

Access and Mobility Forum, Meeting Notes held in the Committee Room, Marlborough District Council on Monday 2 December 2019 at 2.00 pm

Present

Clr Jenny Andrews (Chair), Clr Thelma Sowman, Rhys Thomason (People First), Ricky Shadbolt, Rachel Burden (Idea Services), Lorraine Duthie, David Clode (CCS), Diane Gibb (MS & Parkinsons), Glenn Spencer, Bryan Strong (MSCVT), Dianne Woolf (CCS), Nigel Perry (Road Safety), Jill Scoble (Marlborough Stroke Club), Lyn McKay, Lucan Orchard (Marlborough Roads), Catherine Donnelly (Age Concern), Linette Mortlock, Wendy Humphrey (Community House), Phil Hunnisett (Grey Power), Carolyn Corrin (MS & Parkinsons), Shona Currie (Grey Power), Carla Taylor and Hularii McKenzie

Guest speakers:

Victoria Greenwood-Loose (Nelson Bays Primary Health – Falls Prevention Co-ordinator)

MDC Staff

Jane Tito (Reserves and Amenities Manager), Bill East (Building Control Manager), Braden Prideaux (Walking, Cycling Co-ordinator)

Attendance

Chris Hines (MDC Secretary)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Clr Andrews welcomed everyone to the meeting. Clr Sowman introduced herself to the group and advised she was attending as an observer.

2. Apologies

Robyn Blackburn, Adrian Chilvers and Penelope Banfield

Motion to accept apologies. **Moved: Lyn McKay and Bryan Strong**
Carried

3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes

The minutes of 16 September 2019 were confirmed.

Moved: Nigel Perry and Rhys Thomason
Carried

4. 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 This has been resolved.	Marlborough Roads
2.	Produce a list of disabled parks available in the regions car parks with the help of Dianne Wolf (CCS) and Marlborough Roads. A draft brochure "Marlborough Mobility Parking Permit Information 2020" has been produced and was distributed to those present by Jane. Feedback to be brought to the next meeting. It appears that there may be a few more disabled carparks than those listed.	Robyn/Dianne Woolf

No	Action	Person Responsible
3.	Look into flooding of pathway beside the Olive Grove on Alabama Road The soakpits have been hydropacked and unfortunately this has not worked. Further options will be looked at to relieve surface flooding.	Lucan Orchard
4.	Follow up on issue of dangerous entrance to Civic Pharmacy. The area was checked and looked at by Jane and Jamie Lyall from Council and appeared to not pose any further problems. However on account of the response from Phil Hunnisett, Jane is happy to meet with Phil on site.	Jane

5. Correspondence

- Nothing to report.

6. Guest Speaker – Victoria Greenwood-Loose (Nelson Bays Primary Health)

- Victoria works part time as Falls Prevention Co-ordinator and is based in Blenheim.
- Two parts to her role. The first is running a two and half hour bi-monthly course for fall prevention, called Upright and Able. It is held in the Marlborough Community Centre. The St Johns shuttle is able to take participants to the course if required.
- The course covers education, exercise (with emphasis on strength and balance) and there is a lot of discussion. The focus is to keep people active and independent in their homes as long as possible. The target group is 65 and older, but includes anyone of any age at risk of having a fall.
- Home visits can be arranged. Health professionals make referrals to Victoria or self-referral is an option. Group sessions can also be arranged. There is no cost. Referral forms are available by emailing Victoria at Vic.Greenwood-Loose@nbph.org.nz or at Age Concern.
- The other part of Victoria's role is focussing on approved instructors in Marlborough that are doing exercises specifically for older adults. There is a Strength and Balance booklet which promotes strength, balance and safety and lists instructors available and organisations involved.
- Victoria will do awareness talks on the weekend as long as she has a few weeks' notice.
- There are also a range of strength and balance classes, some with a minor cost. Victoria will email the classes for next year to Jane along with some referral forms. Catherine Donnelly will bring some resources to the next meeting.
- Victoria was thanked by Jenny and the group for her talk.

7. Marlborough Roads Update – Lucan Orchard

- All glazed and slippery pavers in the CBD have been acid washed to roughen them up.
- Currently working on a footpath reseal list. Lucan asked the participants to let him know of particularly bad footpaths and rundowns (from footpath to street) around Blenheim, Picton and Havelock. His email address is: Lucan.Orchard@nzta.govt.nz. The Council FixIt form can also be used to advise of uneven surfaces and tripping hazards. The form is available on the Marlborough District Council website: www.marlborough.govt.nz.
- Cleaning up of glass on footpaths in the CBD is part of Marlborough Roads contract; otherwise it is a Council issue.
- The area of Waikawa Road between the school and Turners Road is currently out for tender for widening of road and footpath.

- Havelock Street in Renwick is getting a new footpath between Uxbridge and Alma Streets on the opposite side of the road from the school. This work is commencing today.
- Goulter and Wakefield Streets in Seddon, are getting new curb and channel footpaths shortly.
- Footpaths along Battys Road – there are no plans as yet.
- Jane advised that Pollard Park walkways are part of work in progress.

8. Building Control Update -Bill East

- Statistics for the year are very similar to last year. New buildings, predominantly new dwellings and light commercial numbers are around 1,500 to 1,600 for the year. There have been about 255 to 258 new dwellings for the whole of Marlborough. Building industry seems quite buoyant currently.
- Building Control continues to be active with AF8 (Civil Defence Alpine Fault Earthquake and other emergency) training. Training takes place with other community and governmental and non-governmental agencies. There was a training session last week which went very well with everyone working together.
- The earthquake prone policy changed by Government in 2017 set policy for whole of New Zealand. Marlborough is considered one of the high risk areas on account of the fault lines we have which has meant that we have had the least amount of time to address the requirements of earthquake prone buildings. In Marlborough we have no earthquake priority buildings that are on priority routes which is extremely fortunate. Building Control is now working through identification of buildings that fit the three levels of terminology of the earthquake prone building. A lot of property owners are voluntarily upgrading/strengthening buildings from the required minimum of 34 percent (in the Act) up to 66 percent or further which is especially good for Marlborough.
- At the end of this year Building Control have completed a 3 year rotation of having inspected all swimming pools in Marlborough. Next year another rotation will commence. Compliance has not been great, but a second check has been positive.
- Shona expressed a Grey Power concern about the lack of smaller homes for retired/older people which prompted discussion. There appears to be little interest by the speculative market to build smaller houses. Bill suggested that vineyard workers could be impacting on this portion of the housing stock and that when the viticulture season is finished, more rental housing could be freed up. Housing New Zealand has just released eight one/two bedroom rental units in Farnham Street with more coming up. Bill advised that because Housing New Zealand's task to put more stock in the market is so large, they are trying to establish their own building consent authority and are in contact with the appropriate Governmental agencies to get this off this ground. This could enable them to move faster with plans for more social housing.
- Jenny mentioned the new subdivision Harakeke down De Castro Drive, which is made up of smaller houses that are good for senior people. It is unknown what the value is of the properties is, but it was agreed the model used for the subdivision is a good one and the area populated predominantly by older people. Units similar to those in the Redwood Village would also meet the needs of the ageing population.

9. Road Safety/Cycle Walk Marlborough Update - Braden Prideaux

- Riverlands shared path project. Currently looking at formalising with Kiwirail the section between Kinross and Stuart Streets. At the moment half of it is sealed and in part there is no fencing along the rail corridor. Want to have this rectified early in the New Year.
- Also looking at improving the crossing facilities and entrance ways at Kinross Street where the pathway comes out and at Stuart Street.
- Another project is the Taylor River. Cost estimates for widening the path to 3 metres wide between the amphitheatre (town end) to the Munro Street carpark have been done. It is hoped this work will be done this financial year. Etiquette between cyclists and walkers will need to be reinforced and maintained.

- There is a Reserves project to scrape the path lip so there is not such a dip into the grass. Scraping the side of the path can create the problem of a channel where the water drains off which also can be a hazard for cyclists. It was suggested that signage could help with this problem.
- Robyn Blackburn puts out a 'Near Miss' report for walkers and cyclists – includes shared pathways, footpaths as well as road incidents. This is on-line at: www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/cycling-and-walking/cycling/report-a-crash-or-near-miss. Please report any near misses. Photos are also helpful.

10. Reserves and Amenities Update – Jane Tito

- There is a new accessibility toilet going in at the Havelock Pavilion in the Havelock Domain.
- Accessibility Policy development is continuing. The requirement for this policy comes out of the annual plan last year. It will be ready for the next Assets and Services meeting February 2020. Following this it will go out for consultation.
- The City Hotel site between High and Wynen Streets is privately owned with MDC leasing the property. This is now going back to the developer and will be cleared by mid-February. It is not known what the land is to be used for.
- In mid to late December through to the end of March, furniture in the CBD will be replaced. This includes the seats, bollards, rubbish bins and bike stands.
- The Blenheim Business Association (BBA) is responsible for the cheerful and festive wool bombing of trees and bollards along Queen Street. Positive feedback was received from meeting participants.
- The Christmas trees, decorations and banners are up in Blenheim and Picton.
- The BBA children's' playground/activity area will be relocated to Market Place (the Forum) area this year. It was noted by the participants that access for mobility will be easier with the relocation – from the location last year at Adam's Place.
- There is a new ramp access from Endeavour Pavilion to the netball courts which is close to completion.
- Jenny acknowledged the work Jane and Parks and Reserves do in the community for mobility access and the beautification of the parks.

11. Marlborough Sounds Community Vehicle Trust Update – Bryan Strong

- The Trust is continuing to be successful.
- In mid-October 2019 after 3 years of operation, the 500th passenger had been transported.
- Bryan and his team were praised by members of the group and Jenny for the volunteer service they provide, covering the area up to Nelson, Picton and the Sounds to the Wairau Hospital.
- It would be beneficial if there were more drivers for Blenheim to cover volunteer absences.

12. Guest Speakers for Future Meetings

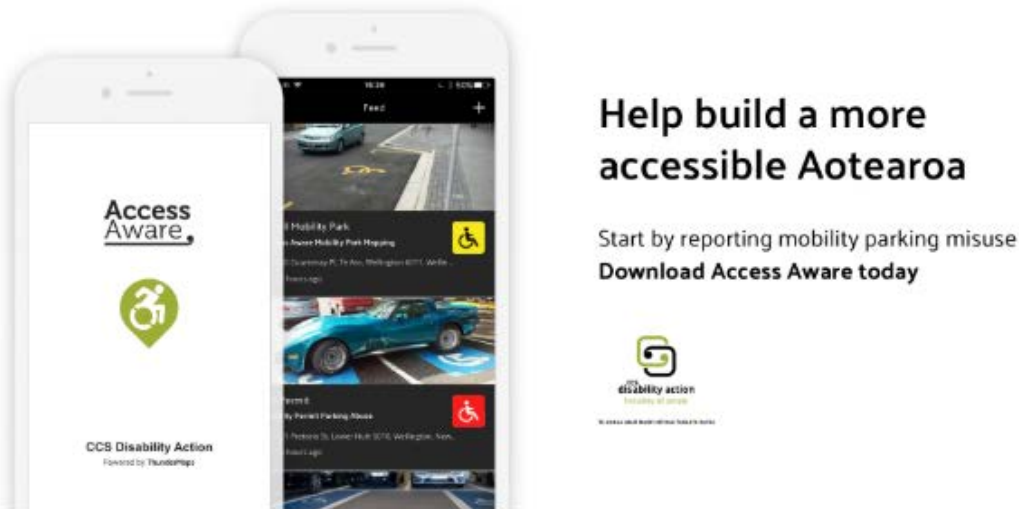
The following suggestions were made for future guest speakers:

- Megan Watson from Council and Lucan Orchard from Marlborough Roads to talk about parking.
- Jamie Lyall MDC to talk about parking.
- Darlene Purdie – runs a trust for people with disabilities. Involved with beekeeping and associated products.
- Sarah Caberry of the Farewell Trust – works with people in final stages of their life.

- Bill East MDC – to talk about New Zealand Standards for mobility accessibility within the home.

13. Other Matters

- Disability cards must be used and displayed for parking otherwise a ticket may result. A photo of a card on a cell phone may go some way to stopping this. It was suggested that it may be of benefit to have a Marlborough Roads parking warden and Megan Watson from Council attend a future meeting.
- There was discussion about mobility carparks. Jenny advised that Countdown stores in Auckland have developed an app which customers can download. If a member of the public is inappropriately parking in a disabled carpark at Countdown, the registration number and car details can be reported to management through the app. This will be announced over the intercom in the store requesting removal of the vehicle from the carpark. It is anonymous for the person reporting the vehicle. It is working well. Jenny has followed this up with Countdown Head Office in Auckland and secured a copy of their policy. She is hoping this will go nationwide and perhaps taken on by other business owners.
- Countdown are innovative having also introduced an hour each week in their stores, where audio (noise) and lights are reduced and dimmed to cater to those with extra sensory sensitivities. This policy has also been well received and happens in all three Blenheim Countdown supermarkets. This currently occurs on Wednesday from 2.30 pm to 3.30pm. However, the hour may change with the school holidays coming up.
- Hulari brought to everyone's attention that there is an Access Aware app free for download which shows where disability car parks are located for all of New Zealand. There is a parking abuse report that can be generated as well when someone is using a disabled carpark when they shouldn't be. The app advises to take a photo and there is a number you can call if you are unsure what to do. There are also warnings there about keeping yourself safe rather than approaching a car driver. It is unknown what happens with the information collected.



- Jenny suggested that the information about the app be put on the Council webpage.
- Diane had a query about recycling bins which are often left on the footpath after being emptied. These can be a hazard for people with disabilities. Francis Street is particularly bad. Jane will pass this on.
- Jenny noted that Council trees are overhanging the footpath at the entrance to A&P Park. Jane will follow this up.

- Rhys advised that the Countdown Supermarket in town entry signage has worn off the road. Jenny advised this will be followed up with Marlborough Roads.
- David Clode thanked Jenny, Jane and Cleone on everyone’s behalf for all the hard work they do.
- In response Jenny thanked all for coming to the meeting and acknowledged the effort this sometimes means for some of them.
- Lyn advised that in Harling Park, where the children slide down the hill, the length of grass is a potential fire danger. With the upcoming school holidays, it might be timely for this to be mowed.

14. Proposed Dates for Future Meetings

- 23 March 2020
- 15 June 2020
- 17 August 2020
- 7 December 2020

Jenny wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and thanked them for their attendance during the year.

15. Actions from the Meeting

No	Action	Person Responsible
1.	By next meeting, members to feedback to Robyn Blackburn and Diane Woolf their knowledge of disabled carparks so the list can be updated.	Members of the group
2.	Meet with Phil Hunnisett at the entrance to the Civic Pharmacy.	Jane/Phil
3.	Advise of the Access Aware app on the Council webpage.	Jane
4.	Follow up placement of recycling bins after being emptied.	Jane
5.	Trees overhanging the footpath at the entrance to A&P Park.	Jane
6.	Entry signage for Countdown Supermarket has worn off the road.	Marlborough Roads
7.	Mow grass in Harling Park.	Jane

The next meeting is being held on 23 March 2020 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm.

Record Number 19268686