

Access and Mobility Forum, Meeting Notes held in the Committee Room, Marlborough District Council on Monday 25 March 2019 at 2.30 pm

Present

Clr Jenny Andrews (Chair), Rhys Thomason (People First), Bryan Strong (MSCVT), Nigel Perry (Picton Senior Citizens), Ricky Shadbolt (Age Concern), Rachel Burden (Idea Services), Lorraine Duthie (Idea Services), David Clode (CCS Disability Action), Dianne Gibb (MS & Parkinsons), Rachel Burden (Idea Services), Jill Scoble (Marlborough Stroke Club), Linnette Mortlock, Phil Hunnisett (Greypower), Shona Currie (Greypower), Dianne Woolf (CCS Disability Action) Carl Gihon (NMDHB)

MDC Staff

Jane Tito (Reserves and Amenities Manager), Robyn Blackburn (Road Safety Co-ordinator), Bill East (Building Control Manager), Cleone Stringer (Customer Services)

Guest speakers:

Jo Lane and Taylah Rasmussen – Marlborough Youth Trust

Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (MDC Secretary)

1. Apologies

Lynne Nicholl, Lyn McKay, Camilla Nilsson, Glenn Spencer, Penelope Banfield

2. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes

Jill Scoble/Phil Hunnisett: That the minutes of 3 December 2018 be confirmed.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

- Robyn has requested the Marlborough Express to write an article about cars parking on berms and driveways but is still waiting for this to happen.

4. Actions from the Previous Meeting

No	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Investigate when sealing will be completed on Wither Road (Taylor Pass Road to Recycling Centre) - completed	Stuart Donaldson
2.	Enquire who has responsibility for paths and grass verges outside of Churchill Glade and the tennis courts at Pollard Park – work will be carried out on this area in conjunction with the colleges upgrade - completed	Jane
3.	Arrange for some education on access issues in the local papers – completed see above	Robyn
4.	Investigate the obscured flashing speed sign on McLauchlan Street – there is legislation on where the sign has to be placed and as there are a lot of driveways and power poles etc. on the street, the sign has been placed in the only possible location	Robyn

No	Action	Person Responsible
5.	Check out the gap between the curbing and swings at Picton Foreshore – the gap has been repaired - completed	Jane

Bus parking at Pollard Park

- The issue of the two bus parking bays at Pollard Park was discussed.

5. Guest Speaker – Jo Lane and Taylah Rasmussen – Marlborough Youth Trust (MYT)

- Jo has been working with youth for 10 years now.
- There is a need for somewhere safe outside of school for the young people of Marlborough. New Zealand youth are defined as anyone between 12 -24 years old.
- Jo presented a Powerpoint to the group. Some main points from the presentation below:

Some programmes which come under the MYT umbrella:

- CACTUS
- Youth in Emergency Services
- Youth Employability Programme
- Police Competency Test
- Work Choice
- The Marlborough Youth Trust Advisory Group is a collection of 25 young Marlburians between the ages of 12 and 24 from all walks of life who advise and assist in events, programmes and youth initiatives.
- Jo mentioned a good website to help young people understand who they are. <https://allright.org.nz/theme/find-your-spark/>
- The Council have made a building available for the MYT to rent which is being refurbished to use as a Youth Development Centre on the corner of Kinross and Redwood Street. The building should be ready to move into this May.
- The vision for the centre includes:
 - creating a common space for use by youth and youth groups
 - multi purpose, multi functional accessible areas
 - music room and recording suite
 - stage and performance area
 - café/learning kitchen
 - portable sound shell
 - indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities and equipment
 - portable rock climbing wall



Figure 1 Example of a portable climbing wall



Figure 2 Example of a green screen

- art and craft making and display
- outdoor cooking, entertainment and edible gardens
- a green screen film recording studio
- media suite
- youth worker office space
- homework spaces
- **There is also potential for:**
 - counselling area
 - family meetings
 - all mobility access
 - extended hours
 - day programmes for alternative education
 - conferences
 - professional training
 - interdisciplinary initiatives
- Due to the structure of the building it may only be able to be accessed upstairs externally by people with disabilities, but Jo is still working on this problem.
- Jo noted that young people in New Zealand are very worried about the environment and passionate about equality.

6. Building Control Update – Bill East

- Building Control is busy with new dwellings in new subdivisions. There is also a lot happening in the viticulture industry with new wineries being built.
- Bill is increasingly coming across issues with small portable homes that require building consent. It is important to do your homework before purchasing this type of home as although there are some being constructed correctly on trailers which are fully portable and are classed as vehicles, there are other companies which are building homes on wheels which will be classed as buildings and therefore require building consent. Contact the Building Control team for information if you have any doubts before buying one of these structures.
- MBIE has made a determination on a modular style of accessible toilet which initially didn't meet the requirements of the building code as the toilet roll holder did not comply with the building code. MBIE have now determined that the structure reasonably complies. Determinations and information on healthy homes etc. can be found at MBIE's website <https://www.building.govt.nz/>.
- This is the third year of swimming pool inspections which will mean all swimming pools will have been inspected in Marlborough by the end of the year. Initial compliance has been poor with over 50% failing. Mainly this has been due to a lack of maintenance such as self-locking gates or latches not working.
- There is a large amount of voluntary earthquake strengthening of commercial buildings taking place in the region.
- Any buildings built before 2000 could possibly contain asbestos. It can be found in soffits, ceilings, wall claddings, under vinyl etc. It is important that asbestos is removed correctly.

Jo Lane and Taylah Rasmussen withdrew from the meeting at 3.35 pm.

Questions/Answers

- Shona asked why more smaller houses to cater for the increasing older population and those that live on their own aren't being built in Marlborough. Bill noted that Marlborough developers are still building to the maximum size of the property and this is bucking the trend in other regions. It could be because land values are very high in Marlborough. He agreed that there is a real need for smaller first homes or retirement type properties. It is normally the developer who decides the property sizes and that the market is the driving force.
- Bill noted that there has been a recent survey which has shown that seasonal workers are not causing the rental shortage in the region.

Bill withdrew from the meeting at 3.40 pm.

7. Road Safety Update – Robyn Blackburn

- From 1 April contractors will be checking for overhanging growth over footpaths. There has been a change in the process this year to speed up getting results. From now on a note will go through the letterbox and then a letter will be posted to the owner who will have 30 days to comply. If the work isn't done within the 30 days, the contractor will carry out the trimming and invoice the owner.
- A tree which is obstructing the view when turning from Queen Street onto Maxwell Road was discussed. Robyn is going to look into the issue.
- The Stride and Ride programme which is run with primary schools in the region has just taken place.
- Advertising and promotion around near miss reporting for cyclists and pedestrians has been taking place. If you have a near miss with a vehicle, report it to the Council either via the website or ring the Council and the CSO's will complete a form on your behalf. The data is important and will be used to inform future planning.
- Robyn is attending an accessibility workshop in Christchurch being run by the Ministry for Social Development. Discussion on subjects such as "What does fully accessible mean for you" will be taking place. Robyn will take information she has learned from the Forum and the walkability process to the meeting. She noted that pedestrian and active transport facilities could be done better when roads are being put in for new subdivisions.

Subsequent to the meeting Robyn provided notes from the workshop which are attached in Appendix 1.

Questions/Answers

- The mobility parking outside the library has been reduced to one space. Robyn is going to look into this. There is another mobility park at the Countdown carpark but this is too far away from the library for people with mobility issues who just want to go to the library and this carpark is sometimes blocked in by campervans.
- Cllr Andrews suggested that the public needs to be reminded that they shouldn't use disabled parking unless they are entitled.

Carl Gihon withdrew from the meeting at 3.55 pm.

- There was an event last week for mobility scooters in the Forum with 48 attendees. The numbers were down from last year due to the event having been postponed because of the weather and other competing events on the day.
- There is a problem with a hedge obstructing the footpath on Sinclair Street near the corner of Main Street. Robyn is going to look into it.
- The road surfaces in the area were discussed. Steve Murrin will be invited to the next meeting to give an update on resealing and works scheduled for the Marlborough area.

- There is a problem with cars parking in the bus stops in the town because the paint has faded and drivers are unaware they are in a bus stop. Robyn is going to look into when they are due to be repainted.

Robyn withdrew from the meeting at 4.05 pm.

8. Reserves Update – Jane Tito

- Phase 1 of the Pollard Park upgrade had been completed. Phase 2 is underway. The old playground equipment has been relocated to a new reserve at Boulevard on Taylor.
- Musical equipment which was fundraised for by the same parents group who provided the liberty swing is going to be installed at the Pollard Park playground. A new barbeque is being installed as well.
- A new playground has been installed outside the Stadium 2000.
- There is new beanbag storage which doubles as seating in the Forum.
- There is some new playground equipment at Burleigh Park.
- A two pronged assessment of trees at parks and reserves is being carried out with trees which are damaged or dying being identified firstly and then an arborist is following up with a more complete assessment on the tree and removing or pruning being carried out if necessary.
- Courtesy signs pointing out the shared pathway on the Taylor Reserve have been installed.
- Work is being carried out to see if the A and P Grandstand is able to be removed.
- There have been about 500 more freedom campers this year than last year bringing the number counted by Council to approximately 12,000. Central Government figures show about 11,000 freedom campers coming through Marlborough every month between December and end of March. 73% of these people stay in Marlborough less than 24 hours.
 - There are two rangers and a contractor for after hours during the summer season to keep an eye on the freedom campers. If you see freedom campers parked illegally ring the Council so that they can follow up.
- Annual Plan submission opened on 5 April and close on 6 May. More information and submission forms are available on the website:
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/long-term-and-annual-plans-policies-and-reports/annual-plan/annual-plan-2019-20/annual-plan-2019-20-update>
- Cllr Andrews has had it pointed out to her that there is not enough seating at Pollard Park which is a problem now that there are many grandparents and great-grandparents taking children to the park.
- There have been some concerns raised about the loss of car parking outside the BNZ bank due to the trial of the pop up park in Market Street. There was also some feedback about the loss of foot traffic but this could also have been due to the very hot weather.
- A student carried out a survey on users of the parks over the summer; the results are not available yet. This survey will be continued over the next few years.

9. Guest Speakers for Future Meetings

- Ben Lucas - June
- It was suggested that Carl Gihon – Team Leader for Health of Older People – NMDHB be invited to speak at a future meeting.

10. General Business

- There has been a change to the health shuttle booking system with appointments being booked from a different location (Tasman/West Coast). There was some doubt at the meeting as to whether this was a temporary arrangement or not. Clr Andrews will follow this up with Graeme Haymes.
- Some members are experiencing difficulties with getting to the new Doctors Surgery at the Omaka Landings subdivision.
- David has experienced difficulties at the new Doctors Surgery in the old theatre building as there is not enough space for his wheel chair in the waiting room to also allow people to get comfortably past to the examining rooms.
- David has not heard back from his submission to the Long Term Plan last year. Clr Andrews is going to follow this up.
- The Seniors Expo is being held on 9 April at the Convention Centre.

11. Marlborough Sounds Community Vehicle Trust (MSCVT) Update – Bryan Strong (*received by email*)

Due to time constraints there was no time for the MSCVT update at the meeting and the following information was provided by email.

- The numbers of passengers carried continues to grow with 42 passengers carried in the first two months of this year.
- 362 passenger journeys have been carried out since the Trust began. 1/3 from Picton, 2/3 Blenheim and vicinity.
- The \$40 fee does not quite cover costs but the Trust does not want to put rates up as they are trying to help those in the community. The Trust continues to receive support from the Rātā Foundation and Council are looking at approaching the NMDHB for some additional support.
- A succession plan is being worked out for the co-ordination of the drivers and clients. Committee members are also being sought.

12. 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.	Find out about the reduction in mobility parking to one space outside the library	Robyn
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
5.	Follow up with Graeme Haymes whether the change to the appointment booking system for the Health Shuttle is temporary	Clr Andrews
6.	Follow up on David's submission to the Long Term Plan	Clr Andrews

13. Next Meeting

- The next meeting is being held on 10 June 2019 at the earlier time of 2.00 pm (finish at 4.00 pm).

Proposed dates for meetings for 2019

- 10 June
- 16 September
- 2 December

The meeting closed at 4.40 pm.

Record No: 1992776

Appendix 1

Information for stakeholder workshop participants: achieving “full accessibility”

The context – why are we here?

Cabinet has agreed to design the approach to achieve a fully accessible New Zealand, in collaboration with key stakeholders. This will include developing a common understanding of what “fully accessible” looks like and exploring the feasibility of using legislation to provide for standards and codes for accessibility.

The Minister for Disability Issues will provide a progress update on the work programme by 30 June 2019.

What has been said about accessibility?

Accessibility is about our ability to participate in and belong to, the world around us. If something is described as “accessible” it is able to be:

- reached, entered or used
- easy to obtain or use, and/or
- easily understood or appreciated¹.

For example, if a building is accessible, it is easy to get to, enter and use by navigating your way around it independently.

Any barriers to accessibility prevent us from being able to achieve our full potential and to participate fully in society.

Accessibility can be thought of as an ‘enabler’, in that it enables other positive life outcomes to be achieved. For example, a disabled person may be supported into employment. However, there is a barrier if that person cannot actually get there because they can’t catch the bus to and from work. Accessibility is therefore an enabler for employment in this example.

Accessibility is underpinned by principles of equality, ease of access, respect and upholding dignity/mana.

Who benefits?

While accessibility especially affects disabled people (as well as their families and friends), other groups will also benefit from speeding up the pace of improvement in accessibility. They include:

- the seniors population (nearly 60 percent of older people have a disability)
- carers of young children
- people with English as a second language
- those with temporary injuries
- domestic and international tourists with accessibility needs.

What frameworks can be used to think about and measure accessibility?

We think the following ten domains could be used to measure accessibility:

- housing
- transportation
- environment, including the built environment
- social and civic participation

¹ Office for Disability Issues, 2017

- employment
- information and communication, including technologies and systems
- social inclusion
- safety
- cultural identity
- services to the public.

These domains take into account the World Health Organization's (WHO) eight domains of liveability, often used as features and measures of Age Friendly Cities (Appendix 1). They also take into account the four domains of accessibility set out by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD):

- physical environment
- transportation
- information and communication, including information and communications technologies and systems
- services to the public.

Article 9 of the UNCRPD sets out the obligations of state parties (Appendix 2).

Finally, the domains also reflect the OECD's wellbeing domains as adapted by The Treasury for the New Zealand context (Appendix 3).

We welcome feedback and discussion on the domains.

What do we mean by “full accessibility”?

Draft definition

“Full accessibility” in New Zealand ensures that every person living or visiting here, regardless of their identity/identities is able to: easily reach, enter, obtain, use or otherwise interact with/participate in every aspect of their environment, and/or easily understand or appreciate it, at the time they need to. Enablers such as organisations, employers, building or website designers have a positive duty to ensure accessibility for all.

Achieving full accessibility means compliance to an agreed level with measurable goals agreed by designated reference groups, with an agreed lead-in time.

Please refer to Appendix 4 for key considerations and indicators to take into account when considering this definition, and for summary information about the problem being addressed.

Agenda for stakeholder workshop

Workshop objectives:

- Discuss what we understand “fully accessible” to mean, what success in achieving full accessibility would look like
- Identify whether anything is missing from our current domain frameworks, whether measures are appropriate for the New Zealand context, and which domain or combination of domains should be used
- Share ideas on how we can support achieving full accessibility, across each domain
- Discuss what the level of government involvement in accessibility should be, whether codes and standards should be mandatory
- Identify any important stakeholders to engage with.

Key questions for consideration

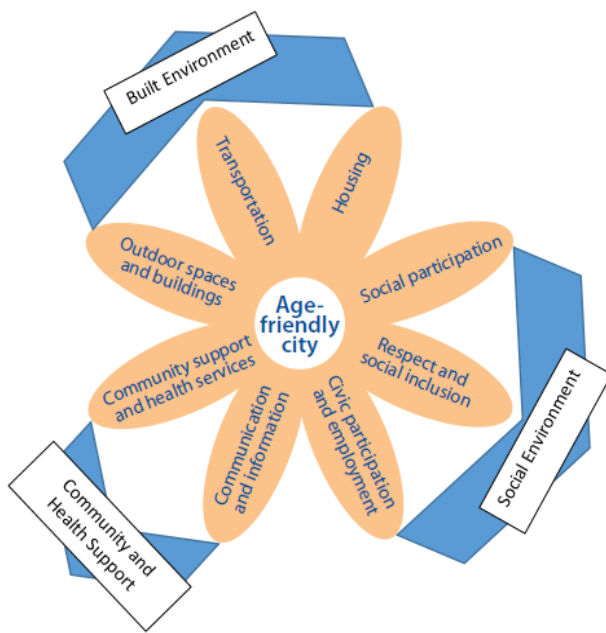
Using the background information and Appendices 1 -3, in small groups/pairs, please consider the following questions.

1. **What does “fully accessible” mean to you? What would it look like? What changes would you make to the draft definition?**
2. **What changes would you make to the ten domains of accessibility MSD has identified? Do you see anything missing which should be added?**
3. **Is there anything missing from the problem summary (see Appendix 4)?**
4. **Thinking about what “fully accessible” means to you, what do you think it would take to achieve this in New Zealand? Compare this with the ‘indicators of success’ in Appendix 4. Is there anything you would amend or add?**
5. **There are three potential options for government to be involved:**
 - a. **status quo/no change**
 - b. **a “soft option” (e.g. extension of voluntary standards, education)**
 - c. **legislation e.g. amending existing legislation, or new accessibility legislation that provides for the later development of codes and standards.**

What are your thoughts about the relative advantages or limitations of each of these options?

6. **How could we ensure any standards set are realistic and achievable? Should these be mandatory?**
7. **Who else/what other agencies, organisations should be involved?**

World Health Organisation's eight domains of liveability



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Article 9 – Accessibility

1. To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia:

- a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;
- b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures:

- a) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- b) To ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- c) To provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;
- d) To provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;
- e) To provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;
- f) To promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;
- g) To promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;
- h) To promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.

Wellbeing domains

OECD	Treasury adaptation for the New Zealand context
Housing	Housing
Jobs	Jobs and earnings
Income	Income and consumption
Community	Social connections
Education	Knowledge and skills
Environment	Environment
Civic engagement	Civic engagement and governance
Health	Health
Safety	Safety
Life satisfaction	Subjective wellbeing
Work-life balance	Time use
	Cultural identity

Some key indicators and considerations in defining “full accessibility”

Domains of coverage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need to cover the social as well as built environment (as per the WHO approach to ageing and age friendly environments) • workplaces • information • media • transport • education • buildings.
Some indicators of success
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consistency across New Zealand • mandatory and enforceable rather than discretionary • takes into account culture and identity • “makes participation an unremarkable thing” • available at the right time and in a flexible way • full resourcing.

Some key considerations

- The meaning and description of “fully accessible” needs to reflect core concepts of UNCRPD and WHO age-friendly communities - it needs to be broader than physical access to include supporting wellbeing.
- Accessibility needs to be designed-in from the beginning (universal design principles).
- Cultural context and content, particularly for Māori.
- Understanding how disadvantage can accumulate over a lifetime and across generations, which may make some individuals and populations less likely to seek support or adaptations.
- A focus not only on the individual with access needs, but also on educating groups that are enablers of accessibility e.g. those responsible for design (services, websites, buildings) on embedding principles of universal design into their work.
- People can have more than one identity (e.g. disability, age, indigenous, language). Design should not require people to have to choose only one identity.
- Shifting attitudes - from difference being a negative, to simply being human.
- A positive duty on enablers to ensure accessibility, rather than the onus being on an individual to complain.

What is the problem and why has the Government agreed to act?

Symptoms	Causes (direct and underlying)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are spaces that are not easily accessible to disabled people and other groups in society. Examples include the physical environment; transport; housing of the right type and in the right location; and information and communications. E.g. information not provided in a format that is accessible to disabled people. • There are major areas of continued non accessibility and uneven compliance with voluntary (and compulsory) codes and standards. • While there are pockets of good practice, they tend not to be sustainable over time. • Without accessibility, other outcomes are compromised. E.g. without access to the school building or learning materials in an accessible format, children will not have access to good educational outcomes. • Progress for disabled people is not happening fast enough. While there has been some progress, improvements have been slow and fragmented. There has been no substantial movement in disabled people’s life indicators since 2001. There are criticisms of the current approach from the disability sector and from the UNCRPD. • There is a lack of meaningful engagement with the disability sector (and others) on decisions that affect them with regard to accessibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards and regulations do not ensure accessibility. Inconsistent standards and those we do have are considered outdated. • The Building Act and Building Code are limited. • There is a lack of awareness about what an accessible environment looks like and how to get there. There are challenges to raising awareness. • Accessibility is not considered as important, or assumed to involve prohibitive costs. • Accessibility not being seen as a basic human right by some organisations. • Multiple players involved in developing an accessible environment, making it difficult to achieve a shared understanding of accessibility. • A perception that it is acceptable to give a lower priority to initiatives promoting accessibility. This is especially the case where resourcing may be scarce. • Worldviews and understanding of disability within organisations and the wider community vary considerably from enabling to very disabling. • Good practice not supported through a lack of mandate and a changing landscape (e.g. public sector priorities changing). • New Zealand law overrides the UN Convention, with no single law mandating a positive duty to meet accessibility needs. New Zealand can implement measures to meet UN Convention requirements progressively. • There is no one agency that has the lead responsibility for ensuring accessibility.

Symptoms	Causes (direct and underlying)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of accessibility is becoming more of an issue as the population ages - disability is more prevalent among older people. • The onus is on individuals to complain, rather than on enablers (such as employers) having a positive duty to ensure accessibility needs are met. 	<p>Progress towards improving accessibility is not well measured. It is not easy to tell what is currently happening and what progress has been made (due to inadequate data and evidence on measuring this outcome).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government has been slow to act and lead the way.