Disability Access Committee  
Monday 30 November 2015  
Hartley Building Meeting Room  
Lithgow City Council  
4.30-5.30pm

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ITEM 1 WELCOME, PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT: Mayor Maree Statham (Lithgow City Council); Clr Ross Higlett (Lithgow City Council); Julie Favell (Manager Uniting Care); Janine Smith (Community Representative); Dan Smith (Community Representative); Kathy Dickson (Manager Community Transport).

APOLOGIES: Debby Ong (Occupational Therapist, Lithgow Hospital); Juli-Ann Brozek (Group Manager Corporate and Community LCC); Iain Stewart (Group Manager Operations LCC); Jim Nichols (Development Manager Environment and Development) and Matthew Johnson (Manager Community and Culture).

OFFICERS: Viktoria Gulabovski (Community Development Officer); Melanie Jones (Community Development Officer).

GUESTS: Kim Scanlon (Community Hub Coordinator LINC; Leanne Walding (Community Representative).

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Nil

ITEM 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 4 February 2015 meeting were ratified by email and reported to Council on 23 March 2015.

ACTION

THAT the ratification by email of the minutes of the 4 February 2015 Disability Access Committee meeting and their reporting to Council on 23 March 2015 be noted.

MOVED: Janine Smith SECONDED: Julie Favell

ITEM 3 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Update regarding the intersection at Hassan & Bent streets. Committee members were unable to provide an update on this item. A new date will be arranged for further investigation of the site.

3.2 Update on wheelchair access near Ray White on Main Street. Committee members were unable to provide an update on this item. A new date will be arranged for further investigation of the site.

3.3 Update on Amendments of the Terms of Reference The Terms of Reference have been updated to reflect the bi-annual meeting schedule of the Disability Access Committee.
ACTION

THAT the update provided under Business Arising be noted.

MOVED: Janine Smith SECONDED: Dan Smith

ITEM 4 NEW MEMBER

Currently, there is a vacant community representative position on the Disability Access Committee. Leanne Walding has expressed her interest in joining the DAC. Leanne’s personal experience and knowledge of the disability sector will enhance the work of the DAC.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council appoint Leanne Walding as a community representative on the Disability Access Committee.

MOVED: Julie Favell SECONDED: Dan Smith

ITEM 5 GUEST SPEAKER, KIM SCANLON

Using the latest Harwood Method of community consultation, the Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre held a ‘Community Conversation’ with people who have disabilities and their carers on 5 November 2015. Eleven participants attended, and the main issues raised were:

- Inclusion, equality and access
- Tolerance, education and information
- Community perception, contribution and investment to make things happen for people with disability
- Frustration with engaging bureaucratic systems by phone or internet
- Confusion about who people talk to and access information from, where to go and how to find out what’s going on.

The information gathered at this event will inform the development of Council’s Disability Inclusion Action Plan. A detailed report on LINC’s Community Conversation will be provided to DAC members and Council for their information.

ACTION

THAT the update and report on LINC’s Community Conversation be noted.

MOVED: Kathy Dickson SECONDED: Janine Smith
ITEM 6   DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

Council staff will commence the development of the DIAP in January 2016. As part of this process the following actions will be undertaken:

- A review of Council’s current Disability Access Plan
- Consultation with organisations and community members
- Consideration and inclusion of LINC’s Community Conversation report
- Broad scale literature review
- Use of planning guidelines administered by LGNSW to develop and build the DIAP

ACTION

THAT The discussion around the Disability Inclusion Action Plan be noted.

MOVED: Cllr Higlett SECONDED: Janine Smith

ITEM 7   FOOTPATH ALONG COMMENS ST AND BRAYS LANE

Residents of Brays Lane Boarding House have raised concerns that there is no footpath along Commens Street/ Black Bridge/ Pipers Flat Road and Brays Lane. They have to walk on the road, which poses a risk, particularly to the frail aged, people with an intellectual disability, parents with prams and people in wheelchairs.

This matter will be referred to Council’s Operations Group for investigation and possible action.

ACTION

THAT The discussion on the footpath along Commens street and Brays Lane be noted.

MOVED: Cllr Higlett SECONDED: Kathy Dickson

ITEM 8   LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT

Council has recently applied for a Liveable Communities Grant for water wheelchairs, change tables, harnesses and other floatable devices for use at the aquatic centre. The equipment would enable a person with disability equal access to the swimming pools and aquatic programs available at the Lithgow aquatic centre.

ACTION

THAT The discussion on the Liveable Communities Grant be noted.

MOVED: Cllr Higlett SECONDED: Janine Smith
ITEM 9       HALLOWEEN & ACCESSIBILITY

There was discussion on difficulties faced by visitors in wheelchairs in accessing the Library during the Halloween 2015 event due to placement of the main stage. This matter will be considered in planning for Halloween 2016.

ACTION

THAT The discussion of accessibility to Halloween be noted.

MOVED: Clr Higlett  SECONDED: Kathy Dickson

ITEM 10      MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2016

Members agreed to meet on a Monday in 2016 as follows:

- Monday 22 February 2016 from 4.00pm – 5.00pm
- Monday 10 October 2016 from 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Meetings will take place in the Hartley Building Meeting Room.

ACTION

THAT The discussion under Meeting Schedule for 2016 be noted.

MOVED: Julie Favell  SECONDED: Dan Smith

ITEM 11      GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 AMBULANCE PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF MEDICAL CENTRE

The ambulance parking space in front of Ochre Medical Centre has been recently converted into a general public car space. This parking spot was regularly used by Lithgow Community Transport as a drop off point for their elderly clients to the medical centre, the bank and pharmacy. The loss of this space has caused logistical issues for Lithgow Community Transport and barriers to accessibility for elderly people and people with disability. The committee inquired about the process for removal of the ambulance parking spot and if it is possible to have it reinstated.

ACTION

THAT Council staff inquire about the process for removal of the ambulance parking spot and investigate if it is possible to have it reinstated.

MOVED: Mayor Maree Statham  SECONDED: Clr Ross Higlett
11.2 INSTALL RAMP AT MAIN ENTRANCE OF PORTLAND POOL
A proposal to install a ramp at the main entrance area of Portland Pool was discussed. The matter will be referred to Council’s Operations Group for consideration.

ACTION

THAT The possible installation of an access ramp at the entrance to Portland Pool be further investigated and reported back to the Committee.

MOVED: Mayor Maree Statham SECONDED: Clr Ross Higlett

11.3 LANE WAYS BETWEEN MAIN AND MORT STREET
Vehicles accessing the lane ways between Main and Mort street make a quick entry/exit in that vicinity without much regard for pedestrians. This makes it difficult for people with a visual impairment and other people crossing in the area. It was recommended that this issue is taken to TALC with the recommendation that a zebra crossing or safety signage be installed.

ACTION

THAT Traffic safety issues in the vicinity of Main Street lanes be referred to TALC for consideration.

MOVED: Mayor Maree Statham SECONDED: Clr Ross Higlett

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.45pm.

Next meeting 8 February 2015
Venue: Hartley Building Meeting Room
Time: 4.00pm-5.00pm
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS REFLECTIONS

DISABILITY SERVICES

Facilitator: Kim Scanlon

Note-takers: Hali Gabardi and Phoebe Coyne.

A community conversation was held at Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre with people who have disabilities and their carers on Thursday the fifth of November. Eleven participants attended.

1. **Aspirations for the community:**
   - Inclusion – for all members of the community to have a voice and feel included.
   - Equality – for all members of the community to be valued and for the community to see differences as an asset.
   - Access – each person in the community has the means to access information about services and the confidence to participate which requires honouring and valuing the individual so they feel empowered enough to contribute. Our community to acknowledge that each person has different aspirations and hopes for their lives. Ensure each person can physically access activities which would include more than one taxi service, ramps, lifts and better footpaths. Sensitivity towards vulnerable members of the community. More access to employment opportunities and more activities for young people.

2. **Main concerns about the larger community:**
   - Wider community lacks tolerance, education, information and understanding about disability.
   - Access to information, activities, employment, funding, decision makers, services and the community.
   - Hampered by public perceptions, attitudes and physical barriers.
   - Confusion – “where do I go”, “who do I talk to?”

3. **Specific issue concerns:**
   - Contribution and investment of the community (including businesses, service providers, corporates and individuals) to make things happen for the well-being of people with disability, and a greater economic advantage for the whole of the community (for example by putting on events).
   - Accessibility for all, especially those who are not confident. Accessibility includes transport, it must be affordable and available; this also impacts on employment.
4. **Actions that would make a difference:**

- Everyone in the community working together; power in numbers (again this comes back to the idea that the individual must feel valued, in order to be empowered enough to participate).

- Engage Rotary Club, local business, corporates, Council, and other clubs.

- Form a representative group to speak at Council.

- Individually and collectively be proactive, “be the voice”.

5. **Whom do people trust to act:**

- The group inherently trusts the traditional services through which information flows, but feel that they somehow cannot access this information. Websites were considered useless, social media useful.

- There were frustrations about engaging bureaucratic systems by phone, which refers people back to DIY access instead of human support, ie., internet. Not everyone has access to internet. Radio identified as better than fliers or internet for accessibility of information.

- Confusion about who people talk to and access information from, where to go and how to find out what’s going on.

6. **Follow up:**

- A representative (the facilitator) to attend the disability access committee meeting at Lithgow Council to discuss goals.

- Feedback to group about how this information will inform programs and services moving forward.