

MINUTES

KINGBOROUGH DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting No. 2023-4

Wednesday 9 August 2023

Minutes of a Meeting of the Kingborough Disability Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee held at the Kingborough Civic Centre, Kingston, on Wednesday 14 June 2023 2.00pm.

PRESENT

		PRESENT	APOLOGY
Chairperson	Cr Paula Wriedt	✓	
Deputy Chairperson	Cr Flora Fox		✓
	David Vickery		✓
	Di Carter	✓	
	Fran Thompson	✓	
	Wendy Nielsen		✓
	Heather Anderson	✓	
	David McQuillan	✓	
	Don Hempton	✓	
	Bob Schnierer		✓
	Anne Rathjen		✓
Staff	Julie Alderfox (Community Development Officer)	✓	
	Heather Salisbury (Acting Director Environment, Development and Community)	✓	
	Dan Kaimatsoglu (Project Manager Transform Kingston)	✓	
	Sam Adams (Media and Communications Advisor)	✓	

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: David McQuillan

That the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 24 April 2023 as circulated, be confirmed. CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

1. Summerleas Road Underpass

Information was provided on the Summerleas Road underpass. The aim in building the underpass is to create a link between Kingston Park and the Whitewater Creek development in which no road crossings are required. The underpass will discourage people from crossing Summerleas Rd. The gradient, height and width of the underpass/path were provided. The gradient on the approach ramps are slightly under the DDA requirements. Landings were unable to be included due to site constraints. Pullover bays or respite spots have been included in the longer approach path to provide rest spaces for those requiring them.

Safety has been a major consideration in the design of the underpass with appropriate lighting and beginning-to-end visibility being part of the design.

A question was asked as to whether the path would eventually provide a pedestrian connection to Spring Farm. The question is to be referred to Council's Recreation Officer.

Dan Kaimatsoglu left the meeting at 2.20pm.

2. Website Accessibility

Council's Media and Communications Advisor attended the meeting to discuss accessibility of the website. Feedback indicated agendas and policies were easy to locate however cross referencing of events could help to boost awareness e.g. tracks and trails linking to organised walks or events.

Feedback indicated that menu structure could be improved. It was noted that Disability Voices Tasmania has a website that conforms to current Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). The site can be used as a sample of font contrast and other inclusive features.

A suggestion was made that Customer Service staff be informed of each of the current surveys to encourage engagement.

Sam Adams and Heather Salisbury left the meeting at 2.45pm

3. Beach Matting

The committee was informed that the purchase of beach matting is being progressed. Quotes for fabrication of a storage facility are being sought. It is expected that the matting will be ready for use by December 2023.

4. Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The committee was informed that the Diversity & Inclusion Statement developed by the Disability Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee is now displayed in the Civic Centre entrance. The statement is to be included in the new staff recruitment system and will be added to the careers page on the website. The updated staff induction pack will include the statement as will the staff intranet. The statement is also included under the 'Community' tab on the Council website.

5. Upgrades to Community Hub

Funding was approved within the 2023/2024 Council budget for a variety of upgrades at the Community Hub. This will include improved signage.

6. Disability Awareness Flag

The disability awareness flag was flown throughout the month of July for Disability Awareness month. Information was shared on social media

7. Changes to Maxi-Taxi Regulations

Information was received regarding changes to the Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Regulations. The state government has doubled the fee it pays to wheelchair accessible taxis in a bid to incentivise more drivers to enter the industry.

It was noted that there are still questions around return trip guarantees and wait times. It was suggested that a 12-month check-in with the minister be arranged to gauge if the incentives are having the desired effect. It was also suggested that Disability Voices Tasmania (DVT) be contacted to give support to any ongoing lobbying and work they may be conducting to ensure the transport issues for people with disabilities are being addressed.

A letter to be written to DVT regarding the above.

8. Dementia Advocacy in Local Government Planning

Correspondence was received from Dementia Australia outlining the rationale behind efforts to include dementia as a "relevant consideration" in Council policies and plans which may directly impact those living with dementia. The example given was that of a complaint about a tree that was dropping leaves. The tree was on the property of a person living with dementia and the council was considering removing the tree. The tree was quite large and provided much shade and comfort to the person with dementia. The episode went on for several months, causing distress. The council was advised that the property owner was living with dementia and was experiencing anxiety over the possible removal of the tree. The council resolved not to remove the tree. However much damage had already been done in terms of the distress and agitation caused.

It was noted that council currently pays special attention to keeping a clear chain of emails regarding issues which may be of significance to a resident who is known to be living with dementia.

It was further noted that relationships with Council can be impacted by invisible disabilities such as neurodiversity and dementia. It was suggested that it may be helpful for staff to be made aware of such conditions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Spring Farm Shopping Centre

Cr Paula Wriedt reported that a meeting with the developer of the shopping centre has been arranged where accessibility will be discussed along with other issues.

Transform Kingston – Road Markings

It was noted that for those using mobility aids, crossing at Hutchins Street is now possible due to the flush pavements. There is however some confusion about road markings for pedestrians.

Blackmans Bay Area Footpath/Gravel Opposite Beach Restaurant

It was reported that minor work had been undertaken by Council adjacent to the footpath opposite the Beach Restaurant. A question was asked about what the final finish treatment of the area will be. The relevant staff will be contacted to provide details.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Access Advisory Committee is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 11 October 2023 2pm at the Council Chambers.

CLOSURE: There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 3.10pm.