

Minutes Disability Access Committee 30 August 2012

Meeting commenced at 4.00pm.

ITEM 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Attendees: Clr Howard Fisher; Jim Nichols (Lithgow City Council), Iain Stewart (Lithgow City Council); Viktoria Gulabovski (Lithgow City Council), Julie Favell (Uniting Care), Matthew Johnson (Lithgow City Council), Levente Boda (LINC).

Apologies: Daniel Smith (Community Rep); Janine Smith (Community Rep), Bronwyn Webb (Occupational Therapist), Peter Lee (Community Rep).

Officers: Viktoria Gulabovski

Declaration of Interests: NIL

Recommendation

That the attendance and apologies be confirmed.

MOVED: Clr Howard Fisher
Carried

SECONDED: Jim Nichols

ITEM 2 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the 10 July 2012 meeting were ratified by email and reported to Council on the 23 July 2012.

ITEM 3 BUSINESS ARISING

Summary

A progress update on business arising was provided.

Commentary

- A copy of the Australian Building Standards was emailed to all members as requested in July 2012.

- An inspection of Main street has been conducted by the Operations Unit in Council and the access areas have been identified, including the slipperiness and defects of the pavers.

- A draft mobility plan has been prepared by the Operations Unit and will go to the new Council outlining options and associated costs for the program of works that needs to be completed. The Operations Unit are currently researching other options and approaches to fixing the

pavers, including looking at the work done by Blue Mountains Council and Manly Council.

- The DAC received three (3) submissions outlining access issues in the Lithgow LGA. The submissions came from Uniting Care, Verto and LINC. The DAC has reviewed the submissions and has identified a few items as a priority for including in the Disability Access Plan (Attachment 1). The submissions will go to the next Council meeting to be appraised in the first instance, and later to the Traffic Committee for their consideration.
- The length of the disability car space in front of the civic ballroom, as well as the turnstile gate at the showground will be looked at by staff from the Operations unit and will report back at the next meeting.
- A new ramp meeting current access standards will be replacing the current timber one at the entrance door at Eskbank House Museum, eliminating the current lip of the ramp that is non-compliant. Crushed brick, which is currently in use on the paths at Eskbank House, will be used to build up a slope to the flagstone of the verandah eliminating the lip of approximately 50mm which currently needs to be negotiated to access the entrance. Both of these maintenance issues are currently being undertaken. Wendy Hawkes, Cultural Development Officer, will inform the committee when they are completed. In addition, there are plans to develop a new carpark at Eskbank House Museum.

Recommendations

1. That the draft mobility plan is considered by Council.
2. That the submissions into the Disability Access Plan be appraised by Council.

MOVED: Cllr Howard Fisher
Carried

SECONDED: Levente Boda

ITEM 4 DISABILITY ACCESS PLAN

Summary

A discussion about the formulation of a Disability Access Plan.

Commentary

The DAC agreed that the Disability Access Plan will be formulated after Council has looked at the submissions and worked out the priority areas for what needs to be done.

Recommendations

1. That Council notes the report on the Disability Access Plan.

MOVED: Clr. Howard Fisher
Carried

SECONDED: Julie Favell

ITEM 5 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Mandy Mason from Verto wishes to attend DAC meetings. The DAC will extend an invitation to Mandy to join the committee.

5.2 The DAC would also like to look into the access issues of privately owned businesses. It may be appropriate to identify access issues with regard to privately owned businesses. Consideration was made to conduct an education campaign and raise awareness about this issue.

5.3 It was noted that the layback near Silcock street – back entrance of Coles – needs to be placed on a corner where the footpath is located. In addition, the disability carpark at Coles needs to be on the same side as the shops for safety and access reasons. It was agreed that the DAC raises this issue with Telstra and Coles.

5.4 There was discussion about Council doing a media release on illegal parking in disability car parks. DAC agreed that it should be shown that Council are not ignoring this problem and note it is an issue that Council is proactively looking into.

5.5 Julie Favell from Uniting Care thanked Clr Howard Fisher for his contribution to the DAC and the community in general over the past 21 years. The DAC wishes Clr Howard Fisher all the best with his new endeavours.

Next Meeting

**Tuesday 2 October 2012 at 4.00 pm in the Hartley Building Meeting
Room, Lithgow City Council**