

Environmental Reference Group Meeting Minutes

11 August 2008 Tangi Te Keo, CAB5, Wellington City Council

Present:

Cr Wade-Brown (Outgoing Chair) Cr Pannett
Hamish Allardice (Co-chair) Sea Rotmann (Co-chair)
Ralph Chapman Mike Ennis
Liz Hibbs Chris Horne
Debbie Firestone Ruth Paul
Tushara Kodikara Ian Shearer

WCC Officers:

Ken Bowater (Policy)
Maria Archer (Infrastructure Planning), Chris Davis
Kevin Murphy (Strategy, Climate Change Office)
Gillian McNaughton (Marketing)

GWRC Officers:

Tim Park (GWRC)
Andrew Samuels

Mana Whenua Representatives

Graeme Hastilow

Guests/Speakers

Hilary Campbell (Sustainability Trust)

Apologies:

Members

Dave Kettell
Ian Hunter
Nigel Smith
Waruna
Padmasiri
Kathryn Maxwell
Liz Mellish

Other

Zach Rissel
Bryan Patchett
Nicky Karu
(Treaty Relations)

Welcome

Those present were welcomed and thanked for their attendance, and apologies recorded.

Information-Sharing and Announcements

The following resignations were accepted and a vote of thanks taken for the members' contributions.

- Dave Kettell, resigning due to ill health after many years of service, will remain available to comment on particular issues by email.
- Ian Hunter, also resigning after many years of service.
- Waruna Padmasiri has resigned from the Youth Council and the ERG as he is now working overseas.

There is an online engagement questionnaire currently on the website seeking information on home energy use. Members were invited to participate.

E-Day volunteers are needed for Saturday 4 October at Westpac Stadium
www.eday.org.nz. Contact: Waste Minimisation Officer, CitiOperations, Wellington City Council, 04 383 4440.

The idea of inviting the Road Safety Reference Group to join the ERG in a joint meeting at some stage was mooted by Celia and Ian Shearer.

Election of new chair(s)

The revised Terms of Reference lets the group select a chair other than a councillor, and allows for a modest fee for member attendance at up to 6 meetings per year. The process for making a claim was explained.

The two nominees, Sea Rottman and Hamish Allardice, were introduced further nominations invited. With no further nominees, Sea and Hamish proposed a co-chairing arrangement. They were elected as co-chairs by acclamation (Moved: Councillor Wade-Brown, Seconded: Mike Ennis).

THE NEW CO-CHAIRS TOOK OVER THE MEETING Climate Change, Environment Strategy and the LTCCP

Progress on the Climate Change Action Plan projects over the last year was outlined and responses given to a number of questions. Members suggested that it would be good to see media coverage of the good work that Council is doing in the areas of waste, water and energy management.

Council Officers are currently reviewing each of the strategies in preparation for consulting on the Long Term Council Community Plan in 2009. The ERG will focus on providing input to the Environment Strategy but it is noted that Sustainability is an important factor across all of Council's activities and it was confirmed that links across strategies will be considered. Input for a draft revised strategy will be sought from the ERG at the next meeting.

Influencing Community Sustainability Behaviour

This presentation described aspects of our evolving understanding of our impact on climate and the consequent impacts of climate. It highlighted key issues and stimulated some useful discussion – to be continued at the next meeting.

Points raised include

- The need for a clearly articulated concrete vision (e.g. Change is required: Life will be different) – developed with (rather than for) residents
- A need to open discussions on the values of Wellington's residents and visitors (e.g. being citizens versus consumers) and identifying how the Council can influence/align with these.
- The need for collective and personal ownership (change myself). The need for effective and well-understood definitions
- How will we manage dramatic change? How can we keep the momentum going? We need longevity worked into policy

Communications may consider

- Levels of personal resource usage
- Barriers to changing behaviour
- Voluntary nature of participation
- Individuals as well as communities

- Emotional involvement /personal prioritisation of actions
- Getting the simple messages, as well as information and understanding issues
- Engagement of the public – what do they want Council/themselves to do?
- Consultations (e.g. LTCCP) need to provide full information (e.g. \$cost)

Models noted

- SustainTrust Healthy Homes, Landcare Research, ChCh Clean Heat Programme

Other suggestions

- Report-a-leak (tidying up our own back yard), 1:1 engagement with staff (DoC model), Using measurement as a tool (e.g. competition between suburbs)

Previous minutes

These were adopted via email following the meeting. (Moved: Celia Wade-Brown, Seconded: Hamish Allardice. - **Carried**)

Other

Water Conservation Plan –may seek input on a draft via email before next ERG.
Please note that suggestions for future meetings can be raised with the Co-chairs.