

MINUTES

KINGBOROUGH DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting No. 2021-3

Wednesday 9 June 2021



Minutes of a Meeting of the Kingborough Disability Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee held at the Kingborough Civic Centre, Kingston, on Wednesday 9 June 2021 2.00pm.

PRESENT

		PRESENT	APOLOGY
Chairperson	Cr Paula Wriedt	✓	
	David Vickery	✓	
	Kevin Brown	✓	
	Di Carter	✓	
	Paul Gilby		✓
	Fran Thompson	✓	
	Richard Witbreuk	✓	
	Justine Barwick		✓
Staff	Julie Alderfox (Community Development Officer)	✓	
	Paul Donnelly (Urban Design Officer)	✓	
	Steve Loxley (Project Manager Kingston Park)	✓	
Guests	Claire Richardson (Baptcare)	✓	
	Tammy Milne (Physical Disability Australia)	✓	
	Bridget Fasnacht (Kingston Beach Surf Life Saving Club)	✓	
	Danielle Campbell (Kingston Beach Surf Life Saving Club)	✓	
	Sarah Poortenaar (Department State Growth)	✓	
	Andrew Winch (Department of State Growth)	✓	

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Paula Wriedt declared her nomination to run for the office of Mayor. Di Carter declared her nomination to run for Councillor.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Kevin Brown

/Seconded Richard Witbreuk

That the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14 April 2021 as circulated, be confirmed.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING

Kingston Beach Accessibility

Tammy Milne from Physical Disabilities Australia and representatives from the Kingston Beach Surf Life Saving Club (KBSLSC) attended to discuss beach accessibility.

The barriers being experienced, particularly by people using mobility aids, in accessing Kingston Beach were highlighted by Ms Milne. Listed were: the existing ramp at Kingston Beach presenting an unacceptably large gap between the end of the ramp and the sand; inadequate parking opportunities; an absence of beach matting.

Council's Urban Designer, Paul Donnelly, provided information on the DDA compliant ramp due to be constructed to link with the amenities block and threshold-free pedestrian crossing with the beach. It was noted that the new ramp has been designed to provide gap-free access to the sand.

Representatives from Kingston Beach Surf Life Saving Club (Ms Danielle Campbell & Ms Bridget Fasnacht) provided information on the current services offered by the SLSC to encourage and include participation in beach activities by people using mobility aids. Representatives explained the club's decision not to pursue the provision of beach matting due to the range of responsibilities associated with the maintenance, management and storage of the equipment which was deemed to create unacceptable levels of responsibility for club volunteers.

Discussion took place in relation to the advantages and disadvantages of beach matting and particular types of beach/submersible wheelchairs. Support for the inclusion of beach matting was reiterated by ParaQuad representative Richard Witbreuk, citing that beach matting provides conditions for independence and inclusion and should be prioritised. A request for information in relation to a Coastal Access Strategy was put forward.

It was agreed that if the SLSC is to provide an additional beach wheelchair, consideration should be given to the design to ensure it provides optimal use for the greatest number of users.

Limitations in relation to the capacity of volunteers at the KBSLSC to manage all aspects of equipment loan, management and storage were stated. Council's Community Grants program was mentioned as a possible avenue of support for the purchase /fabrication of beach wheelchair storage equipment.

It was suggested that 'Access Notes' form part of the information provided about the beach. These could include distance and directional signage to suitable parking, ramp access and amenities. Staff to follow up.

Kingston Park Stage 2

Kingston Park Project Manager, Steve Loxley provided an update on Stage 2 of the Kingston Park open space development. Attention was given to pathway width, gradient and the provision of leaning posts. Assurance was provided to the group that picnic and BBQ infrastructure would be wheelchair accessible. Advice was sought on optimal height for benches. It was requested that seating be of a style that provides a middle arm rest. It was noted that the manufacturer would need to be contacted to discuss the design. Staff to follow up.

A plan was provided to each member of the group. Information was provided on pedestrian/cycleway links from surrounding areas to the playground/open space area.

Department of State Growth DDA Compliance Bus Stop Project

Prior to the meeting the Committee had been provided with documents pertaining to the Department State Growth's audit of Kingborough bus stops and methods used to develop the priority list.

It was noted that some major bus stops were not included in the audit as they are being upgraded via separate projects. Examples being Huntingfield, Kingston CBD and Firthside.

It was requested that members of the committee provide comments as part of Council's combined response which will include input from Development Services, Engineering Services and Governance, Recreation & Property Services.

Issues raised included, planning for future passenger numbers and not basing upgrade decisions on current levels of use; including growth areas and providing conditions which increase public transport; inclusion of accessible shelters as well as accessible conditions for alighting and exiting buses, including inadequate (even though recently upgraded) bus stops such as Taroom; considering Margate's main bus stop independently and not in relation to the planned adjacent development. Committee members were encouraged to forward comments and questions to Julie Alderfox as soon as possible.

Pathway Finishes in Parks & Playgrounds

Council's Urban Designer, Paul Donnelly requested information from the committee on the advantages/disadvantages of particular pathway finishes in relation to accessibility/ease of use.

The following was noted:

- Gravel paths were deemed difficult and, in some cases impossible for wheelchair users to travel on;
- A preference for concrete was shown due to its longevity and preferred smoother surface for those with mobility aids although it was noted that improvements via colour/aggregate were preferred;
- The need for contrast and defining edges was noted for those with vision impairment and/or those living with dementia;
- Shiny surfaces whether by paint type or surface finishes create problems for people with vision impairment.

Overall, it was noted that community education is key to improving awareness of how people with disability are excluded from everyday activities. This may include reminding people that ageing-in place may be supported via improved universal design considerations, including such things as accessible path finishes.

Education Documents

It was agreed to approach Council's Communications Officer to request local photos for the brochures. It was noted that a variety of disabilities should be represented via images.

Access & Inclusion Checklist

Plans for the use of an Access & Inclusion Checklist and addition of 'Disability Access Considerations' in capital works budget bids has been presented to the Director of Environment, Development & Community. Discussions are to take place with relevant staff and an outcome provided to the August meeting.

Correspondence In

Resignation from long time member Julie Taylor.

Resignation from Baptcare representative Melinda Harris. Nomination from Claire Richardson as Committee representative from Baptcare.

Development Applications

Demolition of Woodbridge toilet block.

Huntingfield Park & Ride and Firthside Park & Ride Applications have been approved by Council.

Other Business

- Huntingfield Park & Ride – David Vickery contacted Pitt & Sherry's Huntingfield Park & Ride Project Manager to recommend discussing physical requirements of current and future bus models to determine space allowance etc.
- Letter to be forwarded to Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing encouraging support for changes to building regulations which include the requirement for accessible features in all new housing.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Access Advisory Committee is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 11 August 2021 2pm at the Council Chambers.

CLOSURE: There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 4.05 pm.