards have small lights within them to give people a better sense of direction. Allan raised concerns about visitors to Wellington wouldn't know what to do when confronted with a changing streetscape.

#### **4. Alexia Pickering – Accessible Streetscape Project**

Alexia suggested a DVD produced by the US Access Board on accessible footpaths that the DRG should look into.

Alexia mentioned to the group about Ross Livingstone setting up a working group in June 2007 which is involved in recommendations for Wellington Tourism. The working group hopes to establish a safe and easily accessible route to Te Papa. The group will be looking at the CBD's inaccessible kerbs: a report of these has been sent to Rosie. Alexia suggested that the DRG produce their own list of inaccessible kerbs or problem kerbs and send these to her. Alexia's main concerns around kerbs in the CBD is that the contractors are installing kerb cuts without feathering off the existing road seal therefore producing a number of issues for the public. Alexia informed the group that 59 new kerbs have been installed recently, some of these work well and others don't work at all she has no idea why the contractors make all kerbs different and would like to see a clear workable design established. Rosie and Alexia will be reviewing these kerbs. Sinead mentioned she is very interested in this project and would like to be involved. Alexia has been working in conjunction with Trish Ubels from Wellington City Council to come up with a kerb which would work in any circumstance. Trish has arranged for an external group to analyze footpaths and kerbs leading to Te Papa to establish an ease of access route. Alexia mentioned she would like to see 10 – 15 wheelchair users involved in this process to get a broad range of opinions. Thomas raised concern over the fact that Council is having contractors install kerb cuts that either don't work or are unsatisfactory and that the rate payer ends up paying for this. Alexia agreed and also pointed out that in other areas such as Otaki and Lower Hutt they have great examples of kerb cuts that work well.

Alexia gave a slide show presentation of recently installed kerbs in the CBD that work and others that don't. Alexia pointed out that she is disappointed that other councils in NZ have got kerbs right and Wellington still hasn't. To help this project along Alexia has asked for any kerb cut design proposals to be forwarded to her.

#### **Other Business**

**Jenny Raines** – Will be acting manager of City Communities till further notice. Taxi Chits will be given to sub group members for their meetings (within reason).

**Sara** – Would like the Chair to point out to Sara who is talking as it is hard to know just from watching the interpreter. People need to talk one at a time. This will help to avoid confusion and would further benefit Lisette and Thomas. 'How We Do Business' document – Guidelines need to work across council. This process has started, it's up to the DRG to progress it further. A plain text version can be sent out to the members, the working group will progress this and collate into one document. It was suggested that the document could have a simple easy to use guide at the beginning with more detail around specifics inside.

**Allan** – ICT Sub Group – No contact from the Wellington City Council web centre. Will send report to Sinead and Jenny.

**Kendal and Rosie** – Signed letter in regards to Strategy Plan

**Thomas** – Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) meets 3 -4 times a year (agenda could be sent out to the DRG in advance if relevant). A site visit with Train services is coming up; Thomas has been appointed part of the Regional Transport Committee. The GWRC will also be meeting with ‘Total Mobility’ about standardizing taxi chits nationally. Greater Regional Council didn’t turn up to ‘Go Bus’ meeting, driver training is happening – Garth to follow up. The bus driver trainers had been changed which provided a gap in getting driver training. Thomas also mentioned that Manakau City Council has adopted and established a working Disability Strategy.

**Jules** – Concerned about kerbs within her immediate local area need attention. The hospital kerbs and newly installed ramps are also concerns raised by Jules.

**Lisette** – Barriers that divide the footpath from the road side along recent construction at the Hospital have been put back in place.

**Philippa** – Raised concern around Mobility Parks. Philippa would like to see Park Wise meet with the DRG or send members to Park Wise. New parking wardens need training in regards to specifics of mobility parks.

### **General Business**

Kendal has stood down as a co-chair. The members voted in the next round of Co-Chairs, Sara and Rosie are the new co-chairs for 2009.

It was suggested that an induction for Advisory group Chairs (or co-Chairs) into Council processes needs to take place. The group would also like to be involved in more meetings externally and with Council officers. They would also like to work closely with the Accessibility Advisor.



ITEM	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBLE	DUE	COMPLETED
<b><u>Courtenay Place</u></b>	Updates on Bus /Taxi and flexible street	<b>Martin Henson</b>	N/A	Ongoing
<b><u>Submissions</u></b>	Sub Groups need to meet to discuss areas of focus	<b>Sub Groups</b>	N/A	Ongoing
<b><u>I.C.T</u></b>				
<b><u>E-engagement</u></b>	Report back to the DRG	<b>I.C.T Sub group</b>		
<b><u>Footpath management</u></b>				
<b><u>Go – Bus</u></b>	Wheelchair access for tagging on with snapper at back entrance of buses.	<b>Garth</b>		Ongoing
<b><u>Disability Training</u></b>	Report back to Kendall	<b>Garth</b>		Ongoing
<b><u>Iona</u></b>	<p><b><u>Positive Wellington Tourism</u></b> - To be involved with the DRG</p> <p><b><u>Council &amp; Access</u></b> - Stance on access needs clarity and guidelines</p> <p><b><u>Contact Greg Orchard</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Social Housing</u></b> - Update on Housing</p> <p><b><u>WCC website</u></b> - Raise issues with Garry Poole</p> <p><b><u>WCC Housing</u></b> – Follow up for possible meeting Nov 08 or Jan 09</p> <p><b><u>WCC website</u></b> - Raise issues with Garry Poole</p>		N/A	Ongoing

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DUE</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
<b><u>Access</u></b>	Audit of all documents related to access	<b>Iona</b>		
<b><u>DRG Focus</u></b>	To decide what the focus of the DRG is	<b>Sinead Roe</b>	11/10/08	
<b><u>DRG Report</u></b>	Feedback Report of what has and has not worked for the past year within DRG	<b>Co-Chairs</b>	11/10/08	
<b><u>Inclusive Strategy</u></b>	To adopt national disability strategy	<b>W.C.C</b>		Ongoing
<b><u>Social Portfolio</u></b>				
<b><u>NZ Urban Design</u></b>	Need to be progressed (Re-Visit)	<b>Kendall</b>		

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DUE</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
<b><u>Accessible Wellington</u></b>	Get back on track / make connections within council	<b>Jenny / Sinead</b>	N/A	Ongoing
<b><u>Positive Wellington Tourism</u></b>	Needs to be progressed	<b>Sinead / Kendal / Iona</b>		Ongoing
<b><u>Housing</u></b>	Needs to be progressed	<b>Sinead</b>		Ongoing
<b><u>Forward Program of WCC</u></b>	To be sent out to the DRG	<b>Jenny</b>	11/10/08	
<b><u>New DRG members</u></b>	Forward names to Maree	<b>DRG members</b>		
<b><u>New DRG members</u></b>	Follow up with Democratic services around recruitment	<b>Jenny</b>	11/10/08	

Meeting closed at 7:40pm.  
The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 11 2008, commencing 5. 30pm.