

MINUTES

KINGBOROUGH DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting No. 2022-5

Wednesday 12 October 2022



Minutes of a Meeting of the Kingborough Disability Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee held at the Kingborough Civic Centre, Kingston, on Wednesday 12 October 2022 2.00pm.

PRESENT

		PRESENT	APOLOGY
Chairperson	Cr Paula Wriedt		X
	David Vickery	✓	
	Kevin Brown	✓	
	Di Carter	✓	
	Fran Thompson	✓	
	Wendy Nielsen	✓	
	Heather Anderson	✓	
	David McQuillan	✓	
	Don Hempton	✓	
	Bob Schnierer		X
	Anne Rathjen		X
Staff	Mel Staples (Community Development Officer)	✓	
	Anthony Verdow (Executive Officer Engineering)	✓	
	Steve Loxley (Project manager, Kingston Park)	✓	
	Dan Kaimatsoglu (Program Manager Transform Kingston)	✓	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson acknowledged and paid respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of the land on which the Committee met and acknowledged elders past and present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOVED: Don Hempton

SECONDED: Fran Thompson

That the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 10 August 2022 as circulated, be confirmed.

CARRIED

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

The Mayor Paula Wriedt was an apology for the meeting.

According to the Kingborough Disability Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (January 2021) item 10C “In the absence of the appointed Chairperson, the Committee shall elect an Acting Chairperson for the meeting from amongst those present.”

David Vickery nominated Di Carter to chair the meeting. Those at the meeting accepted the nomination unanimously.

Di Carter accepted the nomination to chair the meeting.

Mel Staples read out an email on behalf of the Mayor Paula Wriedt, noting that the Chair being absent was one of the reasons for Notice of Motion to Council.

“At present our Terms of Reference (and those of all Advisory Committees) only allow for one councillor representative. I will be bringing a Notice of Motion to the first meeting of the new Council to amend this to two Councillors. Increased membership of Councillors would provide new Councillors to be involved with a Committee which is a great learning experience. It would also ensure that when the Councillor representative is unable to attend, that the other Councillor can Chair the meeting in their absence.”

GUEST SPEAKERS

Di Carter welcomed guest speakers, Donna Blanchard (CEO, Autism Tasmania) and Jody Denman (Learning and Development Officer, Autism Tasmania). Mel Staples offered an apology on behalf of Mayor Paula Wriedt that she was not available to hear their presentation and that she was looking forward to meeting with them at a later stage.

Donna reported that there is currently no reliable data on the numbers of people who are neurodiverse or autistic. Early diagnosis with children has improved and there is an increase in the number of adults seeking a late diagnosis.

People who are autistic prefer to be referred to as being autistic rather than having a ‘disorder’. The brain does not have a disorder, it just processes and experiences information differently to a ‘neurotypical’ brain. It can be extremely exhausting for an autistic person to be a participating member of neurotypical society – things like patterns on carpets, colours, sound levels, acoustics, smells etc all have to be managed in order to focus on conversations and tasks. Autism is an invisible disability.

Donna suggested that Council’s customer facing staff need to be aware of the needs and experiences of autistic and neurodiverse customers. She questioned if there are accommodations made for autistic customers who are making a complaint or who have a complaint made about them. She also asked if Council employs people who are neurodiverse and how does the workplace accommodate these staff needs. It was noted that approximately 50% of the staff at CSIRO are considered neurodiverse.

Capital works could be assessed for neurodiversity. Professor Owen (UTAS School of Architecture) is an expert in “Autistic Safe Design” and how to design and build with sensitivity to neurodiverse people.

- A zebra crossing on Channel Hwy – from Liv Eat to Denison Dental
- Relocation of the City bound bus off the main road
- Bus interchange at 40 Channel Highway
- Enhanced seating and shelter for bus commuters on southern destination side
- Central median island with new streetlights and CCTV
- 3-metre-wide footpaths including additional space for potential alfresco dining
- Street trees, vegetation and street furniture
- Improved safety and traffic flow in and out of John Street – left in and left out
- John Street will be left turn in and left turn out only
- The current carpark at 3 John Street (Fantail Parade) removed to create a new public open space
- More street trees and vegetation
- Uphill bike lane for southern bound cyclists – 1.9 metre wide
- 20 additional on-street parking spaces
- Traffic calming measures
- Street furniture and street art

Kingston CBD Upgrade

Concept 1



Legend



Pedestrian refuges



Street trees and plantings



Widened footpath



Street lighting



Bus shelter



Bike lane



Bus stop

The Summerleas Road underpass is likely to be funded through the City Deal and if it goes ahead, people will be able to commute from the new subdivisions at Whitewater Creek/Spring Farm to the Kingston CBD without going on the road. The long-term vision is to link Kingston Beach to Snug with an off-road path.

BUSINESS ARISING

Lightwood Park ramp to soccer oval – this matter was rectified within a day of the complaint being made.



Plans for 2022 – Action List

- **Meeting of Inclusive Customer Service Sub-Committee** - The Sub Committee by agreement was deferred until after the election was finalised (David and Di were both members along with Don). If they are no longer committee members, the Committee will need to be reformed.
- **Beach Matting at Kingston Beach** – Heather tried out the new beach wheelchairs with her mother. They were difficult to push in the sand and may need some adjustment. A person in a wheelchair would need to have someone to push them as they are too difficult to use independently. There are no updates on the beach matting available for this meeting.

Action: Mel to contact Clarence Council for update

- **Disability parking Kingborough Sports Centre** – no updates available as Council's Engineer has been away. Due to the size of the project, there may need to be a Capital Works bid for 2023.

Action: Mel to discuss with Renai.

- **Disability Parking Lightwood Park** – Anthony to follow up with Renai
- **Traffic Light Pedestrian Intervals with 'wheelchair test'**

Action: Mel to organise a time to meet with David Vickery at the lights next to Banjos Kingston, prior to the next meeting.

- **Community Hub** – bike racks have been removed and will be relocated.
- **Community Hub Wayfinding** – Mel presented a draft version of updates from Orbit Design. These were discussed with some amendments including:

- Main Sign preference for Option A, with white font changed in numbering with yellow background; consider adding braille, check size of font and if sign will be located at eye level.
- The yellow and black way finding signs were approved with the consideration of changing the location of toilet signs.
- The wrap around directional signs were approved
- The coloured meeting room door signage was approved

Action: Mel to contact Orbit Design with updates

- **Community Hub Changing Places** – the bathroom has now had all the upgrades completed and requires a deep clean. It is anticipated that the bathroom will be available for people with an MLAK by 21 October. Di asked if there was a Communications Plan to inform the public on the availability of the venue.

Action: Mel to discuss communications plan with Sam Adams

- **Public Awareness Campaign for Access and Inclusion** – the regular column in the local media could be the starting point to raise community awareness with real life stories on some of the issues that people with disabilities face. Mel reported that the Mayor had a positive response from the Kingborough Chronicle in relation to regular articles. Their only stipulation from the Chronicle was that the articles needed to be specifically local. The Mayor has offered to write the first introductory article and then it can be shared around to the rest of the Committee for future articles.

Action: Cr Paula Wriedt to write the introductory article for Kingborough Chronicle

- **Design of Bus Stop Facilities** – The designs for bus interchange at 40 Channel Highway and upgrade in front of Commonwealth Bank should come to the committee for comment.

Action: Mel to request that Dan meets with the committee when these plans are drawn up.

Accessibility Checklist for Public Amenities

Anthony noted that there are 3 new public toilets being designed for Kingborough including:

Christopher Johnson Park
Kettering Hall and Oval
Longley Reserve (across from the Longley International Hotel)

Action: Anthony to share the plans for these toilets with the committee

David noted that an accessible bathroom also required accessible pathways and other items. He has seen grass and gravel paths to the entry of an accessible bathroom.

Action: David to send Mel a list of items that should also be considerations for an accessible bathroom.

Correspondence

Correspondence In

- Correspondence in from Fran Thompson re wheelchair ramp outside Knight Frank at Channel Court
- Correspondence in from Bill Blaik re wheelchair ramp outside Knight Frank at Channel Court
- Correspondence in Jo Palmer MP, Minister for Disability Services re wheelchair accessible taxis
- Correspondence in Richard Witbreuk, Article “Disability inclusion in beach precincts beach for all abilities – a community development approach through a social relational model of disability lens”

Correspondence Out

- Correspondence out Cr Paula Wriedt to Attorney General Hon Elise Archer re clarification on return journey for Maxi Taxi

4.00pm David McQuillan and Wendy Nielsen left the meeting

Other Business

- **Dementia Friendly Cafes** – Di reported that the first Kingston Dementia Friendly Café was held at the Kingston Beach RSL. It was very successful and will be held on the first Friday of every month.

The Lea (Scouts Tasmania) - Mel reported that Paula Wriedt visited the Lea with Scouts Tasmania to inspect their new accessible cabin. They have a large range of community groups who use the facility but up until now, have not had contemporary facilities for anyone with a disability. They received a State Government grant and Council waived the planning fees as a gesture of goodwill. The Variety Club used the facilities on the weekend and were happy with them. The accessible bathroom seemed to be in order with the mirror at the right height and the toilet seat was blue. They have added an accessible ramp and a path to the main building where activities take place.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Access Advisory Committee is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14 December 2022 2pm at the Council Chambers.

CLOSURE: There being no further business, the Acting Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 4.15pm.