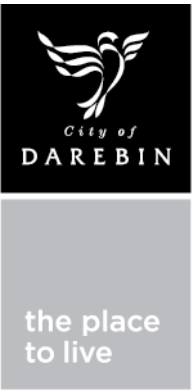


Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 1 March 2021
Meeting Minutes



Present

Chair: Gillian Damonze, Coordinator Community Participation and Development

Community Representatives:

Ray Jordan, Vince Pirrottina

Carers:

George Jiang

Service provider:

Katherine Kondekas (Melbourne Polytechnic)

Council staff:

Katherine Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

Ania Sieracka, Community Development Officer Access and Inclusion (minutes)

Guest speaker:

Quentin Mercier, Coordinator Major Projects (presenter) and Mathew Cullen, Level X Removal Project Lead

1 Present and Apologies

Chair delivered Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The following apologies were noted:

Councillor Julie Williams,
Helen Caligiuri and Edward Manuel (community members), Judith McLean (carer),
Robyn Mitchell, Acting Manager Aged and Disability and Jade Myconos, Community Development Officer Economic Participation.

2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

No matters were raised.

Actions pending:

There are no actions pending from previous meeting.

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*).

Following items were added to General Business:

Darebin Access Mobility Map update (added by Ania).

4 Level X Removal Project in Darebin

Quentin Mercier – Coordinator Major Projects, Darebin City Council

Mathew Cullen – Project Lead Level X Removal Project

Quentin provided following information about the progress of the project:

- The Level Crossing Removal Project, a State Government project, is upgrading two train stations in Darebin, Preston and Bell.
- Work commenced at the end of 2020 and the two stations will open for the community use in 2022.
- Council is a key stakeholder in this project (not a decision-maker) and it advocates for the community to minimise disruption, get best design outcomes and protect trees and heritage in the area.
- Open Spaces surrounding these new stations were designed by a group of residents and a Council Officer and will be completed in 2023.
- There will be a range of purpose-based spaces (rest areas, fitness stations, natural play, Yarning Circles) and spaces without any dedicated purposes, so the community can decide their future use.
- The designs are finalised but there are still opportunities to introduce some small improvements to these spaces.
- There will be some disruption connected to the work. It will include road closures, temporary stations, buses replacing trains, access to parking, access to shops and an increase in the level of construction.
- Informative wayfinding and clear signage during the work is a priority for the project.
- The Major Projects Team at Council would like to set up a working group
- This would help engage with community and jointly work on solutions to issues identified through feedback.
- The group would run during the duration of the project from June 2021 until 2022.

DDAC provided the following points for consideration:

- The committee acknowledged and agreed on Council's proactive approach to this project in Darebin.
- Consider using the model for community engagement that was implemented by the Level Crossing Removal project during the redevelopment of Reservoir train station. There was a lot of information circulated to the community and opportunities for feedback.
- The pedestrian crossing on Oakover Road should be raised and properly signed for the traffic to slow down.
- Consider reduction of speed on Oakover Road once the work has been completed.

Action: Ania to attach the presentation to the meeting minutes for community members to consider proposed changes and provide further feedback.

Action: Quentin to provide an Expression of Interest form for the Level Crossing Removal Project Community Working Group membership to the DDAC for distribution and consideration.

5 DDAC Recruitment update

Ania Sieracka Community Development Officer Access and Inclusion, Darebin City Council

Ania provided a following update:

- Council is undertaking recruitment of community members to seven Council Advisory committees, including DDAC.
- This is a two-pronged approach – a collaborative effort led by the Equity and Wellbeing Team and a direct engagement with DDAC stakeholders, led by the Access and Inclusion Officer.
- Recruitment will run from 4 March to 1 April 2012.
- Community members are encouraged to complete an Expression of Interest (EoI) form.
- The Access and Inclusion Officer can help with completing the form.
- EoI will be distributed electronically but also dropped off/displayed in places where community members gather.

DDAC raised the following points for consideration:

- Since the local printed Leader newspapers have stopped their circulation Reaching out community members who do not have access to online information may be difficult.
- Ensure there is communication about this EoI opportunity with disability service providers and organisations in the area.

Action: Ania to send the DDAC EoI to the community members for further distribution throughout their networks.

6 Standard Terms of Reference (ToR) for Council Advisory Committees

Ania Sieracka Community Development Officer Access and Inclusion, Darebin City Council

Ania provided a following update:

- In mid-January five community members from DDAC and Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee (AHAAC) attended a 'drop in' online session to provide feedback to the proposed Standard Terms of Reference (ToR) for Council Advisory Committees document.

- This feedback was passed onto the Governance Team at Council that is running the Review of Advisory Committees project.
- The Governance Team confirmed that all suggestions provided by community members would be incorporated into the Standard ToR document before it is submitted to Council on 22 April for endorsement.

Ania led the work on the updated draft DDAC ToR:

- The draft document has been updated with feedback provided by the DDAC community members at the drop-in session in mid-January.
- It aligns with changes proposed in the Standard ToR.

DDAC discussed the following points:

- The suggestion for a co-Charing arrangement, by a Councillor and a community member, was considered and rejected.
- The requirement for setting the maximum term of membership duration. This was confusing in the context of the opportunity to re-appoint community members, subject to further Council resolution, and the requirement to re-confirm the membership of the committee every 12 months. These points require further clarification.
- Changing the requirement for vacancies on the committee to be advertised from three to two vacancies.
- The number of community committee members that needs to be present for the meeting to go ahead was considered but no agreement was made.
- The percentage of the voting members present to reach a decision needs to be 51%. This number must include at least five community members.

Action: Ania to attach the draft ToR document marked with proposed and discussed changes to the minutes for further consideration by the community members.

Action: Ania to invite a representative from the Governance Team to seek further information about the proposed Standard ToR.

7 General Business updates

Darebin Access Mobility Map Update

There is an opportunity to upgrade the Geographic Information System (GIS) interface and create a new Access Mobility Map (similar to the [Darebin Sustainable Map](#)). Several areas across Council engaged with an external provider to create interactive maps. The Access and Inclusion Officer also undertook some investigations. The access categories to feature on the potential map would cover:

- Accessible Services (including Autism Friendly Services, Communication Access, Recharge Scheme)
- Toilets (including Accessible Toilets and Changing Places)

- Parking Spaces (Off-street and On-street Accessible Parking)
- Parks and Open Spaces.

Transport would already be imbedded in the map and the Wheelchair Accessible businesses category would be updated in the future by the Economic Development Team. The map would still sit off the People with Disabilities website page, but it will not be printable and accessible by a screen reader.

If the preference is for the new map to be developed, community members could provide advice on which categories and points on the map require content (image/description/contact details) and which could just sit on the map.

Action: Ania to provide links to the two maps and a brief outline of pros/cons for either map.

Action: the committee members to provide their feedback regarding a preferred map by Friday 5 March 2021.

Action: committee members to provide advice on which categories and points on the map require content, if it is preferred for the new map to be developed.

All Aboard Network update

Ray provided an update from the [All Aboard Network](#):

- The Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT) are being updated
- The [Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication website](#) includes more information about this process in a range of formats and covering a range of topics.
- Last date for submissions is 23 April 2021.

Updates regarding the remaining General Business items, including:

- COVID-19 Vaccine information
- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Reforms
- Disability Royal Commission

are included in a separate document (Appendix 1). This document will be circulated with the minutes.

8 Meeting feedback – everyone

Thank you to everyone who participated in the meeting.

Next meeting: Monday 7 June 2021

11:00am – 1:00pm

Online MS Teams – link to be provided.

7. General Business updates

COVID-19 Vaccine information

Australian Government Department of Health created a [COVID-19 Vaccine-specific information page](#). The page covers a range of topics, including [information for people with disability](#). The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance has prepared [FAQs](#) in relation to the vaccine rollout in Australia. COVID-19 Vaccine information has also been included into the Darebin Disability Access e-newsletter since January 2021.

National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Reforms

The Agency is undertaking a range of reforms to make changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). More information about these reforms is outlined in the [NDIS Reforms - Information Paper](#). The reforms cover the following three areas:

[Consultation paper: access and eligibility policy for independent assessments](#)

[Consultation paper: planning policy for personalised budgets and plan flexibility](#)

[Consultation paper: supporting young children and their families early, to reach their full potential.](#)

Recently, NDIA also signalled they will be making changes to Support Coordination by removing it from the Core funding. This will be ceasing on 31 March. At the beginning of the pandemic, the NDIA introduced duplicate Support Coordination line items under core supports to allow people to use their funding flexibly towards Support Coordination. This was meant to be a temporary COVID-19 measure. In October 2020, NDIA announced these line items would be ongoing. This decision is now going to be reversed.

Disability Royal Commission

[The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability](#) held hearings into the Experiences of people with cognitive disability in the criminal justice system. [The March hearings](#) will investigate addition education and training for healthcare professionals and Pathways to Employment.