

Chairperson's Report to the Accessibility for All Forum 12 February 2018 Dana Wensley

Welcome

Welcome to the first meeting of A4A for the year. Last year was a busy one, and I hope you all had a chance over Christmas to recharge your batteries and are feeling enthused to face whatever challenges this year throws at us! I want to thank you all for your input and commitment which is impressive, and for the opportunity to be the Chair last year. Each year a new election must be held for Chair and, although I am happy to continue, this is matter for the forum as a whole to decide.

A4A: Strategic Planning

The *Accessibility for All Forum* operates at a strategic level to literally “build the world we want” considering the whole journey, from parents with prams, seniors with walkers, those with hearing and sight impairments, to those on mobility scooters and so on. For newcomers, it is important to point out that this forum advocates at a strategic level, and examines the whole accessible journey of those living in the Nelson / Tasman region.

An Impressive Year: Thanks to All

Last year we made impressive advances in the discussions around accessibility.

1. We revised the ‘Good Access = Good Business’ checklist, and it was good to get the input of you all, alongside the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board, and Age Concern. I am firmly committed to working broadly across groups to leverage skills and advance issues at a strategic level. This will be ‘rolled out’ when we have the time to focus again when the Rodney Tolley Workshop is complete.
2. We also convened a special meeting to address the Paxster issue that arrived at our door unexpectedly last year, and it was wonderful to see the discussion and thoughtful responses that our special meeting resulted in. This allowed me to make a Chair’s report that went to the Engineering Services Committee last year. An Engineering services Committee meeting will vote again on 15 February on whether to postpone the rollout until further results are forthcoming from the Hamilton City Council trial. I will update you about the outcome at the A4A meeting on 16 February.
3. I have attended, where possible, the Richmond and Motueka Community and Whanau meetings and presented A4A concerns and information to the wider community. As Council representative on the Positive Ageing Forum I also attend these and present our news and work streams which has received a positive response.
4. I have regular meetings with Age Concern, and was pleased to attend the first meeting in conjunction with the DHB organised by Brylee Wayman (Senior Policy Advisor: Tasman District Council) last year. This is a major step forward, and it was significant to

enable each party to see shared concerns, and where we could best use our resources to address issues in our community.

5. The significant task in front of us now is to get ready for the Rodney Tolley Workshop on Active Transport that is scheduled for 12 March. I hope you can all attend as this will be a great opportunity to hear from a leader in the field, and we have an exciting panel discussion lined up. Megan has taken over the huge role of organising this, and we will hear from her today.

It has been a year of learning, and I am pleased to say that it is a learning journey I am happy we can take together. I want to take this opportunity to thank Nelson City Council's Deputy Mayor Paul Matheson for his support and the input of Nelson City Council. As Marg Parfitt moves on to new things we wish her all the best and thank her for the huge input and expertise she has provided us in the past. Thanks to you all for your attendance and to Megan and the Engineering staff and council staff generally from both Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council who continue to support this forum.