

**Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board Meeting  
5.00pm to 6:30pm Council Chambers (1<sup>st</sup> Floor 350 High Street Preston)  
Meeting Minutes - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Chair:** Cr Susanne Newton

**Minutes:** Fionnuala Spillane

**Community Representatives Attendance:** Marika Bozinova, Audrey Grace, Virginia Herts, Anne Learmonth, Nick Nicholaou, Geoff Richards and Robyn Vote.

**Councillor Representatives Attendance:** Cr Gaetano Greco and Cr Susanne Newton

**Darebin Council Representatives Attendance:** Gillian Damonze (Co ordinator of Community Participation and Development), Shadi Hanna (Manager, Aged & Disability Department), Katrina Knox (Director, Community Development), Fionnuala Spillane (Community Development Officer)

**Apologies:** Lyn Austin, Mary Castellani, Draga Kostandinova and Cr Lina Messina

**Observer:** George Jiang

Item	Key Discussion Points	Action – Who/When
<b>1. Welcome, present, apologies</b>	Cr Susanne Newton gave an acknowledgement of Country and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members, observers and staff introduced themselves.  Gillian Damonze noted the retirement of Frances Hennessy from the Board and spoke of Frances' valuable contributions over the years.	-
<b>2. Agenda overview</b>	Cr Newton provided an overview of the agenda and asked for additional items. Board members requested that the following be discussed under 'other items': Homophobic comments at last Monday's Council meeting	-

<p><b>3.Matters Arising</b></p>	<p>Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC) Gillian Damonze met briefly with Darebin Ethnic Communities Council and will attend a future meeting.</p> <p>The draft for the Edwards Lake Master Plan is not quite ready. Jennifer Loulie will forward it to Gillian when it is completed.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p><b>4. Che Sutherland, Team Leader Transport Strategy</b></p>	<p><b>St Georges Road Works</b>  The area between the tram lines is owned by Melbourne Water, and carries the water supply for Melbourne City and Darebin. The current works is expected to take 12 months, finishing in October/ November 2017. The median breaks were intended to stay open, however, at short notice due to safety reasons Melbourne Water decided to close them, giving Council a day's notice. The road is managed by Vic Roads, and Council managed the vegetation, shared paths and parking on the edge.</p> <p>Subsequent closures have been advertised. Council have conducted a Shared Paths Safety Audit – This revealed dangers at the median breaks, particularly for cyclists. The Mayor has written to Vic Roads and Melbourne Water in relation to St Georges Road, requesting that they consult with community, and seek to find a balance between access and safety for all users of the road and paths. See attached.</p> <p>Vic Roads claims that separated paths will not fit on St Georges Road. Members of the Board disputed this. Gillian will request a meeting with the Minister in relation to St Georges Rd.</p> <p>All public transport infrastructure is the responsibility of state government, including rails, stops and timetables etc. Council has been involved in advocacy for accessible tram stops in Northcote, though Council understands there are no further funds available.</p>	

	AHAB members expressed concerns regarding the lack of seating on the new trams on route 86, and that island stops and their associate jolts are not friendly for older people.	
<b>5. Housing</b>	<p>Nick Matteo, Community Planner, Community Wellbeing, was unable to attend tonight's meeting as planned. A discussion took place about housing in Darebin. A site at Stokes and Penola Streets Preston is proposed for a 68 unit development of public housing. Council supports development of more public housing. State government have identified 10 sites in the state to re/develop public housing including Walker St and the Stokes/ Penola site. See open letter from Mayor Le Cerf from this week's Leader newspaper attached.</p> <p>Discussion also took place about the proposed development at Preston Market. Cllr Newton is due to attend VCAT in relation to this proposal and committee members made some suggestions regarding universal access principles.</p>	
<b>6.Sector Reform Update</b>	<p>The Federal government informed us that the current Commonwealth Home Support Program funding will be extended by 1 more year to 2020, we are yet to find out more about details.</p> <p>Darebin is part of the regional project that is examining the options for the future in relation to service delivery.</p> <p>(Time did not allow this update to be discussed at the meeting)</p>	-
<b>7. Aged and Disability update</b>	<p><b>Community Participation and Development Unit</b></p> <p>See report attached. Time did not allow discussion of this in the meeting</p>	
<b>11. Other items</b>	Homophobic comments were made by a resident during Question Time at the Council meeting last Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June, in response to Council's decision to fly the rainbow flag from until Marriage Equality succeeds in	

	<p>Australia. This has been followed by abusive texts sent to Councillors. Members can view the meeting online  <a href="http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/en/Your-Council/How-council-works/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes">http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/en/Your-Council/How-council-works/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes</a>  The Mayor responded well to the person responsible.</p>	
	<p>Deciduous trees are causing a problem in Snake Gully Rd, Bundoora   Older adult group requested automatic door. Gillian informed the meeting that a review of the senior citizen centres is included in the Draft Council Plan.</p>	<p>Gillian will take these up with the member at another time.</p>

## Community Development – Active and Healthy Ageing Board Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### Active and Healthy Ageing Board: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June

#### Community Development report

#### 1. Joint meeting Darebin Disability Advisory Committee / Active and Healthy Ageing Board - Monday 29 May 2017

As identified by the Board in the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy Action Plan the joint meeting with DDAC was held last Monday. Good representation from the Board.

Members shared their thoughts and ideas on:

- Joint work - The need to do more collaborative work with other advisory committees.
- Affordable Housing – Nick Matteo to be rescheduled for the August meeting
- Transport – examples provided of issues that impact on the safety and wellbeing of older people / people with a disability on public transport.

#### 2. **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)** is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Council has ordered the following WEAAD materials –500 WEAAD ribbons, 25 “Stop Elder Abuse” badges and 500 leaflets from Seniors Rights Victoria.

Council will be hosting a talk, *Planning Ahead* by Gary Ferguson from Seniors Rights Victoria.

When: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July

Time: 11am

Where: Preston Library, 266 Gower St, Preston

We invite members of the Board to come along to this presentation and if possible use this event as an opportunity to talk a bit about the Board and introduce Gary from Senior Rights Victoria.



### **3. Older and Active in Darebin**

A reprint of Older and Active is on its way. This will cover 2017 – 2019.

### **4. Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy Action Plan**

#### **Infrastructure**

- Draft Road Management Plan

Advocate to staff in Infrastructure, Maintenance and Support about the Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy. Discussed the Draft Road Management Plan and how we might make it accessible to older people from the various ethnic groups.

#### **Transport management**

Meeting with Transport staff about the AHAS and how we can further the work. They are interested in making more connections with AHAB in relations to future plans they are working on:

- A. Walking strategy
- B. Safe Travel strategy
- C. Cycling strategy
- D. Parking Management framework (briefing to councillors in August – consultation to occur after this.

Wiser traveller/ wiser driver courses – uptake has been poor. Trying linking with the following.

- DCH
- Probus
- U3A

Link with Transport Management about the work with Transdev – Safer travel

Tram stops – super stops: will work with DDAC and AHAB in developing Council position on these.

#### **Environment**

Meeting with the Environment team later in the week to look at AHAS. Already advocated with them about the Climate Emergency Draft Plan and they are presenting to a Vietnamese older adult group tomorrow.

**5. “Making Darebin a More Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender, Intersex and Queer Inclusive Organisation” survey.**

As an outcome of a course several Council staff have been engaged in through Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria, a staff survey has been developed to find out more from the perspective of staff whether Darebin Council is perceived to be LGBTIQ inclusive and how we could do better.

The premise is that if staff who identify as LGBTIQ are well supported and staff more widely understand the history and needs of the LGBTIQ community Council’s understanding, awareness and planning for services will be strengthened.

At this stage, the survey has only targeted the Community Development directorate – however it is likely that it will be rolled out more broadly. The results of the survey will be shared at next meeting.

**6. 17<sup>th</sup> May International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, (IDAHOBIT)** Promotional materials were translated in to six languages, (Arabic, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Mandarin and Vietnamese) and distributed to more than 40 groups supporting older people in Darebin. The poster, as well as providing information about the events, included some introductory information about ‘homophobia’ and it’s harmful effects on the community.

**7. 130 High St, Northcote – public housing estate**

We have been working with Jika Jika Community Centre to re activate the Community Room at 130 High St. There was a history of conflict when the room was used previously. The residents have started doing cooking and crafts in the room. Staff from Jika Jika open the room twice a week. Residents have met independently in the room. Residents reported feeling more sense of community on the estate, eg a group of residents travelled by bus to the funeral of a resident recently.

Letter from Mayor to Vic Road regarding St Georges Road

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS  
T 03 8470 8407 | F 03 9261 4850

A3967620

23 February 2017

Mr. John Merritt  
Chief Executive  
VicRoads  
60 Denmark Street  
KEW VIC 3101

Dear Mr Merritt, *John*

As part of the Melbourne Water M40 project, we understand that VicRoads is assessing the traffic impacts stemming from the temporary closure of non-signalised median breaks along St Georges Road between Miller Street and Arthurton Road, with a view to deciding whether to close them permanently.

26 casualty accidents have occurred at these openings over the past five years, so Council fully supports treating these openings in a way that improves safety for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. Our objective is to secure a solution that improves safety, keeps traffic flowing and reduces traffic on local roads while balancing the needs of all stakeholders.

You may recall that in July last year we wrote to you, along with a number of Victorian Government Ministers, regarding the closures of non-signalised crossing as part of the M40 project.

Since then we have received feedback from the community that the temporary closure of these crossings is having a significant impact on accessibility and connectivity for the community, including cyclists, pedestrians, tram commuters, local residents, businesses and schools located along the St Georges Road corridor.

To address these potential impacts, we seek your assurance that you will undertake significant public consultation to determine the best solution. Our own community engagement on this matter has shown us that our community has a range of concerns and ideas that should be considered. These may involve the introduction of signalisation, rather than total removal, of key crossing points as well as the upgrade of existing signalised intersections.

Council has well established community networks and regularly engages with stakeholders relevant to the M40 project. We would welcome the opportunity to partner with VicRoads and to support your engagement activities by facilitating introductions to these groups. I know they will be able to provide valuable input and help ensure that the final design improves safety and ensures accessibility for a range of road and path users.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Kim Le Cerf  
MAYOR



Darbin City Council  
ABN 75 815 980 522  
Postal Address  
PO Box 91  
Preston VIC 3072  
T 03 8470 8888  
darebin.vic.gov.au  
National Relay  
Service  
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## OPEN LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY ABOUT PUBLIC HOUSING IN DAREBIN



the place  
to live



**Cr Kim Le Cerf  
MAYOR**

### Dear community,

Council views public housing as a serious community issue and believes politics should never get in the way of genuine solutions to the current supply crisis.

Research from around the world shows quality housing delivers significant social and economic benefits and we believe disadvantaged public housing tenants deserve the best accommodation possible.

That's why, with more than 7000 local families and individuals on an ever growing waiting list for public housing, improving quality and supply is a big priority for Council.

You may be aware that Council, together with local residents, had a number of concerns about plans for a poorly designed public housing development at the Stokes/ Penola site in Preston that would result in substandard living conditions.

The planning application from the Department of Health and Human Services was rejected by Council on this basis and I subsequently met with the

Minister for Housing to discuss these concerns. At the meeting I reaffirmed our commitment to public housing and it was agreed that we would work with the Department to develop a master plan for the entire site in consultation with the community.

We are pleased that through the subsequent VCAT process, the Department agreed to amend their plans and redesign the buildings to a better quality standard, having taken on board feedback from both residents and Council.

The fact is the Stokes/Penola site has plenty of land available to build many more units than what's currently proposed by the Department. We agree with the Ministers' position that the site is ideally situated for public housing and call on him to use much more of the site for public housing, rather than selling off the rest of the land to private developers. We encourage the local Federal Member, David Feeney, to back our call.

With the Department confirming it has identified another public housing site for redevelopment in Walker Street Northcote, it is absolutely crucial we continue to set the bar high to secure the best outcome for existing residents and future public housing tenants.

## CITY OF DAREBIN



National Relay  
Service

274 Gower Street, Preston  
PO Box 91, Preston, VIC 3072  
T 8470 8888 F 8470 8877  
E [mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au)  
[darebin.vic.gov.au](http://darebin.vic.gov.au)



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