

# **Minutes Disability Access Committee 13 November 2012**

Meeting commenced at 4.00pm.

## **ITEM 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES**

**Attendees:** Mayor Maree Statham, Julie Favell (Uniting Care), Daniel Smith (Community Rep), Janine Smith (Community Rep), Bronwyn Webb (Occupational Therapist), and Clr Joe McGuinness.

**Apologies:** Peter Lee (Community Rep), Levente Boda (LINC).

**Officers:** Jim Nichols, Iain Stewart, Matthew Johnson and Melanie Jones

**Declaration of Interests:** NIL

### **Recommendation**

That the attendance and apologies be confirmed.

**MOVED:** Julie Favell

**SECONDED:** Bronwyn Webb

**Carried**

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## **ITEM 2 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the 30 August 2012 meeting were ratified by email and reported to Council on 8 October 2012.

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## **ITEM 3 BUSINESS ARISING**

### **Summary**

A progress update on business arising was provided.

### **Commentary**

- Options are being considered to address problems with the Main Street pavers. The Operations Group are currently researching other options and approaches to fixing the pavers, including looking at the work done by Blue Mountains and other Councils and also applying anti-slip treatment. It was discussed that the trees have displaced the pavers surrounding them which needs to be addressed also. It was suggested that Council put out a media release regarding steps that are being taken to address the problems so the public are kept informed.
  
- Access issues at Lithgow Valley Plaza. Julie Favell (Uniting Care) discussed that access for clients leaving Uniting Care and walking to the Coles complex is currently unsafe. Iain Stewart and Jim Nichols will have a look at this area.

- Disability car space at the Civic Ballroom. It was discussed by Janine Smith (Community Rep) that the length of the car space is actually the issue. When a car parks in the space it prevents the ramp from being accessed, so the space needs to be lengthened to stop the ramp being obstructed. Also access from outside the showground gate is an issue making it difficult for people entering the showground to get onto the footpath.
- 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 car park and disabled access from the car park at Eskbank House Museum, subject to funding.
- Illegal parking in disabled parking zones was discussed as being a significant issue. A media release has been issued to raise public awareness and highlight this problem.

### **Recommendations**

That the progress update on business arising be noted.

**MOVED:** Iain Stewart  
**Carried**

**SECONDED:** Janine Smith

### **ITEM 4 DISABILITY ACCESS PLAN**

#### **Summary**

A discussion occurred about the formulation of a Disability Access Plan.

#### **Commentary**

Matthew Johnson discussed some priority areas that have been identified and are as follows:

- Toilets in Cook Street Plaza
- Pavers in Main Street
- Low level counters/ or split level counters
- Disability car park in Wallerawang Main Street
- Lower level public telephone boxes
- More bench seating within Main Street

Julie Favell (Uniting Care) has suggested that she consult with clients and staff from uniting care to obtain information about where more bench seating

would be useful within the Main Street area. Julie will report back at the next meeting.

There was a discussion around Council making some changes to bench/counter heights to improve disability access within Council buildings, and possibly organising a media release to encourage other businesses and leading by example.

### **Recommendations**

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

**MOVED:** Julie Favell  
**Carried**

**SECONDED:** Janine Smith

### **ITEM 5 GENERAL BUSINESS**

5.1 There was discussion about the Disability Access Committee providing a regular update on the work of the Committee for inclusion in the Lithgow Council Connections.

5.2 Iain Stewart raised the issue about the lack of footpaths in the Lidsdale area, and discussed a complaint he had received regarding this issue.

5.3 Maree Statham raised safety issues with the area around Wallerawang pre-school in James Parade, where there are no footpaths leading to and surrounding the pre-school.

5.4 Maree Statham suggested a ramp or rail be installed near Portland Chemist. The steps there are very deep and difficult for people, particularly the elderly to negotiate. Iain Stewart said he would have a look at the issue.

5.5 Maree Statham has received complaints regarding the ramp at Woolworth's car park, the bottom of the ramp has quite a high edge which is a hazard. Jim Nichols said he would raise the issue with the owners.

5.6 Safety issues were raised pertaining to the lack of lighting within the Coles car park.

5.7 Bronwyn Webb (Occupational Therapist) raised an issue with the footpaths in Methven Street, on the southern side near the factory and Park Parade.

### **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 4.00 pm in the Hartley Building Meeting Room, Lithgow City Council**