

Access and Mobility Forum, Meeting Notes held in the Whitehaven Road, ASB Theatre on Monday 7 December at 2.00 pm

Present

Clr Jenny Andrews (Chair), Lynne Nicholl, Rhys Thomason (People First), Ricky Shadbolt (Greypower), Lorraine Duthie, David Clode (CCS), Diane Gibb (MS & Parkinsons), Bryan Strong (MSCVT), Dianne Woolf (CCS), Nigel Perry (Road Safety), Jill Scoble (Marlborough Stroke Club), Linette Mortlock, Vicki Carey (Little People of Marlborough), Wayne Carey, Lucan Orchard (Marlborough Roads)

Guest speakers:

Karyn Delves, General Manager, ASB Theatre Trust

MDC Staff

Jane Tito (Reserves and Amenities Manager), Bill East

Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (MDC Secretary)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Clr Andrews welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Clr Sowman, Glenn Spencer, Robyn Blackburn, Braden Prideaux, Penelope Banfield, , Shona Currie and Camilla Nilsson, Lyne McKay, Cleone Stringer

3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes

The minutes of 17 August 2020 were confirmed.

Moved: David Clode and Diane Gibb
Carried

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

No	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Follow up and advise of the Access Aware app on the Council webpage (from previous meeting) Process to include Access Aware app on MDC's website underway. This information has now been included on Council's website on the following page. https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/parking/disability-parking-information	Jane
2.	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 foot path issues.	Jane

No	Action	Person Responsible
3.	Freswick/Main Street intersection – is no right turn an option? Marlborough Roads have made a decision that nothing further will be done on this intersection. The no right turn will not be an option at this time.	Deanna
4.	Tennis courts bus stop – follow up with bus company about parking in bus stop area Discussions with Council staff confirmed that bus parking was in the area designated and that there appeared to be an issue with vehicles parking in the car parks.	Jane
5.	Invite Rick Edmonds to be a guest speaker at the next meeting An invitation has been extended to Rick Edmonds to speak at the meeting on 29 March 2021.	Jane
6.	Arrange with Karyn, GM, ASB Theatre to give members a tour of the theatre and talk to them about accessibility at next meeting. Yes this has been done and agreed for meeting on 7 December.	Rebecca/Jane

5. Accessibility of ASB Theatre – Karyn Delves (GM)

- Karyn welcomed everyone to the Theatres. She noted that there are difficulties with the entrance ramp for wheel chair users and that this will be rectified shortly.
- She welcomed the opportunity learn about some of the challenges faced by people with accessibility issues in order to make the Theatre more accessible for everyone.
- All accessible seats are held for those who need them up until the last minute. If you want to go to the theatre and need an accessible seat it is worth getting in touch as they will still more than likely have availability.
 - It was commented on that those who use the accessible seats would prefer not to be seated before everyone else as then others have to move past them and that can be difficult.

Karyn agreed to look into this and see if the ushers could change their process and take the person into the theatre early but not seat them until the majority of others are seated. It was also noted that part of the problem in Marlborough is that people like to go to their seats at the very last minute.
- Ushers are trained to help and support those with accessibility needs.
- The theatre to twice the building code requirements for earthquake strength.
- Some parts of the theatre are not accessible and this was necessary as during and after an earthquake lifts are not able to be used so if there had been lift access to the upper areas anybody who could not use stairs would not be able to evacuate the building.
- The priority of the Theatre Trust is to put on performances in a Covid-19 safe way.
- A hearing loop is available in the Theatre.
- It was commented that the area from door leaving the building to the first step is not very wide and it would be good to paint a line at the edge to help make people aware of where the first step is.
- Discussion took place on whether there could be some kind of discount applied for people with disabilities due to it not being affordable for everyone to attend a show.

- The ushers are all volunteers and can also sit with people who go to the Theatre alone.
- A special “relaxed” concert by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra is coming to the Theatre next year. This concert will be held in the daytime and is especially for those who may not want to or be able to sit through a whole symphony performance. People can get up and move around while it is on. The concert is a free ticketed concert and there will be more information on the ASB website at a later date.

6. Marlborough Roads Update – Lucan Orchard

- It was noted that there are some problems entering and exiting. Lucan advised that there will be a review of all parking in Marlborough taking place soon.
- It was noted that the gradient of the mobility parking beside Liz Davidson Place is steeper than usual and this can cause problems for people in wheelchairs trying to get into their cars. Lucan agreed to look into this.
- Jane agreed to approach the company that takes care of the Alfred Street parking building about the children who are hanging out on the top floor.
- It was noted that there is a move by Central Government to remove minimum parking requirements when building new structures in urban areas which could affect mobility parking.
- The footpath rating schedule has been completed with footpaths being rated from 1 -5. This will help inform the Footpath Renewal Programme. Lucan also noted that he welcomes contact from the members of the forum on footpath issues.
- There is a new footpath planned for along the north side of the riverbank planned from the Hutcheson Street Bridge to the Henry Street footbridge.
- The footpath to the Boathouse Theatre along the riverbank was discussed as it is not very accessible. Jane agreed to look at this.
- The problems faced when using the stretch of footpath that links Symons and Sinclair Streets were also discussed. There were no actions proposed.
- **Lucan withdrew from the meeting at 3.00 pm.**

7. Other Items

- Bill East’s contribution to the Access and Mobility Forum was acknowledged as he will be retiring from the position as Building Control Manager in March next year. Bill always attends the Forum meetings if he can and has always kept the group informed of the latest information on accessibility from the building perspective.
- David Clode thanked Jenny and MDC staff on behalf of the Forum members for their work for the group over the year.
- The meeting then closed (3.10 pm) and Karyn led the group on a tour of the ASB Theatre focussing on accessibility.



Figure 1 The Access and Mobility Forum taking a tour of the ASB Theatre

8. Actions from the Meeting

No	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Investigate the gradient of the mobility parks beside Liz Davidson Place	Lucan
2.	Ask APL about the children playing on the top floor of the parking building	Jane
3.	Look at the accessibility of the footpath to the Boathouse Theatre along the riverbank.	Jane

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2021 (to be held at Marlborough District Council in the Committee Room)

- Monday 29 March
- Monday 14 June
- Monday 27 September
- Monday 6 December

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