

Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 10th December, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Present

Councillors and Co-Chairs:

Cr Julie Williams

Community Representatives:

Helen Caligiuri, Ray Jordan, Edward Manuel, Vince Pirrottina, Matthew Zammit

Carers:

Jo Banks, George Jiang, Judith McLean

Service Providers:

Kathy Kondekas, Melbourne Polytechnic

Council staff:

Gillian Damonze, Coordinator Community Participation and Development
Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader, Access and Inclusion
Zoe Howard, Metro Access Officer

Guest speakers:

Phillip Mallis, Transport Planner
Che Sutherland, Coordinator Transport Strategy

1 Present and Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

Apologies:

Cr Susanne Newton (Councillor), Shadi Hanna (Manager, Aged and Disability), Gail Abbott (Encompass House)

2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

Actions pending: None.

3 Round table check-in (*This is an opportunity for members to add items to the agenda, prioritise agenda items, report back on events, updates or issues that may have come up since the last meeting and table any other issues*).

The following items were discussed:

- Complaint regarding speeding cars in a residential street and a request to install speed humps.

- Northland parking: access in the car park is poor and very little lighting at night time.
- DDAC commended the following work:
 - Newly installed lift in the Council High Street building is “excellent”
 - New, raised pedestrian crossings around municipality have very good access, particularly for people using wheelchairs and other mobility aids
- Recommend DDAC have involvement with the Level Crossing Removal Authority on the High Street, Reservoir and Bell Street, Preston crossing removals.
- Is Council responsible for pest control, specifically rodents surrounding Preston Market and Preston Station?
- Does Council support people with an Acquired Brain Injury or Intellectual Disability to register their assistance animals?

DDAC were advised that Customer Service can be contacted on 8470 8888 to report concerns, lodge a request or complaint, or to speak to Council Officers.

ACTIONS:

- Access and Inclusion Team to determine area of Council to forward complaints relating to speeding and changing road conditions
- Access and Inclusion Team to contact Public Health and Safety
- Katie to contact Level Crossing Removal Authority
- Zoe to follow up with Animal Management regarding support provided to register animals
- Matthew Zammit to forward examples of good practice in supporting people with an Acquired Brain Injury or Intellectual Disability to register pets

4 Vote on Terms of Reference

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access & Inclusion, Everyone

The Committee’s Terms of Reference must be reviewed every two years. A Draft Terms of Reference was developed in the October DDAC meeting and sent to DDAC members for consideration.

Motion Carried. DDAC Members voted unanimously to adopt the updated Terms of Reference.

5 Review of meetings and actions in 2018 and planning for priorities in 2019

Zoe Howard, MetroAccess Officer, Everyone

DDAC were asked to share a highlight from 2018, a suggestion to improve DDAC and identify one priority for 2019.

DDAC Highlights 2018:

- Grange Rd level crossing demonstrates some best practice, including surrounding road work and pedestrian crossings
- Successful Changing Places grant application
- Guest speakers attending DDAC meetings

DDAC Priorities for 2019:

- Affordable housing
- Accessible housing
- Accessible buildings: DDAC would like to understand Council's role with private developers and building surveyors in enforcing, educating and in encouraging developers and surveyors to implement accessible/universal design
- Invite Planning and Building Services to DDAC meeting
- Emergency Egress procedures
- Level crossing removals should employ and consult with people with a disability
- Focus on Intellectual Disability, Acquired Brain Injury, Mental Health
- Mental Health: training, employment and retaining employment for people with psychosocial disability
- Improved communication with community to know what is happening
- Employment

ACTIONS:

- Zoe to develop DDAC 'Wish list' for 2019
- Katie to provide an update into the accessible housing advocacy

6 Review and Development of the new Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

The Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan 2015 – 2019 (DAIP) is due for review. Plans to develop the new DAIP include using a co-design approach, creating a working group comprised of people with lived experience of disability in Darebin. The working group will meet regularly to develop a vision for an inclusive Darebin, which will form the master DAIP document. Yearly action plans will be developed with simple, achievable actions for each unit before the budgeting process each year. The working group meetings will be graphically recorded by a graphic facilitator, and the DAIP will be an accessible, visual document, and written in Easy English.

DDAC provided the following feedback and suggestions:

- The use of pictures is good and accessible, and connects all ideas

- Graphic designers are like system architects
- Contrast in the document should be considered
- Do not use colour print on a colour background
- Style of writing and font sizing should be accessible
- Information should be concise and free of jargon
- Most collateral produced by Council is difficult to read and full of jargon, particularly Darebin Community News
- Reducing the DAIP to a graphically recorded document could result in detailed information being lost. Explore the possibility of an appendix that explains content in more detail
- More detail could be provided through a link to the Darebin website
- Explore using pictures next to main headings
- The current DAIP is not a useful document, is too wordy and is not engaging for community
- Community need to know where to go for supports, how to make a complaint
- Focus less on legislation, what Council has done, and develop a document that includes a directory, referral information, and community assets to support people to participate in the community
- Develop a one page summary of the document
- Explore a central email to log access complaints that could be referenced in the DAIP. Also list a specific point of contact in the DAIP other than customer service (this may present issues as the organisational structure and staffing can change)
- Include a calendar of events with major days eg. International Day of People with Disability

ACTIONS:

Katie to arrange for graphic facilitators to get advice from Vision Australia prior to developing the DAIP to discuss best practice for accessibility.

7 Parking Strategy (please see attached presentation)

Phillip Mallis and Che Sutherland, Transport Planning

Phillip and Che spoke about the development of a new Darebin Parking Strategy to guide how parking is managed in Darebin. Phillip and Che explained that they are in Stage two of the development of the strategy, consulting with the community to collect data and understand how parking is used in Darebin. Stage one involved engaging consultants to write a report about Darebin's options to manage and change parking in the municipality. Transport Planning hope the strategy will be adopted in mid-2019. DDAC were invited to attend community forums to provide additional feedback.

DDAC members completed an interactive activity, indicating their support for the following scenarios and explaining why they chose each response:

- **Scenario 1:** Introduce parking fees in some locations where parking is often full to improve the usage of existing parking. These funds can be re-invested into the local area.
- **Scenario 2:** Convert some on-street parking spaces to other uses to make our shopping areas more attractive, vibrant and visited places. This could include installing wider footpaths, making space for trees and garden beds, and places for al fresco dining.
- **Scenario 3:** Convert some on-street parking spaces to make it easier to access activity centres using other modes of transport. This could include providing safer pedestrian crossings, protected bicycle lanes, bicycle parking, accessible tram stops and tram only lanes.

DDAC raised the following:

- Will Council pay for fines obtained during DDAC meetings?
- Provision of parking permits to committee members to attend DDAC meetings

Chloe advised that there is currently no mechanism to issue permits to the committee and parking inspectors require a local law to refer to.

Zoe Howard commented that the issue is being considered in the review of the parking permit policy. An update was provided in the October DDAC meeting and is available in the October meeting minutes.

ACTIONS:

Katie to contact Traffic Enforcement to discuss parking opportunities and alternatives.

8 General Business

Items raised in Round table check-in:

9 Meeting feedback – everyone

- Ray added that Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) are seeking to attend DDAC meetings.

ACTIONS:

BSL attendance at DDAC has been discussed previous meetings. Zoe and Katie will progress these discussions with BSL and will invite BSL to DDAC in 2019.

Wishing all DDAC a very safe and happy festive season!

Next meeting: Monday 4th February, 2019

11:00am – 1:00pm

Function Room, Preston