

Access and Mobility Forum, Meeting Notes held in the Committee Room, Marlborough District Council on Monday 3 December 2018 at 2.30 pm

Present

Clr Jenny Andrews (Chair), Phil Hunnisett (Greypower), Glenn Spencer, Lynne Nicholl, Rhys Thomason (People First), Nigel Perry (Picton Senior Citizens), (Grey Power), Ricky Shadbolt (Greypower), Rachel Burden (Idea Services), Lorraine Duthie, Catherine Donnelly (Age Concern), David Clode (CCS), Camilla Nilsson, (Idea Services), Diane Gibb (MS & Parkinsons), Lyn McKay, Jill Scoble (Marlborough Stroke Club)

MDC Staff

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

Guest speaker

Graeme Haymes – St Johns Health Shuttle

Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (MDC Secretary)

Apologies

Linette Mortlock, Penelope Banfield, Steve Murrin

A moments silence was held for Geoff Powell who passed away recently. Geoff was an early member of the group who provided a lot of input and support in its earlier years.

1. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

- Nigel queried whether his point about the roadside area between the croquet green, tennis courts and Churchill Glade had been captured accurately in the minutes from 1 October 2018. Rebecca subsequently amended the meeting notes to read:

“The Pollard Park entranceway update has been completed. It was noted that the roadside area outside Churchill Glade and the tennis courts is in poor condition.”

Jane agreed to look into who is responsible for this area. – Council are reviewing the opportunity for a footpath and also parking areas along the front of Churchill Glade and tennis courts, this has been further highlighted by the combined colleges planning work. We have engaged an engineering company to review.

2. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes

- Phil Hunnisett/Camilla Nilsson - that the notes of the meeting held on 1 October 2018 were confirmed.

3. Actions from the Previous Meeting

No	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Pass request on the Marlborough Roads Parking Representative to find out whether 5 min parking space can be put at post box on Weld Street at Redwoodtown- Response received that this is not possible (see below) - completed	Steve Murrin
2.	Investigate when sealing will be completed on Wither Road (Taylor Pass Road to Recycling Centre) - ongoing	Stuart Donaldson
3.	Compile a list for the group on how to keep houses warm and dry – completed – Bill tabled an information leaflet for the group (Appendix 1)	Bill East

Action Point 2

- A response was received from Steve Murrin on the question of whether a 5 minute parking space can be put at the post box on Weld Street by the Countdown as follows:

“No a P5 cannot be installed at the Post Box on Weld Street. The Resource Consent that was granted for the establishment of the Redwoodtown Countdown required that all parking was to be removed from the east side of Weld Street apart from the Bus Stop.”
- This issue was discussed further and it was noted that NZ Post staff are parking on the yellow line to get the mail out of the Post Box.

4. Building Control Update – Bill East

- Bill suggested some ways to avoid having a damp home:
 - When dampness is created in the house (cooking, drying washing etc....) it needs to be removed by mechanical extraction or opening windows, this will improve the warmth of the house.
 - Another problem is water getting under the house via over flowing guttering or watering gardens against the house etc.... The water will sit under the house and come up through the floors making everything damp.
- The year’s quota of 1/3 of all swimming pools have been inspected with initial compliance rates disappointing. Re-inspection of the failed inspections has shown a 91% compliance rate.
- The issue of automatic pool covers is still ongoing with some enquires being received by people with accessibility issues.
- Compliance checks on Building Warrant of Fitnesses are taking place with most owners keeping up with the WOF regimes and making sure that their buildings comply.
- Research being done in Marlborough for the Earthquake Prone Building Amendment Act 2016 suggests there may not be any Earthquake Prone Buildings on priority routes here. Public consultation will be need be to be carried out if an Earthquake Prone building is found on a priority route.
- There have been more than 1500 consents given for residential dwellings in Marlborough this year.

Bill withdrew from the meeting at 3.00 pm.

5. Graeme Haymes – St Johns Health Shuttle



- Graeme is one of the drivers of the health shuttle. The shuttle has the capacity to carry one passenger who is in a wheelchair on each journey and five other passengers.
- The bus is nearly always double crewed.
- This November, 158 people were carried to medical appointments by the health shuttle. The service is available for any trip which is related to health matters including; Doctors, Dentists, Podiatrists and WINZ (if the matter is health related). More than 3,000 people are carried yearly throughout Marlborough.
- The 26 drivers are managed from Christchurch. Health and Safety training is managed from Dunedin. Maintenance is carried out locally.
- Shuttle drivers need to pass a medical, police check and rigorous driving test. Drivers hold Level 2 First Aid Certificates.
- Booking in advance (at least one day) is required. The number is 0800 333 781. The bookings are taken by local people who can determine whether the shuttle is available. There is no fixed charge but a donation is always appreciated if given.
- Ambulance transfers are also undertaken.

Questions/Answers

- The boundaries of the service are Seddon, Wairau Valley, Havelock and Picton. Marlborough's shuttle provides a door to door service whereas most other locations have fixed routes.
- Any donations given to the shuttle stay in the local area. Drivers are not involved with the money at all.
- Grahame acknowledged Lyn Nicholl's fundraising efforts for St John's Ambulance when she rode her mobility scooter to Rotoiti and back and raised \$13,000.00 for the service.

Grahame withdrew from the meeting at 3.20 pm.

6. Road Safety Update – Robyn Blackburn

- Robyn has recently attended the Prioritising for People Trafanz Conference in Wellington. The conference was focussing on Planning for People and to include active travel as part of all planning. Robyn read out some of the notes she made at the conference:
 - The theme of the conference was reiterated by most of the presenters in that we need to change our systems across New Zealand and regionally and to prioritise for people. The safety of people should be at the heart of investment and decision making.
 - One of the speakers made a comment that safety is still being traded off by road controlling authorities for easier vehicular traffic movement.
 - She noted that traffic movement has been the priority when town planning but that there is now a movement to change this.
 - Another speaker asked if it could be guaranteed if a pedestrian will survive a crash if hit at a roundabout.
 - Other comments by speakers included "If people don't plan for diversity they are by default discriminating" and that "town and road planning goals should have a focus on long term value to society rather than cost."
- Discussion took place on the speed limit on Old Renwick Road in the vicinity of the new roundabout that is being put in to access the new subdivision.

- Private property owners have at least 42 days to fix problems of overhanging growth after the initial notice is issued to the resident before Council is able to step in. Cleone is going to bring up with her team to add information to overhanging growth complaints if there are health and safety issues. The Reserves Department is currently reviewing these processes.

Rachel Burdon withdrew from the meeting at 3.40 pm

- A problem with cars being parked on the footpath by a car sales yard on Hutcheson Street was discussed.
- There is an issue with a business that is being run from a property on Maxwell Road whose clients are parking very close to the corner. It was suggested that the police would need to be contacted to deal with this.
- It was suggested that Council do an article to educate people on the issues which faced by people with mobility issues on our roads and footpaths. (I.e. people parking too close to corners and on footpaths and overhanging growth over footpaths). Robyn agreed to look into this.
- Age Concern held a workshop for older drivers and those living without a car recently which was supported by Council. Police attended and spoke about safety and being aware of other vulnerable road users.
- A meeting is being held in December to discuss the recent spate of elderly deaths on Marlborough's roads.
- Robyn has asked Steve Murrin from Marlborough Roads for a group to meet a few times a year to discuss investment for active transport in our region.
- There is a blind spot where a lamp post is obscuring the 40 km symbol in the flashing speed sign on McLauchlan Street. Robyn agreed to look at this.
- The problem of people driving without headlights in poor visibility was discussed.
- Cllr Andrews noted that if the public has concerns about road safety issues the best approach is to contact Council staff via the Customer Service Officers who will then be able make sure the matter is dealt with correctly.
- Age Concern is organising another scooter challenge next year but it will be run in conjunction with a scooter safety awareness programme aimed at new users.

Robyn withdrew from the meeting at 3.50 pm

7. Reserves Update – Jane Tito

- Central government funding has been received to upgrade several parks and reserves with Responsible (Freedom) Camping sites – these upgrades were completed by end December 2018. This should help manage any overcrowding issues at Koromiko and at other sites where Responsible Camping is allowed in the Sounds.
- A group of parents have fundraised to provide a liberty swing for the Pollard Park play area which has now been installed. The swing has a key for access. If anyone would like a key for their child please see Council. The same group of parents have fundraised for other pieces of equipment for the play area.
- The former City Hotel site has had paving installed which will make it more accessible to cross between Wynen and High streets.
- There is a new riverside access path on the northern side of the Hutcheson Street Bridge and new access to the river from Athletic Park. Signage has been installed to highlight the shared nature of the footpath along the Taylor River.

- The updated Pollard Park entranceway was recently opened and positive feedback has been received. The wrought iron gates (McMurtry Gates) will be relocated to another area in the park.
- A public convenience improvement programme was approved by Council recently.
- A new link from Tremorne Avenue to the Riverlands walkway has been completed.

Questions/Answers

- It was confirmed that the paths at the playground at Pollard Park are yet to be completed.
 - A possible hazard at the playground at the Picton Foreshore was noted. There is a dangerous gap between the curbing and the swings. Jane agreed to check this out. The gap has now been filled in with some small gravel/sand to mitigate the identified hazard.
- Glenn commented that there is too much of an incline for wheel chair users to be able to access some pieces of equipment at Pollard Park. He is going to continue to liaise with Jane on these types of issues.
- It was noted that Churchill Glade was a better Garden Marlborough venue than Seymour Square for wheel chair users.
- Wayfinding signs have been installed in Picton which give information on the history of different buildings and locations.

8. Other Matters

- Cllr Andrews has been looking into the possibility of providing access to the sea at Anakiwa for those with mobility issues or in wheelchairs. The suggestion of using a buggy which has wide tyres for travelling on sand and can go into the water is being investigated. There is the possibility of funding being available from the Small Townships Fund. She and Jane are going to continue to work on this.

9. General Business

- Entry to The Relay for Life this year is only possible via the internet which is proving difficult for some people.
- The issue of the Dentist and Doctor's surgeries moving from Francis Street to Omaka Landings was discussed. It is going to be difficult for some people with limited mobility to get out there. It was suggested that there may be some availability opening up at the Lister Court Doctors.
- It was noted that only 37% of Council tenants have internet access or are able to use a computer.
- Cllr Andrews suggested that the next speaker could be someone who can provide information on how people will continue access the health centres with the recent changes in location of some services.
- Cllr Andres wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

10. Next Meeting

- The next meeting is being held on 25 March 2019.

Proposed dates for meetings for 2019

- 25 March
- 10 June
- 16 September
- 2 December

11. Actions from the Meeting

No	Action	Person Responsible
4.	Investigate when sealing will be completed on Wither Road (Taylor Pass Road to Recycling Centre)	Stuart Donaldson
5.	Enquire who has responsibility for paths and grass verges outside of Churchill Glade and the tennis courts at Pollard Park – (completed see above)	Jane
6.	Arrange for some education on access issues in the local papers	Robyn
7.	Investigate the obscured flashing speed sign on McLauchlan Street	Robyn
8.	Check out the gap between the curbing and swings at Picton Foreshore – (completed see above)	Jane

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Record No: 193391

Appendix 1

Tips to Keep Warm and Healthy

Why is it important to keep my home warm and dry?

It's important for your family's health that your house is warm and dry. Cold and damp homes are linked to poor health, especially for babies and small children, people who are ill, and older people.

Here are some ways to keep your home healthy that won't break the bank:

How to heat your house

Only heat the room that you are in. Try and keep the temperature between 18 and 21 degrees especially if you have babies, people with illnesses, or older people living in your home.

Dress warmly for bed and make sure your bedroom is warm enough - it is very important to stay warm during the night.

Block up unused chimneys and stop draughts around doors and windows. You can make your own draught 'snakes' by stuffing rugby socks or pantyhose with newspaper or cushion filling.

Up to 20% of heating can be lost through draughts.

Open windows and curtains on sunny days, and close them when the sun goes down to trap heat in your home. Trim any trees that prevent sun entering your house (but if you are renting, remember to ask your landlord first!).

How to keep your home dry

A dehumidifier costs around \$156 a year to run - these tips are cheaper and can be just as effective.

If you use an unflued gas heater (that is, one without a chimney), make sure that you use it safely. Research has shown that they can release gases which can be particularly dangerous for anyone with heart disease or asthma, pregnant women, young children and older people. If you have to use one, open a window and keep all internal doors open too. Use it only for short periods and never in bedrooms.

Try not to dry clothes indoors as this creates moisture in the air. Drying on the outside is free and the sunlight kills bacteria, making your clothes healthier for you and your family. Use a shed or garage if it is raining.

To reduce moisture caused by steam, always open a window when you are showering and when you are cooking on the stove top. Use pot lids to reduce the amount of steam escaping. Keep doors to bedrooms closed at these times as steam can make beds damp.

If you must use a clothes dryer, make sure your clothes are properly spun first and leave windows open while you are using it - or even better, vent it outside.

TEN easy ways to save money and cut your electricity costs

1. Talk to your electricity company about which plan is best for you. Most companies provide options including direct debits at a flat rate all year round, pre-payment meters and low use rates for people who are very frugal.
2. Most of your electricity bill will go on hot water so use less if you can. Set your washing machine on a cold wash and rinse your dishes in cold water. Take short showers instead of baths. Showers use 60 per cent less water than baths.
3. Fix dripping taps. A dripping hot tap can cost \$80 a year but a washer to fix it costs less than \$1!
4. If your hot water cylinder is old, keep the heat in by using a hot water cylinder wrap. These are available from hardware stores. Make sure the thermostat is set to produce a temperature of 55°C at the tap (this will also prevent scalds).

5. Always turn the lights off in rooms when you leave them. But if you are using energy efficient light bulbs it is better to leave them on if you are returning within ten minutes.
6. Appliances that have a standby function (such as TVs, stereos, mobile chargers, computers or microwaves) should be turned off at the wall. This can save you up to \$75 a year.
7. Clothes dryers can be very expensive to run so try not to use them unless you really have to. Heated towel rails are also expensive and cost around \$120 a year to run.
8. Make sure there is generous air space behind the back of your fridge and try to locate it out of direct sunlight, or in a cooler room like the laundry. Don't open the fridge door too often or leave it open.
9. Make sure you cool food before putting it in the fridge. Turn off your second or 'drinks' fridge - this could be costing you \$190 per year.
10. When cooking keep the oven door closed. Always keep lids on pots and use as little water as possible to cook foods. Simmer rather than boil food and if possible use a microwave, as this uses 30-40 per cent less power than a conventional oven. Defrost food naturally if possible, (in the fridge is best) rather than in the microwave.

Insulate your home - subsidies for landlords and homeowners

Insulation is the best way to keep your house warm and save on heating costs. The government has subsidies available in many parts of the country to help landlords and homeowners save hundreds of dollars on ceiling and floor insulation, draught stopping and hot water cylinder wraps.

The Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority offers EnergyWise Home Grants which are targeted at people with low incomes and cover all houses built before 2000. Ask your landlord whether they know about this scheme.

To find out whether this scheme operates in your area, phone 0800 358 676 or visit [Energywise](#) funding for insulation.

Cheap ways to be green and save money

Install eco-friendly bulbs. These bulbs can last for many years and they use 80 per cent less power than standard light bulbs.

An **energy efficient showerhead** can use up to 50 per cent less hot water than a standard one. Consider installing one yourself, or ask your landlord if one can be fitted.

Check the **seals on your fridge** to make sure they are still working. If they stop working or become less effective, warm air will enter your fridge, making it work harder and use more power. To test your seals, put a piece of paper in the door and close it. If the paper can be easily pulled out, you may need to have the seals replaced. Do the same with your oven, as it could be losing precious heat energy whenever you cook. Companies that will replace the seals are listed in the yellow Pages under fridges and freezers - Servicing, or Ovens and stoves.

Double glazing on windows is an effective way of controlling heat loss and condensation, but can be very costly. A cheaper alternative is to buy a window insulator kit, which involves fitting plastic film to the inside of wooden windows. This can be done easily, and will make your windows 90 per cent more energy efficient. These can be purchased in the South Island from Community Energy Action, 198 Armagh Street, Christchurch, or email: info@cea.co.nz or in the North island from Negawatt Resources, email: info@nrl.co.nz or phone 0-4-939 0313.

If you are **replacing an appliance**, try to ensure the replacement appliance is as **energy efficient** as possible. The higher initial cost will benefit you in the long run through savings made to your power bills.