
**A4A Forum Notes
Accessibility for All
22 November – 10:00am
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond**

Present: Marty Price (Neighbourhood Support Waimea Inc.), Mel Courtney (Nelson City Councillor), Marrit Walstra-Russell (Age Concern), Kate Malcom (NELSUS), David Kemp, Pamela Coltman (Grey Power), Rodger Curry, Karen Wilson, Amanda Stevens (Blind Citizens New Zealand – Nelson Branch), Malcom Saunders, Callum Innes (NCC), Margaret Parfitt (NCC), Dwayne Fletcher (TDC), Chris Allison -10:13am (Health Action Trust), Ruby Aberhart, Simon Horrocks, Ryan Gibson (Independent members)

Apologies: Lani Evans (TDC), John Haworth (Hearing Association), Rhys Palmer (NZTA), Jane Murray, Donna Smith, Mike Stevens, Dana Wensley

Chair Person: Claire Hutt

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Claire Hutt welcomed the forum and invited everyone to introduce themselves. The Forum agreed to accept all apologies given

2. Apologies

The forum agreed to accept all apologies given.

**Mover: Pamela Coltman
Seconder: Margaret Parfitt
CARRIED**

3. Confirmation of minutes from meeting of 23 August 2019

Claire asked if anyone would like to put submissions into the Long Term Plan.

Action: Claire will get email of guidance of “how to” put in a submission from Brylee.

On the previous meeting minutes there was an item from Ruby however Ruby was not able to attend the meeting. The minutes stated that Drew Bryant agreed to meet with Ruby, Drew did not meet with Ruby however Jamie McPherson contacted Ruby.

Crescent Street now has a hitching but Ruby thinks that messaging needs to go to police about drivers not stopping on the grid. Ruby noted that she did request for the parking limit to change however where they changed it on the main street not where she wanted it changed, Ruby wanted the change outside the Pharmacy.

Action: Claire will catch up with Drew and will ask that Drew contact Ruby directly regarding Parking limit on Queen Street.

Margaret would like to make one amendment to the minutes:

The minutes state *'Mike asked if Council has visited the new shop in Nelson selling scooters to make them aware of the bylaws'*

Margaret confirms that she has personally visited the store and spoke with the manager, the store are now aware of the bylaw prohibiting e-scooter use on the footpaths within the Nelson CBD. However this only prohibits the retailed scooters not all personal scooters.

David noted that in the minutes he was referred to as 'Dave' not 'David'. The minute taker apologised and will not make this mistake in the future.

The minutes of the Accessibility for All Forum held on Friday 28 August 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting once the amendment has been made.

Mover: David Kemp
Seconded: Amanda Stevens
CARRIED

4. Chairs report

Dana Wensley wrote a chair report that was distributed prior to the meeting.

5. Election of the chair:

The Committee agreed that Claire Hutt should now be the new Chair of the Accessibility for All Forum.

Mover: Ruby Aberhart
Seconded: Pam Coltman
CARRIED

6. NCC Update

Paxsters

Margaret explained to the forum that Nelson City Council (NCC) and Tasman District Council (TDC) gave NZ Post permission to trial the Paxsters. NCC have not heard any bad feedback from residents or NZ Post since the trial. NZ Post have decided to withdraw and not do a blanket roll out of the Paxsters and they will be delivering packages by the road instead of the footpaths.

Councillor Mel asked if NZ Post gave any reasoning behind the withdrawal, Margaret said that there was no specific reason however thinks it may be to do with the topography of the footpaths in the Nelson region and the fact that E-Bikes suit the needs better.

Action: Dwayne will follow up on what is happening within the Tasman region for Paxsters.

Works relating to footpaths / crossings / cycle paths / parking meters

NCC have trialled a new footpath profile. NCC changed preferred footpath profile to mitigate wheelchair users. This proved problematic because the vehicle ramp was steep, NCC have revisited and have a different profile. Margaret recommended the forum to take a look at Andrew Street and near Broadgreen house as there has been great feedback. Margaret explained that Grove Street is narrow, they have now maintained a level flat footpath and put the vehicle ramp on the street therefore meets the needs of the pedestrians. This is the preferred way forward.

Cycle path work:

There has been cycle path work on Annesbrook drive, Margaret mentions that the next stage will be Parkers Road/Muritai Street so it is no longer a shared path and is separate from the foot traffic.

Parking metres:

Margaret explained that NCC are renewing parking, the tender is closed. The new system will be called "pay by plate", this system has been adopted in many places including Blenheim. The system means that there is no ticket displayed on the windscreen, all you do is enter the licence plate number. This will go ahead in June 2020 and NCC will be issuing tips and tricks and there will also be an app where you can top up your car ticket remotely.

Passenger transport review

No discussion.

E-scooters

Margaret attended a national conference, Ministry of Transport will be coming out with a package called "active transport" which are proposed legislation changes. Margaret understand this will include whether they can legally ride-scooters in a cycle lane, if they should wear helmets, whether cyclists should be allowed on footpaths and the issue of pedestrian priority, the package will be out for consultation.

Action: Rhian will add the topic of the Ministry of Transport package called "active transport" to the agenda so A4A can discuss the consultation.

Nelson City Council are currently reviewing the "out and about" policy, there will be working with Councillors early 2020 and Margaret would like to engage with A4A about this.

The Forum disused their views on E-scooters and some members shared their stories with their experience with E-scooters.

Ruby discussed 80 plus driver licence and the rules required to follow once someone reaches 80.

Margaret believes that GP's should send more patients for an occupational test and that GP should 'dig deeper' as legislation changed 20 years ago and it is entirely at the discretion of the GP. Margaret also mentioned the staying safe courses and retiring driving courses mean you learn about route selection, being aware of your medication and encouraging the real cost of owning and operating a car (mobility scooter instead)

Marrit promoted the course Margret mentioned and noted that she runs "life without a car" which is a gentle reminder for what it is like to give up a car and provides solutions and

outlines the costs. The course is integrative and in groups so it make it less scary for people to stop driving.

Marrit noted that Kirsten Mirfin is an occupational therapist who can help you appeal, Karin will take you to appeal and will spend the whole day with you and it costs \$500.00.

Action: Marrit or Claire to pass on the details of Kirsten Mirfin on to the forum.

A member noted that NZ Post decision on the appropriateness of our footpaths is interesting.

Margaret noted that the decision to introduce the Paxsters rests with NZ Post not Council and NZ Post were the ones to stop them on the footpaths.

Chris thanked NCC about the new bus service. Other members of the forum agreed.

Ruby thanked NCC in regards to the timing of the lighting in the carparks at Greenmedows

7. Social Isolation - Presentation (20 minutes)

David gave a presentation to the forum regarding social isolation, social seating and social walking.

David's presentation went into detail of what seats are preferable – bright coloured seat with a back and a foot rest are designed user friendly where a bench seat for three in a row are not as it intrudes peoples space. David showed that there are seats that are close to the road, no shade and have no colour which does not encourage people to sit down and explained that the seats are neglected.

Thorpe bush have an ideal designed seat and there is also shade if needed.

David has had feedback that the vulnerable population do want to get out and about but it is hard as there is no ideal places to rest, people would walk for 20 minutes and then would get their car as they get tired.

Marty shared his idea of a 'chat chair', this idea stemmed from when Marty was speaking to a gentleman sat by the police station and Marty found out that he was the first person that the gentleman had spoken to in over a week. Marty also agrees with what David is saying.

David believes that we need to be more proactive get health boards and the health professionals around the tables and discuss this issue.

Motueka Community Board said special project funding and social seating was the highest choice of what the public wanted. There is \$10,000 is the budget and now we work with where to put the seats. Local schools can create the bright art work.

David noted that Saxton Field should have seating so you can sit down after watching a game.

Ruby noted that's she can't sit on seats that aren't high enough.

Amanda applauded David for the endorsement of the use of colour as that helps those with sensory loss.

Action: Amanda is to get volunteers with low sensory loss to get out and walk with someone to give feedback on the seats.

Councillor Mel thanked David and agreed that seating is important.

Marty suggested that there should be space for wheelchairs and people with walkers.

Conclusion:

Seat height, space for wheel chairs, shade, chair arms and colour are all issues that need to be worked on with the seats.

8. Accessibility to vote and information on candidates at the last local body elections

Karen spoke on behalf of Blind Citizens New Zealand about the accessibility to vote.

Karen explained that one member rang Nelson City Council for help and was told to get a family member to help instead.

Amanda said that she did vote but she did have an aid person. Amanda knows someone that did a private vote in a vote room where the vote is recorded and heard that this was a great option therefore Amanda thanked TDC for the recent changes, however stated it is not yet perfect.

Karen asked if TDC could make sure that next time they get the information to the Blind Citizens NZ about the candidate videos.

Councillor Mel believes this is definitely something NCC can improve on for next elections.

Action: Councillor Mel will talk to the Electoral Officer at Nelson City Council about the possibly of introducing more accessible ways for people to vote like TDC have done with the quiet room and the candidate videos. Malcom thanked TDC for the changes they have made so far.

Amanda believes that the General Elections is handled a lot better because Blind Citizens NZ pushed for the Telephone Dictation Voting Service so that you can cast a mostly independent vote. Amanda would love to see this rolled out in Local Elections too.

Ruby expressed that voting should be kept in hard copies too.

9. Disability parking

Marty introduced himself, Marty is a field worker, a social worker as well as neighbourhood support. Marty volunteers and is the co-founder of Richmond patroller and was also a coach for wheelchair basketball players

Marty brought Ryan Gibbs along with him, Ryan has been in a wheel chair for four years.

Marty wants to push forward that people are parking in the disability parks that should not be. The parking wardens say if they see it they will ticket it however police can't give the tickets to Richmond Mall parks or the Street parks.

Marty explained that people in wheelchairs need room therefore if there is no disabled parking left then they take up two parks so they can get out of the car and then they get abused for taking up two spaces.

Pamela asked if the new system NCC has for parking will be able to address this issue.

Amanda said that there would be an issue with that because Amanda uses different cars all of the time because she doesn't have her own.

The idea was floated that perhaps the meters can use a medical card pin.

Action: Callum will have a look into the parking meter issues with those using Disabled Parking Badges

Marty had the idea that the community patrol could get into a team and get into the ticket system, the forum were agreeing with this idea.

The Forum discussed disability cards and how to get them and if a photo id on the card is a possibility as anyone can use the card right now.

Action: Amanda will pass onto the group the contacts for the Disabled Parking Badges

10. Petition – Help us create safer streets/footpaths

There was a petition on micro-mobility being circulated by Hamilton City Council. The petition was circulated prior to this meeting however Amanda never intended for the forum to endorse this as a body but for people to petition as individuals if they chose too.

Callum and Margaret said that each group should sign it individually because not everyone will agree with the petition

11. General Business

Chris said that he was unclear on the Paxster situation and what does it mean that NZ Post will do?

Margaret said that you will still see Paxsters around but they will not be on the footpaths.

Chris would like proper clarification of what may change for Paxsters - this could change due to commercial imperative or depending on the demand

Action: Callum will look into the clarification of what may change for Paxsters and report back about what the final decision is

David told the forum about the call for submission for Saxton sport complex, David emphasised that we should put more effort into using it outside of sport events and think about ways we can use it.

Cr Hutt thanked everyone for their input into the meeting.

Meeting closed at 11:46am.