

Minutes

A4A Forum Accessibility for All

Friday 16 August 2013 – 10.00am
Wangapeka-Heaphy Room, Tasman District Council

Present

Cr Judene Edgar (Chair), Sarah Downs, Ben Smithies, Krista Hobday, Matt Feely, Bettina Koessler (Tasman District Council), Mike Stevens, Brian Say, Kaye Halkett, Jill Clayton (Association of Blind Citizens), Barbara Gould (CCS Disability Action), Simon Horrocks (Independent), Jane Chamberlain (NMIT), Ruby Aberhart (Nelson/Tasman Positive Ageing and VCC) and John Harwood (Hearing Association).

Apologies

Wendy Wadsworth, Marion Edwin, Karen Brookes, Donna Smith, Marg Parfitt, Sharon Medcalf.

1. Confirmation of minutes from the meeting of 31 May 2013

MOVED Kaye Halkett
SECONDED Brian Say
CARRIED

2. Matters Arising – Action List

- Sarah to complete two matters still outstanding. Copy of letter from Otago University to be sent out to all those in attendance at last meeting. NBus 'Transfer Ticket' to be included in the Newline, Live Nelson and TDC Website.
- Marg was to talk to Simon and Neville to obtain the correct wording for information about the NBus Transfer Ticket to be included on the website. Judene to follow up.
- Handholds to be fitted to buses to provide support for those in wheelchairs. Simon needs to follow this up with NBus.
- 111 Txting Service. Information has been distributed, however, Sarah to follow up on the progress of this.

3. Correspondence

- Donna received letter from TDC thanking A4A for their submission for funding to be put towards the production of an accessibility parking map. Unfortunately the request for funding has been turned down. Judene suggested that the group instead apply to Council for a grant from rates. Brian will put forward an application on behalf of A4A. Sarah to provide assistance with this. Sarah also to provide a copy of the original submission to Brian.
- Sarah has sent a submission to Nelson City Council on behalf of A4A for the Speed Limit Bylaw. Currently awaiting a formal reply on this submission.

4. Silent Leadership

Judene provided an overview of the Silent Leadership challenge in which she took part in. This involved corporate and community leaders wearing earmuffs for a day, to provide them with an idea of what the world is like for those living with a hearing impairment. Judene believed this to be a challenging but very worthwhile experience. Nationally, 43 people took part in the challenge and a total of \$53,000 was raised for the Foundation for the Deaf. Judene wrote a review of her experience which was included as an article in the local paper. Ruby asked for a copy of the review to be sent to the Office of Senior Citizens so it could be distributed nationwide. She also suggested including the review in next edition of Mudcakes and Roses.

5. Mobility Scooters

Ruby raised a concern about the speed at which mobility scooters travel through urban areas, in particular the Richmond Mall. She questioned whether people who use such modes of transport undergo any sort of training. Krista advised that currently both Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council no longer fund advertising on this type of training. Judene believes there are two aspects to this issue. One being the medical or health perspective and the other being a road safety perspective. She suggested inviting a representative from each field to come along and present at the next A4A meeting. Possibly a policeman and an occupational therapist. This is to be added as a major agenda item for next meeting.

6. Draft Local Alcohol Policy

Sarah raised the idea that the local alcohol policy is about to come under review and questioned whether it was worthwhile for the A4A to put forward a submission. Judene did not see much relevance of the policy to A4A. It was decided this will not be pursued.

7. Queen Street Changes – Kmart and Warehouse

Kaye raised some concerns about this development at the last A4A meeting. Sarah presented the plans of the layout of the new car park and the idea of a new roundabout to be constructed at Wensley Road. Judene advised that there will be significant communication with the community on the changes to take place on Queen Street. Kaye still concerned that new developments, especially another roundabout will make it very difficult especially for the sight impaired. Sarah is to discuss with Gary Clark, Transportation Manager, TDC regarding alterations happening to Wensley Road and also a possible pedestrian crossing at Kmart.

From this discussion it would appear that something needs to be done with regards to the issues discussed i.e. pedestrian issues at roundabouts and making sure enhanced features are included to provide for pedestrian safety. Krista suggested speaking with Andrew James from New Zealand Transport Authority. Judene is to investigate further and perhaps bring someone along to next meeting who could shed some light on this.

General Business

- **Contractor Complaints**

Ruby advised that she had an altercation earlier in the month with a contractor who had parked a vehicle in a disability designated parking space. Krista advised that unfortunately these things may happen from time to time and the best thing to do in future is to note the registration plate of the vehicle, so it can easily be traced within a company. Any issues relating to this can be passed directly to Krista in future. Email: Krista.hobday@tasman.govt.nz or Ph (03) 543 8551.

- **Sandwich Board Bylaw**

Mike has been in contact with David Jackson at Nelson City Council on behalf of the Association of Blind Citizens with regards to the Sandwich Board Bylaw. He has been advised that the law will be coming under review in 2017. Mike has expressed that this is far too far in the future for an issue that needs to be addressed now. He will investigate the issue further, at a national level, and will report back at the next meeting.

Judene has asked Mike to keep A4A up to date on his progress with regards to this issue.

- **NBus**

Brian has been in contact with SBL regarding the possibility of a discounted or free service which could be offered to those living with a disability. He is currently gathering further information regarding this and will provide an update at the next A4A meeting.

- **Building Update**

Ben Smithies addressed the group and provided an update from Tasman District Councils Building Department, in particular advising that Council planners are striving to force architects and designers to take into account minimal standards such as providing good accessibility features in new developments. Judene questioned whether Nelson City Council has someone who is carrying out the same type of investigations. Ben will get in contact with Nelson City Council to gather more information on this. The idea of a standard letter outlining such things which could be sent out to new developers was discussed. Judene suggested referring to submissions made to previous developments to gain a better understanding for what the letter could include.

- **Richmond Mall Manager**

Kaye raised the idea of approaching the new Richmond Mall manager and inviting her along to the A4A forum so that she could provide information on what systems the mall has in place for customer safety and accessibility. Judene suggested that a letter first be written to the manager introducing the group to her and including information on upcoming meeting dates. She emphasized the idea of 'good discussions' which could be had together with the group. Judene will draft a letter.

Meeting closed: 11:56am

Next meeting: 15 November 2013

Action List

Action	Who	Timing
Copy of letter from Otago University to be sent out to all those in attendance at last meeting. NBus 'Transfer Ticket' to be included in the Newsline, Live Nelson and TDC Website.	Sarah	ASAP
Marg was to talk to Simon and Neville to obtain the correct wording for information about the NBus Transfer Ticket to be included on the website. To be followed up.	Judene	ASAP
Handholds to be fitted to buses to provide support for those in wheelchairs. To be followed up with NBus.	Simon	ASAP

111 Txting Service. Information has been distributed, however, progress of this needs to be followed up on.	Sarah	ASAP
Copy of Silent Leadership challenge review to be sent to the Office of Senior Citizens for distribution. Also suggested including the review in next edition of Mudcakes and Roses.	Judene	ASAP
Issue surrounding mobility scooters to be added as a major item on the next agenda.	Sarah	Next Meeting
Look into inviting someone along at next meeting to provide information from the two different perspectives discussed surrounding mobility scooters; health and safety perspective and road safety perspective.	Judene	ASAP
Carry out further investigation into safety at roundabouts and possibly inviting someone along to present some ideas at next meeting.	Judene	Next Meeting
A4A to be kept up to date regarding the Sandwich Board Bylaw. An update to be provided to the forum from investigations into the issue at a national level.	Mike	Next Meeting
To report back on the progress with Nbus and possible subsidised rates for those living with a disability.	Brian	Next Meeting
Letter to be written to the new Richmond Mall manager introducing the group and providing information on upcoming meeting dates.	Judene	ASAP