

Minutes

A4A Forum Accessibility for All

Friday 11 November 2016 – 10.00am
Wangapeka-Heaphy Room, Tasman District Council

Present

Cr Dana Wensley, Jenna Neame, Jamie McPherson, Chris Pawson, Megan Bell (Tasman District Council), Marg Parfitt (Nelson City Council), Mike Stevens, Brian Say, Kaye Halkett (Blind Citizens - Nelson Branch), John Harwood (Nelson Hearing Association), Simon Horrocks (Independent), Heather Walker (Inclusive Sport)

Apologies

Judene Edgar (Chair), Dwayne Fletcher, Krista Hobday, Ruby Aberhart, Donna Smith, Colleen Plank, Gillian Clayton

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jenna Neame chaired the meeting as Judene had given her apologies.

As there were new faces at the meeting everyone gave a brief introduction of who they were and what interest they had in the forum.

Cr Dana Wensley introduced herself as the new Councillor at Tasman District Council who would be the Council representative for A4A. Cr Wensley has a real interest in the issues discussed at the forum and in supporting an age-friendly region. Cr Wensley has a background in health law.

2. Confirmation of minutes from the meeting of 12 August 2016

MOVED Jenna Neame
SECONDED John Harwood
CARRIED

3. Public Transport Update

Jamie McPherson, the new Tasman District Council Transportation Manager, stated that there would be some big changes to public transport with the Queen Street upgrade commencing in February 2017.

During the construction period (12-18 months) there will be times when we will not be able to travel up sections of Queen Street causing disruptions to the bus routes.

Once the contract for the construction works has been signed off with the contractors who won the tender the Council will then sit down with the bus company and Nelson City Council (NCC) and

come up with a good plan that retains some flexibility in terms of construction works, risks and weather.

There will be a range of potential routes. There is funding available as part of the project to make sure that these routes and changes will be widely advertised during the project. Accessibility, crossings and drop off points will be taken into consideration with all proposed routes.

Kaye Halkett also stated that it is not only the routes but finding them. There will need to be a very clear description using known landmarks.

It was agreed that once Jamie has the proposed temporary routes that they will be emailed out to the A4A group as a word document to make any comments or suggestions. Cr Wensley said she was happy to meet with any of the members of the group to field their concerns.

Marg Parfitt suggested getting Paul Richardson from the Blind Foundation involved to arrange walk-overs of the routes.

Simon Horrocks raised concerns about the Talbot Street crossing at the traffic lights. The crossing is difficult for wheelchair users and pedestrians, especially with the increase in traffic. Jamie will investigate and report back.

Extensions to the current Richmond bus routes was also discussed. There is currently no funding for this and the routes would have to be investigated further before any progress is made. Once these routes and costs are known then it would be put forward to Council to consider. Agreed that this A4A group would be used as a reference group once these investigations begin.

4. Matters Arising – Action List

- List of wheelchairs for public use – Cr Wensley would like to see this be progressed in some form. Agreed that the ‘Good Access/Good Business’ publication needs to be looked at to see if any updates are needed, and maybe use this as the tool for distributing this information going forward.
- Mobility taxi in Motueka– Paul Hawkes was not able to be contacted in regards to progress of this. Now that he is on Council, Cr Wensley will chase this up with him directly
- Tasman District Council Sandwich Board Bylaw –advised that this will be part of the Town Centre Plan Change which will be undertaken by Steve Markham’s Team next year. They do not have the staff capacity to tackle it any earlier. Agreed to put this back on the action list so that we do not miss the chance to get this sorted.
- Accessibility Workshop for Councillors - to put on agenda for February. Jenna to check workshops calendar to find a suitable date. Ensure to include all accessibility issues - not just visual and wheelchair. Cr Wensley to liaise with Judene, CCS and Jenna in regards to this.
- Disability Strategy – this will be a standing item. To check website for updates and for the summary of submissions.

5. Correspondence

- Nil

6. Election of Chairperson

Agreed to leave this to the next meeting in February as Judene was unable to attend this meeting.

7. 2017 – The year ahead

Dates for 2017 meetings to be confirmed and sent out with minutes.

Looking to be more pro-active in getting representatives from different groups to attend and investigate how to include isolated groups.

Cr Wensley advised she would like to see a representative from the rural communities such as at the Community Whanau meetings. She will discuss this at the next Community Whanau meetings.

Marg Parfitt reminded the groups that the forum was set up to look at issues on the higher strategic level, so we need to make sure that we stick to this.

8. General Business

- Chris Pawson - Land Development Manual. He will be carrying out updates to the transportation section. Chris would like input from users such as the people in attendance at the A4A meetings. There is currently a steering group working on the changes. This will then go out for feedback and consultation. It is planned that this will occur in March 2017. This item is to be added to the agenda for the February 2017 meeting.
- Joint Accessible Parking Map – The question arose of having a joint map with Council and NCC showing all of the accessible parks within the region.

Marg Parfitt stated that NCC had one but is now out of date with the recent changes in Nelson city.

Jenna Neame advised that the Council has a new 'Traffic Control Devices' layer in GIS that shows all the traffic devices and parking areas. This has been produced for staff but recognised as being very good for data that could be shared with the public. Megan is to send the link to this information out to members with the meeting minutes.

It was discussed that looking to the future a layer could be put on 'Top of the South' maps. It was agreed that something online would be best as it is 'live' information. Further investigation would be needed into this.

Meeting closed: 11.30am