

# Minutes

## A4A Forum Accessibility for All

**Friday 15 May 2015 – 10.00am**  
**Wangapeka-Heaphy Room, Tasman District Council**

### Present

Cr Judene Edgar (Chair), Sarah Downs, Bettina Koessler (Tasman District Council), Mike Stevens, Kaye Halkett, Gill Clayton (Association of Blind Citizens – Nelson Branch), Donna Smith (Independent) Simon Horrocks (Independent) Marg Parfitt, Cr Eric Davy (Nelson City Council) Ruby Aberheart (Independent), Collen Plank (NMIT), Paul Richardson (Blind Foundation)

### Apologies

Brian Say, Gail Collingwood, Krista Hobday, John Harwood, Craig Simpson, Marion Edwin

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#### 1. Confirmation of minutes from the meeting of 15 May 2015

MOVED Kaye Halkett  
SECONDED Cr Eric Davy  
**CARRIED**

#### 2. Matters Arising – Action List

a. Nil

#### 3. Correspondence

Gail Collingwood has contacted the Council in relation to a list of organisations who provide wheelchairs for public use. Sarah advised that a list was put together in the past, but is unsure if there is still a current one available. This needs to be followed up on with the Customer Service Managers of both Councils to ensure that the Council's hold an up-to-date list. Sarah to contact Suzanne Wesley (TDC) and Cam Frey (NCC) in relation to this.

#### 4. Review of Engineering Standards

The Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council are about to undertake a review of the current Engineering Standards. This will be a joint effort by both the Council's and a draft will be completed by December 2015. The public will be given an opportunity to provide feedback on the standards and it is intended that the final document will be complete in October 2016. Sarah advised that this will provide a perfect opportunity for members of the A4A to put forward suggestions on standards that need to be revised. Sarah will put together a pre-consultation list of groups to contact before December 2015, including A4A and Positive Aging.

Marg added that Nelson City Council is currently in the process of upgrading some footpaths around Nelson which will make them more user friendly for pedestrians. These works will be taking place in Beach Road, Tahanau Drive and Weka Street. She advised that the best example of the new footpaths are in Weka Street and encouraged A4A members to check them out to see how much it has improved for pedestrians.

## **5. Kerbing in Greymouth**

While on a recent trip to Greymouth, Donna noticed an excellent use of grates on kerbing which makes it much easier for wheelchair users to access the footpath. Images of these were circulated to the group. She suggested it would be great to have these installed in Richmond and Motueka. Judene suggested that this would be a good suggestion to put forward for consideration in the Engineering Standards review.

## **6. Inner City Bylaw (NCC Sandwich Board Placement)**

Cr Davy advised that Nelson City Council were hoping to pass a bylaw requiring all sandwich boards to be placed against the kerb. Due to an objection received from the Blind Citizens of New Zealand, the Council has now had to review its suggestion. It has now been found that the objection was written in error and that although Blind Citizens NZ would like to see the boards removed altogether; this bylaw is a step in the right direction. Paul Richardson to address a letter to Brain McGurk of Nelson City Council confirming that the Blind Foundation is happy with the suggestion put forward.

Sarah was unsure what the Tasman District Council's Resource Management Rules stated on the location of sandwich boards. She will follow up with the Planning staff. She encouraged attendees to contact the Council if they were experiencing issues as Compliance staff would follow these up.

## **7. Queen Street Reconstruction**

Tasman District Council staff are preparing a draft Richmond Town Centre Framework which outlines the Council's vision for future development of the Richmond Town Centre. The draft will be presented to the Council meeting in July. This project will run side by side the infrastructure project upgrading the underground pipes on Queen Street. After the replacing of the underground infrastructure, work will take place on reinstating the above ground infrastructure.

Kaye advised that she would like A4A to be given an opportunity to have an input and provide feedback into how the town centre is constructed to ensure accessibility issues are taken into account. Sarah advised that the current and main focus is on the infrastructure under the ground i.e. replacement of storm water pipes. However, once that is sorted, the options above ground will be explored. Sarah will advise the A4A once the plan is available for public consultation.

Sarah added that the Tasman District Council is also currently looking at a carparking strategy and she will ensure A4A is advised when this is available for public consultation. This is likely to be in August 2015.

## **8. Richmond Mall Parking**

Ruby raised her concerns around parking at the Richmond Mall, particularly outside Pizza Hut. She does not think these parks have been well designed and pose safety risks to those parking there; it is also hard to access the footpath due to the position of a handrail. The Mall manager Belinda De Clercq is aware of the issues and is looking into solutions.

Marg added that Nelson City Council would like feedback from A4A about the possibility of accessibility parking placement on Trafalgar Street. Marg to discuss in more detail with Donna, Simon and CCS Disability Action. Ruby would also like to be involved in this discussion. Marg explained that Council has always put accessible car parks in to standard

and has some concerns about the rear unloading of a wheelchair taxi or vehicle into a live traffic lane due to angled parking. Discussion in the group pointed out the need for an accessible car park in Trafalgar Street to serve the many card holders who have limited mobility but are not wheelchair users. Rather than a formal “two-tiered” system of car parks it was felt users would soon realise what car parks are not suitable for wheelchair loading and use alternatives. Marg pointed out an updated accessible car parking map could be used to highlight this.

A question was raised as to how many people in the Nelson/Tasman area have an accessibility card in their cars. Donna to contact CCS Disability Action to obtain this information.

## **9. TDC New Recycling Service**

Due to a request by Ruby for further information on the new recycling service Adie Lang, a Tasman District Council staff member attended the meeting to present information on the new recycling service. The new service will be coming into effect from 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015. There were a number of concerns raised by members of A4A due to the size of the new recycling bins. Judene advised that people have a right to refuse the new bin, and the Council will need to look into alternatives for people who do not want them. She further advised that there will be some initial ‘teething’ issues as the new system is introduced, and encourages people to contact the Council if they have any questions or concerns about the service.

## **10. General Business**

### **a. NZ Positive Aging Report 2014**

Ruby provided copies of the NZ Positive Aging Report for Council Staff to read. She would like all the Councillors to read the report. The report can be obtained from [www.osc.govt.nz](http://www.osc.govt.nz). Judene to forward the link to this website onto all Councillors.

### **b. Saxton Field**

Marg advised that Nelson City Council will be commissioning an accessibility audit of the Saxton Facility. Marg has asked that Donna be involved and that if anybody has any ideas or suggestions for the facility to pass these onto Donna.

### **c. Shared Pathways**

Cr Davy advised that Nelson City Council is organizing a workshop on shared pathways. Marg will be involved so that feedback can be provided to A4A.

### **d. Richmond Library Stairs**

Simon raised his concerns in relation to the stairs at the back of the Richmond library in that they need to be made more visible. He also raised safety concerns about the carpark at the back of the library. Sarah advised that she will follow up the issues with the stairs with Council Property Staff asap and that the carpark layout will be looked at as part of the Council’s review of the carparking strategy and Richmond Town Centre project.

**e. Future Agenda Items**

Colleen would like to see building evacuations, in terms of accessibility, as well as parking of mobility scooters on a future agenda. Bettina will contact Colleen prior to the next meeting with regards to adding these items to the agenda.

**f. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting date was confirmed for Friday 14 August 2015.

**Meeting closed: 12:10am**

**Action List**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
List of Wheelchairs available for public use – Sarah to contact Suzanne Wesley and Cam Frey, the Customer Service Managers of both Council's in relation to this.	Sarah Downs	ASAP
Review of Engineering Standards – Sarah will put together a pre-consultation list of groups to contact before December 2015, including A4A and Positive Aging.	Sarah Downs	December 2015
Sandwich Board Bylaw – Paul to compose a letter of support confirming that the Blind Foundation is happy with the suggestion put forward. Letter to be addressed to Brain McGurk of Nelson City Council	Paul Richardson	ASAP
Sandwich Board Bylaw –Sarah to get in touch with Planning staff to gain information on what Bylaws Tasman District Council has in relation to these, and report back to A4A.	Sarah Downs	ASAP
Richmond Town Centre and Carparking Strategy – Sarah to advise A4A when these projects are up for public consultation.	Sarah Downs	When Applicable
Accessibility Parking in Trafalger Street - Marg to discuss in more detail with Donna, Simon and CCS Disability Action.	Marg Parfitt	ASAP
Accessibility Parking Cards – Donna to contact CCS Disability Action to ascertain how many people in the Nelson/Tasman region have one of these cards.	Donna Smith	ASAP
NZ Positive Aging Report 2014 – Judene to provide the following link to all Councilors: <a href="http://www.osc.govt.nz">www.osc.govt.nz</a> so they can access and read the report online.	Judene Edgar	ASAP
Richmond Library Stairs – Sarah to contact Property staff at Tasman District Council to alert them to issues raised about visibility of stairs at the back of the Richmond Library.	Sarah Downs	Passed to Jim Frater – TDC Property Manager
Future Agenda Items – Bettina to contact Colleen prior to next meeting for suggestions on Agenda Items	Bettina Koessler	Prior to next A4A meeting (14 August 15)