

Minutes

A4A Forum Accessibility for All

Friday 10 February 2012 – 10.00am
Wangapeka/Heaphy Room, Tasman District Council

Present

Donna Smith (CCS Disability Action) (Chair), Kaye Halkett (Association of Blind Citizens), Ruby Aberhart (Nelson/Tasman Positive Ageing and VCC), Mike Tasman-Jones (Tasman District Council), Sarah Downs (Tasman District Council), Simon Horrocks (Independent), Karen Brookes (Golden Bay Community Board), Marion Edwin (Ergonomics Specialist and Barrier Free Adviser), Marg Parfitt (Nelson City Council), Liam Butler (Support Works) and Brian Say, (Association of Blind Citizens)

In attendance

Robyn Scherer (Tasman District Council, Minutes)

Apologies

Cr Judene Edgar, John Harwood, Mark Nalder, Wendy Wadsworth, Jane Kinsey, Dave Tippett and Adrian Humphries

Donna Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that in Cr Edgar's absence she would chair the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes from the meeting of 5 August 2011.

MOVED Kaye Halkett
SECONDED Karen Brookes
CARRIED

Matters Arising/Action List Update

- Donna Smith suggested that a recap of A4A's activities and successful achievements for 2011 would highlight the importance of the group and ensure that the community is aware of what we have done. This was enthusiastically agreed by everyone. Suggested outlets included Newsline, Mudcake and Roses, Waimea Weekly, the Positive Aging Expo etc. Items to highlight include the Accessibility Workshop in November and the purchase of two beach chairs. Sarah to action.
- It was also suggested that we could share our success on a national basis with an article on Local Government magazine – Sarah to pursue this opportunity.
- It was also agreed that the dates of the forum meetings for 2012 be advertised in Newsline, the Waimea Weekly, Richmond Leader, Community Support Services mailing list etc. Sarah to action.
- Sarah advised that she had run a similar "accessibility workshop" with the Building Inspectors who all agreed that the exercise was extremely valuable in terms of their role with Council.

- Simon Horrocks congratulated the workshop attendees for their courage in participating in the exercise. He acknowledged that people do need to learn in using aids like wheelchairs, even those with a disability.
- Accessible car parks in Nelson – It was agreed that the forum should write to Nelson City Council applauding their decision to paint the accessible car parks. Sarah to write to Alec Louverdis at NCC.
- Liam suggested that this was an opportunity to invite Marlborough District Council to also paint their accessible car parks – Sarah will write to MDC suggesting this. It was also agreed that minutes from the A4A meetings would be sent to Marlborough District Council.
- In terms of the accessibility workshop the forum agreed that a list of all the issues that were raised should be worked through by a separate working group to ensure that we can approach the right people to gain resolution. Sarah will prepare a list of the issues and Kaye Halkett, Brian Say, Ruby Aberhart and Sarah volunteered to join the working group. An action plan will be provided at the May meeting for the forum’s approval. It was also agreed that Sarah will obtain copies of the guidelines from each of the Councils.
- It was suggested that the forum could set up a system to recognise “access-friendly” businesses, eg McGlashen’s Pharmacy in Richmond. This could include an “A4A approved” sticker. Sarah to investigate.

Long Term Plans

Both Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council will shortly be releasing their Draft Long Term Plans for consultation. Nelson’s submission period closes on 16 May and Tasman’s on 3 April 2012.

Marg Parfitt noted that Nelson had included some funding for accessibility as part of its “wish list” However the recent flooding event means that any new funding is unlikely to be approved. Marg suggested that A4A could put a submission to Nelson City for consistency in regulations (eg sandwich boards) across both Councils.

Any suggested items for submission to the Councils should be sent to Donna Smith.

Motueka

Marion Edwin will contact David Ogilvie, Chair of the Motueka Community Board about her role with the forum and how she can help the people of Motueka. Robyn to provide David’s details to Marion.

Council’s Printed Material, eg Newslines

Kaye Halkett discussed the issues for the sight-impaired with the layout and lack of contrast in the Council’s print material, noticeably Newslines the Mag which is very difficult to read. Other publications are also difficult to read. It was agreed that Chris Choat, Council’s Communications Manager and Paul Jennings from Dry Crust (Council’s graphics designer) would be invited to attend the next A4A meeting on 18 May 2012. Robyn to action.

Liam Butler also suggested that now that Mudcake & Roses had been dropped, their stories should be included in Newslines.

Beach Chairs

Donna noted that the two new beach chairs have been well used over summer. She cited a particular case of a young lady from New Plymouth who had not been on a beach for 20 years and was thrilled to use the chair. Donna has approached the Motueka Recreation Centre to see if they would like a chair and she will apply for funding if they agreed they would like one permanently. Again, this is a real success story from the forum.

General Business

Capitel Telephones

Ruby Aberhart reported that hearing impaired people can get government funding (50% subsidy) for these phones. They are available via the Ministry of Economic Development.

Brian Say noted that the government also has a funding scheme for people to convert to digital television if they can't afford it.

Post Boxes

Ruby noted issues with various post boxes in terms of their height and being accessible for people to use.

The meeting closed at 11.55 pm.

Next meeting – Friday 18 May 2012

Actions

Action	Who	Timing
Wheelchair availability list - contact Brent Maru and Whenua Iti regarding wheelchair availability in the Motueka area.	Sarah	31 Oct
David Stephenson to be invited to meeting re location of wheelie & rubbish bins	Sarah	31 Aug
Wheelchair accessibility to beaches – summer trail of mats – report back to 2012 Forum – <i>Did not happen</i>	Mike Tasman-Jones	
Business Accessibility Sheet	Judene	31 Oct
Montgomery Square carpark – letter to NCC & N Knight	Judene	31 Aug
Gladstone Road lights – Issues to be discussed at State Highway liaison meeting	Judene	16 Sept

Annual Plan Submissions

Tasman District Council	Nelson City Council
Handrails in non-accessible toilets	Handrails in non-accessible toilets