

**MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING**  
**HELD AT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL, 53 HEREFORD STREET**  
**ON TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2014 AT 10 AM**

**Present:** Claire Phillips (Strengthening Communities Citywide, CCC), Tracey Doreen (Deaf/Blind Community), Brian Laurie (Physical Disability), Adele Wilkinson (Mental Health Education and Resource Centre), Simon Atkinson (People First), Anna Mitchell (DPA), Robert Watts (Older Persons) and Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir (Health in All Policies, CDHB).

**Guest:** Yani Johanson (Councillor, CCC)

**Minute Taker:** Emma Pachnatz (CCC)

		<b>ACTION</b>
1.	<p><b>Welcome:</b> Claire welcomed everyone and reassured members the Civic Offices building Engineer Report states the building is 134 per cent of code. In the unlikely event of a disaster follow Claire to the assemble area on the corner of Cambridge Tce and Cashel Street.</p> <p>Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir introduced herself. Allison is in Community &amp; Public Health with Canterbury District Health Board. Actively involved in providing advice, support and doing submissions around the rebuild that is inclusive of all people.</p> <p>The group welcomed Robert Watts who has recently been appointed as the Older Persons representative.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Doreen McCoard (Disabled Persons Association) and Lorraine Wiersma (Maori &amp; Whanau).</p> <p>Gloria Weeks has resigned who was a founding member of the Disability Advisory Group.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Previous Minutes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last meeting discussed the offer to have Allison from Community &amp; Public Health co-facilitate the Disability Advisory Group with CCC. Members were in agreement to have that partnership.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p>Councillor Yani Johanson attended.</p> <p>An exciting time for change happening at the Council.</p> <p>Firstly the new Council wants to be more engaged and inclusive when making decisions. The Council recognises communities are at the heart of decision making. It is even more critical post earthquake/post disaster.</p> <p>Yani chairs the Community Committee (previously CRaC) and stated he was proud to have disability as one of the key terms of reference. The committee has a clear focus on disability issues which is a step forward.</p> <p>Since the earthquake Christchurch is in a unique position to be more of a modern, dynamic , accessible and an environmentally sustainable city. The Christchurch City Council Central City Plan needs to focus its top priorities on making the city more accessible.</p> <p>The transformation of our city will take time to recover. Issues of interest include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social housing units –to get best as possible barrier free</li> </ul>	

- housing,
- SCIRT (Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team) repair programme,
- Public transport- Ensuring accessibility for all
- Bus stops how locate them - the infrastructure design guidelines, have a minimum standard to fix them. When replace bus stops have an opportunity to install bus stops that are accessible with technology.
- As much environmentally sustainable and barrier free construction as possible.

There are medium and long term projects happening at the Council however short term problems i.e. pot holes not being fixed can create an unsafe environment. Health aspects have been discussed. e.g. asbestos and dust can contribute adversely to people's physical and mental health. Council needs to be proactive in providing a minimum level of service to enable people to access our city. Yani commented if we continue to make the city accessible - it will benefit all.

Claire requested feedback from Yani about how DAG can more effectively input and feedback to Council?

- DAG is seeking a mechanism to regularly feedback to the Community committee.
- It is important to raise the Disability Advisory Group's profile and efficacy within Council and to have regular opportunities to feedback to decision makers.
- **ACTION:**  
Yani suggested a representative from DAG report back every three months to the Community Committee reporting back the issues and what working on.  
Claire to arrange dates in June and three monthly thereafter.

**Claire**

Current issues to report to Yani by DAG members included:

- Simon is on the Accessible Transport Action Committee (ATAC) and at their last meeting discussed accessible bus stops, Simon has taken photos of different types of bus stops on his travels in New Zealand and has submitted them to the ATAC group to review to build on having national guidelines. A person should have an accessible journey from home to destination.
- Anna commented on Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) Committee have devoted members looking at bus stops, kerb cut downs etc. This member reviews day-to-day obstacles that disabled people face and informs the Council. Anna commented that some pedestrian islands are moving the resting bar to the middle instead to one side.
- Tracey commented that the area directly off the Waltham over bridge footpath had pot holes which you couldn't see to last minute if blind. Informed Council over two months ago as nearly broke her ankle. Pot hole were fixed after six months. Yani will follow up and commented Council will be using technology in a smarter way. If people have a smart phone will be looking into developing a FixIt App to send a photo or txt/email or by website to Fix My Street making it easier for people to report a problem and look at how fix the problem. Yani has also spoken to staff about the increase in transparency over decision making e.g. live audio and video streaming of Council Meetings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adele commented on psychosocial health of people including people with mild to moderate mental health issues in the city. Adele has been working with CERA Psychosocial Subcommittee, Claire from Council, MSD, CDHB to organise wellbeing workshops for people in community. Mherc Trust board will be funding workshops on 'Parenting and Wellbeing'. Adele is keen for the Council's Strengthening Communities to be involved. Claire to follow up. <b>ACTION:</b> Adele to contact Claire. Also good time to promote the 'Tiny Adventures' pack of cards through the All Right? Campaign. The cards have ideas on activities parents can do with their children. Good for grandparents, people on low incomes wanting creative ideas when spend time with their children. <b>ACTION:</b> Claire to order packs of tiny adventures for members. Website <a href="http://www.cph.co.nz/resources/">http://www.cph.co.nz/resources/</a> or for list of ideas visit Active Canterbury website <a href="http://www.activecanterbury.org.nz/starting-out/active-kids.aspx">http://www.activecanterbury.org.nz/starting-out/active-kids.aspx</a></li> <li>• Anna gave Yani the Petition from the Earthquake Disability Leadership Group submission about Accessibility issues recently presented to Parliament. EDLG still waiting to hear when the committee will hear all submissions. Simon took the petition around Auckland, Waiheke Island and other areas on his travels.</li> <li>• Members explained to Yani when speakers attend DAG meetings to discuss plans of the project often the plans are already in progress have not consulted the Disability Advisory Group for input. <b>ACTION:</b> Claire to work internally to ensure DAG are consulted early in a process. <b>ACTION:</b> Councillor Yani to follow up with Environmental Committee and involve members with the new Bus Interchange.</li> <li>• Robert asked how the decisions made by the Community Committee are implemented by Council Staff? Yani explained the resolution tracker system that is attached formally to the public agenda of Council meetings where all requests for action, resolutions and progress are discussed. Secondly regular reporting on strategies, actions, regular minutes and agenda's showing resolutions agreed and how proceeding. Thirdly having a CEO sub committee that sets clear expectations.</li> <li>• Brian commented on the colour of mobility car parks has changed from yellow to blue. Council's and DHB's around New Zealand are adopting the blue square background painted in mobility car parks and people seem to take more notice of the colour. Christchurch City Council should be adopting as well at their facilities and Service Centres. Yani would like to know the number of disabled car parks have at the Council. <b>ACTION:</b> Claire to find number of disabled car parks and send memo to the community committee before they meet. <b>ACTION:</b> Disability Advisory Group with agenda support from Claire to report back to the Community Committee in three months.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Adele</b></p> <p><b>Claire</b></p> <p><b>Claire</b></p> <p><b>Yani</b></p> <p><b>Claire</b></p> <p><b>Members &amp; Claire</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Think Differently Fund:</u> Adele said the report was sent re the Evaluation Day held. Funds leftover to be returned to Think Differently. <b>ACTION:</b> Adele to inform members when funds returned. Applied for new funding to produce book to follow on with Disability Pride work. Book to showcase the lives of real disabled people stories. At present have not heard whether application has been approved. Claire asked whether this was a core role of DAG to undertake this project. Members</li> </ul>	<p><b>Adele</b></p>

	<p>felt DAG's role is better placed as a lobbyist, adviser, critiquer and commentator. This project sits better with the new Disability/Older Person's Advisor role in consultation with DAG. Adele happy for Mherc to be the fund holder.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Claire/Emma to follow up on Think Differently fund. Adele to send contact at Think Differently Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Bio of DAG members:</u> Lorraine was keen for DAG to have a bio of all members to include in submissions, or send to speakers and include on the Council's Disability Advisory Group website. <b>ACTION:</b> Members to follow up.</li> <li>• <u>Talking bus stops:</u> <b>ACTION:</b> Claire to follow up with David from ECan.</li> <li>• <u>Guidelines key tips on how to engage/consult</u> with disability community for Council staff- Auckland Council. There is an opportunity for DAG to look at this document and potentially develop one for Council staff to use as tool. <b>ACTION:</b> To discuss at future meeting. <b>ACTION:</b> Emma to send out Auckland City Council Guidelines doc to Robert, Allison and Adele.</li> <li>• <u>Past speakers and actions from DAG minutes:</u> <b>ACTION:</b> Claire and Emma to work on action points from previous meetings and provide an update on progress. An ongoing project as time permits.</li> <li>• <u>Following up on the Manchester Street Library re no mobility car parks outside and New Brighton Library no accessible returns after hour's box:</u> Claire had reassurance from the Manchester Street Library there are now mobility car parks. Was in the process of being completed when highlighted. New Brighton Library have downstairs return box by the car park that is not drive thru. Possibly not wide enough for a wheel chair between the gutter and the cars park. <b>ACTION:</b> Claire will investigate more with the New Brighton Library.</li> <li>• <u>DAG venues:</u> Require venue for 17 June, 15 July and 18 November as a meeting room is not available at the Council on ground level and level 1 for members to access. If booking meeting room at higher level in the Council building and an emergency evacuation occurs member will not be able to access the lifts. <b>ACTION:</b> Adele to check if a meeting room is available at Mherc on 17 June, 15 July and 18 November from 10 am to 12 noon. If not available Emma to book at a CCC Service Centre.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Adele, Claire &amp; Emma</b></p> <p><b>Members</b></p> <p><b>Claire</b></p> <p><b>Members Emma</b></p> <p><b>Claire &amp; Emma</b></p> <p><b>Claire</b></p> <p><b>Adele &amp; Emma</b></p>
6.	<p><b>General Business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allison introduced herself: Newly with DHB after a number of roles at national level in the health sector with quality monitoring of services and workforce development. After the earthquakes Allison wanted to focus on work locally, obtained a role with University of Otago on a research project looking at physical activity and physical disability for a national study. Discussed with people around New Zealand what are the barriers to physical activity for people with disabilities and what makes it easier for people to stay active, engage, all kinds of activities that are important for everyone's general health.</li> </ul> <p>Community Public &amp; Health are open to ideas and opportunities. Allison's role is Health and All Policies Advisor - working in health but outside the health sector. What determines a person's health is outside the sector, where the person lives, housing, education able to achieve, jobs, wider factors have such an impact. Not health focus - more community</p>	

	<p>environment, the rebuild how going to affect people.</p> <p>Allison explained the Healthy Christchurch framework for health and wellbeing. The framework covers themes such as <b>people</b>, the <b>environment, housing, people's emotions, working together</b> and <b>community</b>. Allison working on the built environment theme and explained a draft diagram on 'How the built environment can contribute to making Christchurch the more liveable city in the world for people of all ages and abilities'. " If don't have a disability now we don't know what tomorrow will bring."</p> <p><b>FEEDBACK GIVEN to Allison included:</b>  Include cultural diversity, vignettes or success stories or how programmatically implemented.  Transport issues - bus stops, cycle-ways, and best practice examples from overseas. Education - access to education, community development. Under Greenspace Sports Recreational premises accessible outdoor playgrounds and access to the beach with wheelchairs. Leadership – champions/advisory groups merging in the political area that are driving this every day all day.  A brochure will be designed on 'What is a good neighbourhood?' 'What is a good house?' 'What is a good small business?' A good neighbourhood has good places to walk to local shops/businesses, has good cycle-ways.  <b>ACTION:</b> Allison to bring draft brochure to next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert identified an ongoing issue regarding free left turns at intersections at the cost of blind pedestrians.  When drivers approach the free give way sign at a intersection there is no pedestrian signal, tactile paving or zebra crossing to let blind people know where and when to cross. For example Fendalton joining Hagley Park, Hills Road/Shirley Road. A simple solution would be to add road markings.  <b>ACTION:</b> Robert to send copy of letter to Claire. Claire can pass information onto the Roding Engineers under a request of service through the call centre or Claire can discuss directly with Roding Engineers.</li> <li>• CCTV magnifier at the new Central Library in Manchester Street. Robert wrote to the Libraries Manager asking whether the CCTV will be replaced at the new library? Other libraries would benefit with an ageing population.  <b>ACTION:</b> Claire to follow up for Robert.</li> </ul> <p>How to acknowledge Gloria's contribution to DAG?  <b>ACTION:</b> Claire to invite Gloria to the next DAG meeting and buy flowers.  Members to tell stories of Gloria's achievements???</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a limit to the number of representatives on DAG? No one sure.</li> <li>• Are there vacancies for other organisations to represent DAG? Youth representative and Ethnic Community representative.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Discuss at next meeting.</p>	<p><b>Allison</b></p> <p><b>Robert &amp; Claire</b></p> <p><b>Robert &amp; Claire</b></p> <p><b>Members</b></p>
7.	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> Tuesday 15 April at 10 am at Christchurch City Council, 53 Hereford Street, ground floor, meeting room 1.</p> <p>Apology from Anna Mitchell for next meeting.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Meeting Finish:</b> 12:06 pm</p>	