

**NOTES OF THE
DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING HELD AT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL,
53 HEREFORD STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ON Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 10 am**

Present: Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir, Doreen McCoard, Anna Mitchell, Gail Payne, Adele Wilkinson, Robert Watts

Apologies: Rachel Mullins, Simon Atkinson.

Discussion from previous meeting Notes: There is a need for increased mental health resources to meet need. It was agreed that the DAG would make this part of its work plan in 2016. MHERC could establish basic mental health training for Council staff. Members highlighted the linkage between vision impairment and pressure on wellbeing and mental health. It is very difficult for people with vision impairment to negotiate Christchurch's streets after the earthquakes.

Free turns when pedestrians are crossing: The Council's transport policy engineer attended to further discuss free-turn crossings where people can get 'stranded' in the centre due to being unable to see the cycles or cars with the free turn. Robert presented a letter he sent in 2013 to raise this issue. There is a city-wide intersection design policy being drafted. Shared cycle ways and pathways were another concern for visually impaired people. In the New Year DAG will meet with Transport and City Streets Unit to discuss intersection renewals and upgrades. DAG recommended Barrier Free NZ audits. Robert will explore the Living Streets concept and report back.

DAG 2016 membership recruitment: CHED (community, housing, economic development committee) accepted the DAG report to refresh DAG's objectives and membership appointment process. A draft advertisement for new DAG members was discussed. The DAG's page on the Council's website will be updated and the advertisement of new members circulated around the sector. Two councillors were appointed as the DAG's contact people.

International day of persons with disabilities 3rd December: DAG members agreed it was important to support events led by other organisations to celebrate the day, such as: DPA celebration meal, EDLG mural unveiling in conjunction with The Cube and CCS Disability Action.

Libraries and Council will promote the day on social media.

Updates:

Doreen had attended a national conference related to people with polio and explained that participants were concerned about the trend towards what was termed 'able-bodied academics' speaking on behalf of people with disabilities, and were keen to remind people about the clause of 'nothing about us without us'.

Anna was congratulated for being selected on to the 2016 Leadership in Communities Course.

The audio description training is happening this month (Council helped to fund this very important initiative).

Next Meeting: Tuesday 15 December 2015 at 10 am at Te Hapua: Halswell Centre, 341 Halswell Road.