



Access and Mobility Forum Meeting held at Marlborough District Council on Monday 14 June 2021 at 2.00pm

Present:

Clr Jenny Andrews (Chair), Clr Thelma Sowman, Linette Mortlock, Catherine Donnelly (Alzheimers NZ), Rhys Thomason (People First), Russell Hopkins (Grey Power), Dianne Woolf (CCS), Wayne Carey, Vicky Carey (Little People of Marlborough), Ricky Shadbolt, Camilla Nilsson (Idea Service), Sharlene Eden (Maata Waka), Lorraine Duthie and carer.

Guest speaker:

Mayor John Leggett

MDC Staff:

Linda Craighead (Reserves and Amenities Planner), Bill East (Duty Building Control Officer), Louise Richards (Customer Services Officer)

Attendance:

Gillian Dixon (MDC Secretary)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Clr Andrews welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Jane Tito, Lynne Nichols, Brian Strong, Glenn Spencer, Nigel Perry

3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes

The minutes of 29 March 2021 were confirmed.

Moved: David Clode

Carried: Dianne Gibb

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

No	Action	Person Responsible
1	Repair of cracks in footpath in Rutledge Drive The footpath along Rutledge Drive was reviewed and appeared to be in good order. Could a street address be provided to allow a closer inspection of Rutledge Drive footpath issues	Jane Tito
2	Site visit to the new Library to be arranged before the official opening	Brendon Robertson

5. General Business

- Alfred Street Car park - the lift is not working again, also please be aware of the skate boarders. The toilets and plumbing are being replaced with stainless steel as the porcelain was recently vandalised.
- Bay Audiology – Vicky had recently been speaking with the South Island Area Manager about the lack of mobility parking outside the shop. The Manager had spoken to Marlborough Roads who have said no to any parks. Could we speak to Marlborough Roads about this?
- Lawnsdowne Park – only three mobility spaces at the park and bad layout of existing spaces. Could spaces near the gate be considered and more space for ambulances - Marlborough Roads to be advised.
- CCS – no mobility parking spaces outside the Blenheim office.
- Bill informed the meeting that the rules around parking spaces for new builds has changed and mobility spaces don't have to be provided. We could ask Marlborough Roads to take a look but it is a Central Government issue rather than a local area issue. There is a general push to not have vehicles in CBDs but this is mainly around Auckland and Wellington and Blenheim is not like those cities. The Mayor said he would mention this subject at his upcoming meeting with Stuart Smith MP.
- Redwoodtown Countdown Supermarket – the trip to the supermarket for pedestrians, mobility scooter users and school children is difficult due to the lack of safe crossings. A petition requesting better access is currently running.
- Crossings near schools - in general discussed together with the possibility of a crossing near the Boys' College. It is hoped that this subject would be included in the build of the new colleges.

6. Building Control Update – Bill East

- Two public toilets have now opened with excellent accessibility – Seymour Square and Havelock
- 126 consents for log burners have been issued since Bill took up his new role. He advised that if heat transfer systems are installed along with log burners then, in accordance with the building code, smoke alarms have to be installed throughout the property.

7. Parks and Open Spaces Update – Linda Craighead

- Other toilets in the area are being looked at for up-grading.
- Annual overhanging tree growth inspections are underway. If you are aware of any please call the Council
- The dog control by-law was approved by the Environment Committee. Dogs will now be allowed in the CBD and for further information, visit the MDC website when the changes go live on 1 August.
- Jane Tito recently received an email from EnableNZ requesting information about accessibility in the region. They are wanting to introduce a central location where this information can be stored e.g. car parking, toilets etc and can be accessed on an App.
- Wayne mentioned that the toilets at Harling Park did not have any dryers. Linda will investigate further. Thelma recently toured the local toilets and, on the whole, toilets in Marlborough are very good. (Horton Park not very good)
- Jenny advised that a wall in the Council multi storey car park is to be painted with a mural by local children.
- Wayne commended David on the work that has been carried out on Battys Road, thanks to him it is now a lot better
- Russell commented that the work carried out on the exposed tree roots on the pavement across the road from Council was very good and well planned.

8. Guest Speaker – Mayor John Leggett

The Mayor provided an update on current matters:

- Three days had just been spent on hearing submissions for the Long Term Plan. Unfortunately, the news that Waka Kotahi had a shortfall of \$4m came as a shock. Council are now having to look at all activities to see where cut-backs can be made but won't affect us long term. As examples, footpath maintenance and mowing and dust suppressant may not be carried out as regularly as currently. It was agreed that this work is importance and that Steve Murrin of Marlborough Roads is going to have to look hard at cutting the \$4m from the budget.
- Stuart Smith MP appeared on "Q&A" yesterday and spoke about New Zealand's plan to reduce emissions to 50% by 2050. Auckland had also been announced the "most liveable city" which is most surprising considering its problems with transport, housing and water but it was because of its results through Covid19. Thinking about Blenheim, what makes it a livable city? Its buildings, being able to live in your home and, in general, the principles for which this committee stands for.
- The development of the Taylor River Walkway had proved to be a cost effective use of public space, especially as there had been a 20% increase in dog ownership since the Covid19 lock down.
- The Mayor encouraged everyone to take part in the Positive Ageing Survey 2021 on the MDC website.
- There is currently a lot happening in the Local Government reforms area especially around the 3 waters review. A Government directive is expected in the next couple of months on whether the responsibility for water will be taken away from local councils. There will also be an opportunity for everyone to submit on how Local Government can contribute to the well- being of the country

9. Proposed Meeting Dates for the rest of 2021

Monday 27 September

Monday 6 December

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 27 September 2021 to be held at Marlborough District Council in the Committee Room

The meeting concluded at 3.10pm

Actions from the Meeting

No	Action	Person Responsible
1	Repair of cracks in footpath in Rutledge Drive Could a street address be provided to allow a closer inspection of Rutledge Drive footpath issues	Jane Tito/Linda Craighead
2	Meeting with Marlborough Roads to discuss <ul style="list-style-type: none">• mobility parks outside Bay Audiology• mobility parks at Lansdowne Park• pedestrian crossings near Redwoodtown Countdown Supermarket	Clr Andrews
3	Parking in Blenheim CBD in general to be discussed at meeting with Stuart Smith MP	Mayor Leggett
4	Lack of hand dryers in the toilets at Harling Park	Linda Craighead