

Access and Mobility Forum, Meeting Notes held in the Committee Room, Marlborough District Council on Monday 10 June 2019 at 2.00 pm

Present

Clr Jenny Andrews (Chair), Rhys Thomason (People First), Ricky Shadbolt (Greypower), Rachel Burden (Idea Services), Lorraine Duthie (People First), David Clode (CCS), Camilla Nilsson, (Idea Services), Diane Gibb (MS & Parkinsons), Phil Hunnisett (Greypower), Glenn Spencer, Steve Murrin (Marlborough Roads), Bryan Strong (MSCVT), Kevin Blake (MSCVT), Hularii McKenzie, Shona Currie (Greypower), Dianne Woolf (CCS)

MDC Staff

Jane Tito (Reserves and Amenities Manager, Grahame Smail (Reserves and Amenities Officer), Robyn Blackburn (Road Safety Co-ordinator), Bill East (Building Control Manager), Cleone Stringer (Customer Services), Stacey Boswell (Communications Advisor), Braden Prideaux (Bike Walk Marlborough Co-ordinator)

Guest speakers:

Ben Lucas

Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (MDC Secretary)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Clr Andrews welcomed everyone to the meeting. Stacey Boswell noted that she was going to take a few photos and write a short article on the meeting for the next issue of Marlborough Midweek.

2. Apologies

Catherine Donnelly, Carl Gihon, Linette Mortlock, Nigel Perry, Lynne Nichol, Penelope Banfield, Jill Scoble, Jane Tito (for part of the meeting)

Moved: David Clode

Seconded: Diane Gibb

Carried

3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes

The minutes of 25 March 2019 were taken as read.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence was tabled.

5. Marlborough Roads Update – Steve Murrin

- A new pedestrian crossing under the new design standard has been installed at Picton School across Kent Street. The new design will not be used for all crossings as they cost \$40,000 to install but will be used at high priority sites.
- Pricings are being sought for the first set of pedestrian signal lights in Marlborough; to be installed across Nelson Street for the Marlborough Girls College and Bohally Intermediate pedestrian traffic. This will probably need to be upgraded again when the new colleges' development takes place.



**Figure 1 Picton School's new crossing:
Photo credit: Paula Hulburt**

- Island pedestrian refuges have been installed around Blenheim; two on Muller Road, one on Scott Street and one on Weld Street. Installation of one at the Howick/Hospital Road intersection is also taking place.
- Footpath reseals have been completed on Francis and Rogers Street and Wellington Street in Picton.
- A new footpath has been installed in Purser Crescent.
- The issue of slippery pavers in the CBD is being addressed. Four different solutions to the problem are being trialled on High Street. A map of the sites is provided in Appendix 1. Steve invited the members to provide feedback directly to him on the different prototypes. steve.murrin@nzta.govt.nz
- The Marlborough Bylaw Speed Limit Review is taking place shortly. Submissions open on 1 July.
- The roading maintenance contract will be up for tender shortly.

Questions/Answers

- The issue of the disappearance of mobility parks was brought up. It was noted that Marlborough Roads is only responsible for mobility parks on roads and not in car parks. There was discussion on whether there are now less mobility parks at the New World car park than there used to be. *(It was confirmed after the meeting that the New World car park has the correct amount of car parks as set out in its building consent and resource consent.)*
- Steve confirmed that other schools on State Highways would be eligible to have the new design crossings installed but that funding for State Highways needs to be applied for 18 months in advance. He suggested that the Access and Mobility Forum could write to Marlborough Roads requesting these crossings be installed at these schools.
- The proposal to put a roundabout on the Battys/Burleigh Road corner is subject to rezoning. If rezoning takes place Battys Road will become an urban street.
- Wheelchair access to the post-box outside the CBD Café on Queen Street was discussed, Steve noted that the possibility of bringing the level of this part of Queen Street to the same level as the Forum and Liz Davidson Place is currently being looked at by Council and that this would fix the current difficulties accessing the post-box.
- Steve is looking at the issue of lack of visibility when residents are trying to exit in their cars or scooters from residential homes due to cars and SUV's parking close to exits.

Steve withdrew from the meeting at 2.20 pm.

6. Building Control Update – Bill East (Building Control Manager – MDC)

- A large influx of requests for Certificates of Acceptance means timeframes are not always being met for building consents.
- The Awatere Hall alterations are nearing completion. Accessibility has been improved at the Hall.
- Modular building, product certification, Licensed Building Practitioners Scheme and changing the certification of Chartered Professional Engineers are all being addressed in the reforms to the Building Act. Other reforms include the proposal of capping the liability of councils to 20% and reducing building levies.
- The repairs to Stadium 2000 are nearing completion.
- Building Control fees are going up on 1 July, this is to redress the loss incurred when boat inspections are carried out and fix the discrepancy in fees when a building consent has been issued in the past under much cheaper fees but the work is being carried out by Building Control now when costs are much higher.

Questions/Answers

- Bill clarified that a new building must comply with the Building Code and Accessibility requirements, however alterations must improve the accessibility situation. There is discretion in the Act to allow alterations which do not improve accessibility where fixing an accessibility issue would mean the end of a project. (Sec 122 of the Building Act).

Jane Tito and Bill East withdrew from the meeting at 2.30 pm.

7. Guest Speaker – Ben Lucas

- Ben began by giving the group an outline of his early life which was very active and sporty.
- He had a motorbike accident while living in Auckland when he was 24. The accident caused a burst fracture of the third lumbar vertebrae with the result that he was told he could never walk again. Ben spent a lot of time in hospital and the spinal unit before moving back to Blenheim.
- His message to the group focussed on how lucky he felt that he had a very full and active life before his accident and has continued to do so since then.
- Ben became interested in wheel chair racing and after completing his first race, headed overseas to compete internationally. He has spent a lot of time competing in different countries. Highlights from his career include a Boston Marathon time of 1 hr 27 mins, being flagbearer at the Sydney and Atlanta Paralympics and winning a bronze medal in the marathon at the 1994 Commonwealth Games.
- Ben noted the incredible facility Marlburians now have with the paths on the Taylor River.
- Ben's message is that life is what you make it. He has retired from racing now and lives at Lincoln with his wife and children and works as an Advisor to the Customer Group at ACC.
- Ben demonstrated his new Omeo wheelchair. These chairs have used Segway technology to develop a chair which is hands free with the user governing the direction, speed and braking through body movements.
- Omeo is a New Zealand company and the chairs are now being sold internationally.
- Ben says that the Omeo has been life-changing in many ways. He is able to go off-road and access areas where he would never have been able to travel in a normal wheelchair including bush tracks, mountain bike tracks and spending time with his family in places where he would not ordinarily be able to access.



8. Changing Places – Hularii McKenzie

- Hularii introduced himself to the group. He has a nine year old daughter with cerebral palsy and has been liaising with the Council to provide better toilet facilities for disabled people. Hularii handed out a supporting document on Changing Places, which is a company supplying fully accessible toilets. Hularii submitted to the Annual Plan for a facility such as Changing Places to be included in the new library build.
- The full Changing Places NZ General Information document can be found on the Changing Places Website
<http://www.changingplaces.org.nz/downloads/Downloads.htm>
- Hularii noted that the new accessible changing place, Te Huri at Liz Davidson Place has been really good for allowing his family to attend events in Blenheim, however it is quite small and there is a requirement for larger facilities in Marlborough, so that two carers can be accommodated as well as the person being taken care of.
- So far there is only one Changing Places facility in New Zealand which is situated in Hamilton. There are 1100 in the UK and 50 in Australia.

- Changing Places facilities use a swipe card access system with a card that can be used at any facility in the country. If they were dotted throughout the country people travelling could plan their trip to use them as they went.
- He noted that Australia have now included the requirement for an adult change table in their National Construction Code.
<https://www.abcb.gov.au/Resources/Publications/Consultation/Accessible-adult-change-facilities-in-public-buildings>
- Hularii noted that Jen Hooper the national rep for Changing Places may be available to attend one of the Access and Mobility Forums to give a presentation on the facilities.

Ben Lucas, Lorraine Duthie and Rachel Burden withdrew from the meeting at 3.30 pm.

9. Road Safety Update – Robyn Blackburn

- Robyn attended a Ministry of Social Development (MSD) workshop on Achieving Full Accessibility in April where making all things accessible was discussed with different council representatives from around the country. Notes from that meeting were attached to the previous minutes.
 - One of Robyn's concerns is that the Subdivision Code of Practice being used by Council is from 2004 and is outdated. Developers only have to develop to this standard which does not take into account new pedestrian best practices.
 - One of the outcomes from the meeting was that any changes need to be mandated from central government.
- Discussion took place on the walkability map with regard to disability spaces in carparks which are currently not shown on the map. Robyn noted it was a conscious decision not to include too much parking information as it cluttered the map and that the map was planned mainly for pedestrian use.
 - It was suggested putting the information on Antenno but it was noted that as a lot of people with disabled permits are elderly it might be better to produce a list for distribution. Robyn and Dianne Woolf agreed to look into this with the help of Marlborough Roads. This information could be put on the Council website and at the front counter. It was noted that adding a sticker indicating there are disabled spaces to existing car parking signs would also be helpful.
- It was noted that NZTA are developing a pedestrian network guidance document which will be released in August. This should help councils to improve the existing footpath network.

10. Reserves Update – Grahame Smail

- Playground upgrades continue to be undertaken and improving accessibility is considered when the improvements are being made.
- Toilet facilities are being upgraded at Redwoodtown, Horton Park, Taylor Dam and Havelock Domain. Council is improving the accessibility of these toilets while they are being upgraded. If possible a standard accessible cubicle is being incorporated into the renovation.
- Council is constantly trying to eliminate trip hazards and difficult to navigate areas in reserves and parks around the district.

11. MSCVT Update – Bryan Strong

- Bryan brought the National Assistance Travel Scheme to the attention of the group. This scheme is available for qualifying people to get a refund on long distance travel to medical appointments. Accommodation can also be refunded. Forms can be picked up from Wairau Hospital. More information on eligibility is included on the website link below:
<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/health-care-services/hospitals-and-specialist-services/travel-assistance/whos-eligible-travel-assistance>
- Bryan has noticed a reduction in requests for the Trust to pick up people who have been left stranded at Nelson after being transferred there from Wairau Hospital.

12. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

No	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Look into the tree obstructing the view on Maxwell Road and Queen Street and the hedge at the corner of Sinclair and Main Street	Robyn
	The hedge on Sinclair Street has been trimmed. The exact location of the trees blocking the view on Maxwell Road needs to be determined – deferred to next meeting	
2.	Find out about the reduction in mobility parking to one space outside the library	Robyn
	One mobility space was lost when the Health Hub moved to the old theatre - completed	
3.	Invite Steve Murrin to the meeting to address roading issues - completed	Rebecca
4.	Find out if the bus stop signs on the roads are going to be repainted soon	Robyn
	The bus service is currently under review and painting will take place after the decision on whether to remove some of the stops is made - completed	
5.	Follow up with Graeme Haymes whether the change to the appointment booking system for the Health Shuttle is temporary	Clr Andrews
	The system is permanent and Marlborough has been added to the answering message - completed	
6.	Follow up on David's submission to the Long Term Plan	Clr Andrews
	The issues addressed in David's submission on Battys Road will be addressed with the Marlborough Speed Bylaws Review - completed	

13. General Business

- It was noted that the ASB Theatre has a wheelchair which can be used by those with medical or mobility issues who don't normally use a chair, so that they are able to attend a show in comfort. This service should be asked for in advance.
- It was noted anyone who requires use of the Liz Davidson accessible facility need to take their own sling. It was suggested that information on the facility should be put on Council's website.

14. Next Meeting

- The next meeting is being held on 16 September 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

15. Actions from the Meeting

No	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Look into the tree obstructing the view on Maxwell Road and Queen Street and the hedge at the corner of Sinclair and Main Street	Robyn
2.	Produce a list of disabled parks available in the region's car parks with the help of Dianne Woolf (CCS) and Marlborough Roads	Robyn
3.	Investigate putting the Liz Davidson Adult Changing Facility (Te Huri) on the website (include the need to take own sling)	Jane

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm.

Record No: 19137358

Appendix 1

