

Minutes for the Dog Bylaw Working Group Meeting

Wednesday 9 October 2017 10:30am

In attendance:

Councillor Andrew Whiley
Anna Nguyen (Personal Assistant)
Gaileen Ross
Peter Hanlin (Team Leader)
Adrian Blair (Group Manager)
Karen Anderson
Diana O’Kane
Richard Parkinson
Marita Johnson
Ros MacGill (Manager, Compliance Solutions)

Apologies

Simon Pickford (General Manager)
Kristy Rusher (Governance Support Officer)
Barb Long

- 1. Welcome and Apologies**
- 2. Beach Issues**
- 3. Bylaw Maps**

Ros demonstrated the use of the maps and advised that it is still a work in progress. Ros went through the changes that have been made so far to the colouring and the clarifying of cross over areas. Marita raised a question about whether or not this map includes all animals or dogs only. It has been confirmed that this is for dogs only. DCC are currently looking into shared spaces and how to incorporate this into the map to indicate other uses (i.e. runners, mountain bikers etc). **Feedback was provided by Karen that there is still too much information on the maps (e.g. areas that are not normally accessible to the public should not be included at all as this causes confusion).** Marita disagrees with this and suggests that all commercial properties should be included (for future expansion purposes).

The Dunedin CBD was brought up and identified as a red zone (no dogs). Peter has checked the resident exclusion clause in the dog bylaw and confirmed that residents can have a dispensation and people can walk across the red zone to get to a specific location. It was agreed that this is not an issue.

Ros demonstrated the user friendly bylaw map availability. The map brings you to the exact location of where you are and the correlating information of the surrounding areas.

In relation to the colour issue, Ros has confirmed that this is currently being looked into by the Blind Foundation for further feedback.

Karen has raised a concern regarding “adaptive technology” and that the maps are not available with them. She believes that the maps have caused more problems than it has solved issues and has now set Dunedin back compared to any other city in New Zealand. Marita believes that DCC should be commended for taking the first step forward with relation to maps and adaptive technology.

Diana suggested that it would be more useful for the maps to be used as information, not as a regulator (by law). She also believes that the previous schedule was better if it was more detailed.

4. Bylaw terminology

Ros provided an example of a definition for the word “control” from another Council and asked for feedback. Diana suggested that there is no definition of control for a dog “off leash” and this causes interpretation issues. Suggestions would be to include the dog’s ability to (i) be called back straight away (ii) not rushing up to people or other dogs (iii) not become a nuisance to other dog owners. It was raised that Auckland City Council may provide online dog training (this is not confirmed so will need to be looked into). Diana suggested that the focus needs to be more on education and the cultural shift in expectation.

5. Sharing spaces

6. Next meeting date and time

Andrew suggested that the next meeting will be in early 2018.