

MINUTES

Disability & Inclusion Advisory Group

Date: Thursday 23 February 2023

Time: 12.30pm

Location: Council Chambers / Boardroom (Shire Hall) and via MS Teams

<i>Disability & Inclusion Advisory Group Community Members</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Apology</i>
Mhari Paterson	✓	
Libby Berg		✓
Lyn Boucher	✓	
Geraldine Cox	✓	
Eric Third		✓
Sarah Owers		✓
Debbie Annetts		✓
Star- Jade Laverty	✓	
Patrick Neilson	✓	
Susan Johnson	✓	
<i>Councillors & Council Staff</i>		
Cr Beverley Spearpoint (Chair)	✓	
Cr Suzy Brandstater (Deputy Chair)	✓	
Rob Moran, Team Leader, Community Projects & Events	✓	
Vickie Tierney, Community Projects Officer	✓	
Michelle Sheehan, Manager, Community Services	✓	

Item	Key Speaker (s)	Agreed Actions
1. Acknowledgement of country	Deputy Chair	AOC delivered by Cr Brandstater
2. Attendance and apologies As noted above Welcome to new members: Susan Johnson Beautiful Bargo – Resilience NSW Strong advocate for better sustainable planning Star-Jade Laverty Firebird Disability Support Service Lived Experienced and Strong advocate	Chair	

<p>Patrick Neilson River Road Creative Music Academy Creating access to inclusive music opportunities</p>		
<p>3. Disclosure of interests</p> <p>Star-Jade Laverty disclosed that she has a non-pecuniary interest as she is the owner of a private Disability Service. Star has completed the appropriate paperwork that has been lodged with the Governance Team at Council.</p>	Chair	
<p>4. Confirmation of previous minutes</p>	Chair	Lyn Boucher confirmed previous minutes
<p>5. Actions and Initiatives</p> <p>Recommendation to SRG that Assets, Transport & Engineering representation be invited to the next Disability AG to present Council Accessible car parking audit report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The traffic Team has completed a desk top audit of the existing accessible parking spots throughout the Shire. • The Team will be working with GIS to be able to create an Intramaps layer that could be accessible to the public to show these facilities in the coming months. • Engagement opportunity to pinpoint locations will be made available to the public shortly. • Once the engagement is complete the Team will be happy to attend the Disability AG to report on results and priority list. <p>Recommendation to SRG that the Disability AG provide a letter to the NSW Government advocating for accessibility upgrades of Thirlmere Lakes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Parks reached out to Council and Disability AG in early December to seek feedback for master planning. • A number of accessibility projects were already being funded and implemented this financial year and the following which included both toilet facilities • Vickie fed back through the master planning process the accessibility difficulties that the AG had discussed after site visit. <p>Recommendation to the SRG that the Disability AG receive a copy of the recommendation report from Disability Inclusive Emergency Preparedness Research Forum facilitated by Sydney University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are expecting a report early March from Sydney University. 	Vickie Tierney	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW does not (yet) have any guidance documents on supporting preparedness and increasing collaboration across sectors. • This is the main goal of the Leave Nobody Behind project – to produce operational guidance for cross sector collaboration on DIDRR – hence the care Sydney Uni is putting into the DIEP and P-CEP findings as they are informing and shaping this framework. Sydney Uni want to make sure this framework is truly operational at the local community level. <p>Recommendation to SRG that a representative from Councils People & Culture team to speak about ways Council is making employment opportunities at Council more accessible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to attend but sent through a very extensive update • Highlights include: Council’s induction program includes mandatory Customer Service Training for all new starters, which includes information on disability awareness presented by Council’s Community Projects Officer. • A review of Council’s Recruitment and Selection Procedure and Onboarding Processes was undertaken last year. • This resulted in many process improvements including ensuring pre-employment medicals and drug and alcohol testing was conducted on a risk management approach, the number of criteria for applicants to respond to reduced and shortlisting processes condensed. • People & Culture Team to attend the next Disability AG to present. 		
6. Matters referred to the AG by Council resolution	Chair	Nil
7. WH&S	Chair	Nil
<p>8. Disability Inclusion Action Plan Update:</p> <p>Councils’ DIAP can be downloaded using the following link: https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/events-and-community/inclusion-and-access/diap/</p> <p>Systems & Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library re-launch including brand new Adaptive Technology 29th April. More details to be sent out to Disability AG via email. <p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young women in Trade: 	Vickie Tierney	<p>Vickie to send all information when available to the Disability AG.</p> <p>Disability AG to distribute to their networks.</p>

<p>Wollondilly Shire Council has been awarded a grant of almost \$50,000 from the Department of Communities & Justice to run the <i>Engaging Young Women in Non-Traditional Trades</i> project in 2023/24.</p> <p>The project will make it possible for 15 young local women to undertake training that will help them gain employment in a trade.</p> <p>They will be supported to complete a series of modules including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow card (Traffic Control) • White Card (Workplace Health and Safety Induction) • Chemqual (Chemicals) • Senior First Aid • Employment Preparation • Resume Writing <p>Attitudes & Behaviours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet Session Festival of Steam Saturday 18th March – more details on how to register to be sent with minutes to AG. Please share with community. <p>Liveable Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First round of consultation about a new inclusive playground and amenities at Picton Botanic Gardens. A questionnaire will be available during this round which will contribute to a draft concept design. The community will then be able to provide feedback on the concept design. Information to be forwarded to Disability AG. 		
<p>9. General Business</p> <p>Patrick Neilson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Stories Project: 15-16th April (Tahmoor and Warragamba) Youth Stories Project: funded by Office of Regional Youth • Round table discussion about the benefits of the Youth Stories project and things to consider including transport for Youth. • River Road looking at ways to support couch surfing and homelessness accessing the Youth Stories project. • Conversation about mainstream inclusion, activities and opportunities for everyone at River Road Creative Academy. • Using creative arts as an inclusive approach <p>Vickie Tierney</p> <p>Opportunities to Feedback to Council on Your Say:</p>	<p>Chair/Members</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Vickie to circulate information to committee when available</p> <p>Disability AG to support the distribution of information.</p>

- South East Wilton Neighbourhood Plan – revised after the last round of community consultation and open for further feedback. A Neighbourhood Plan is a framework for assessing DAs against, and includes things lot sizes, residential and employment lands, a Local Centre, a school, playing fields, and passive and active open spaces.
- A proposal to rezone land in Tahmoor at Cross Street for residential development and conservation of land
- A proposal to rezone land in Appin on Brooks Point Road for residential development and conservation of land
- To feedback following the link to Councils Community Engagement page:
<https://www.yoursay.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/>

Susan Johnson:

- Susan asked about ways Council is considering inclusion and accessibility in new developments.
- Vickie spoke about the Social and Health Impact Assessment Policy and Guidelines. More information can be found in the following link:
<https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/shire-projects/strategic-planning-and-land-use-policies/health-in-planning/>
- Susan spoke about the concerns she has about new developments especially around connectivity and the loss of active front yards.

Geraldine Cox:

- Conversation in relation to planning Controls are forcing people living with a disability back into group homes
- Group homes are not always the ideal scenario for housing for people with disabilities. However, planning controls are making them start again which limits community members looking to support other housing opportunities.
- Geraldine spoke about how passionate she is about her town Buxton and would like to see more for her community.
- Mhari to connect with Geraldine to give insight from Disability Services Australia

Cr Bev Spearpoint:

- Cr Spearpoint would like to connect with Community Members from Disability AG outside of meeting times to brainstorm ideas for accessibility activities to help inform community members and Council staff about the need for better access and inclusion.
- General conversation took place about the importance of accessibility issues that residents face to be

Vickie to Invite Susan Johnson to speak at a upcoming Disability AG meeting.

Vickie to invite Manager Sustainable Growth to the next Disability AG to better understand development control plans and planning in general in the Shire.

**Vickie to send list of
email address to Cr
Spearpoint.**

<p>reported directly to Council such as broken footpath links or illegal parking in accessible parking spaces in council owned car parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents are encouraged to report accessibility issues via the Customer Portal or by calling Council or visiting the Administration building. <p>Lyn Boucher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyn requested paper copy of minutes and information to be printed and sent to her mailing address. A conversation took place in relation to emergency evacuation procedures in emergency situations such as floods and bushfires. Rob Moran informed Disability AG that every area has an emergency evacuation procedure that gets communicated in an emergency situation by SES/RFS/State Governed Authorities. These areas are not communicated outside of emergency situations to avoid panic and confusion. <p>Cr Suzy Brandstater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversation about accessibility concerns in Thirlmere that are being followed up area maintenance. Cr Brandstater has been thrilled about the use of Sensory Tents and Quiet Spaces and looks forward to the upcoming Festival of Steam and subsequent evaluation report provided to Council to support the case for future funding opportunities. <p>Star-Jade Laverty</p> <p>Star was having audio issues during the meeting, an email was sent by Star and received after the meeting. Below is a summary of Star's comments alongside information to address the concerns raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Star has a client who is legally blind and the has raised concerned about local footpaths such as raised areas, holes and unclear edging. Star asked for clarification on how Council can assess and fix this issue. Vickie advised Star via email the following information: <i>"Accessibility issues can be reported directly to Council using the customer portal or by calling Council. If possible having photos and the exact location helps us to better understand the issue and resolve where possible"</i> Star raised questions and concerns about the accessibility of the current community bus reimbursement program particularly the financial outlay for community groups. Vickie advised Star via email the following information. <i>"Council resolved a new Community Bus Model of service at the recent Council Meeting. The minutes for the meeting are still being finalised so I do not have the exact resolution. However, a third-party provider subsidy model has been endorsed. This model</i> 		<p>Cr Spearpoint to connect with members directly.</p> <p>Vickie to send Lyn printed minutes and other documentation to her mailing address.</p> <p>Disability AG members to encourage community to report accessibility issues via customer portal or by calling Council.</p> <p>Vickie to communicate information about new Community Bus Third-Party Provider model to Disability AG when available.</p>
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<p><i>would allow eligible Wollondilly based community groups to use a suitable third-party provider transport service to hire either an appropriate vehicle, or a vehicle and driver, with a subsidy up to the value of \$500 per trip. The current reimbursement program criteria will be adjusted to make it easier for users by inviting suitably qualified and experienced Community and Commercial transport operators to be a preferred third-party provider to Council via a procurement process. This will allow Council to pay the third-party provider directly up to the value of \$500 to allow ease of access to the program. Whilst we work on the new community bus protocol and third-party provider model, community groups can still use the existing reimbursement program. I don't have a timeframe as yet as when the new model will be available but will be enacted as soon as practical and then communicated to community groups."</i></p>		
<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 25 May</p> <p>Thursday 24 August</p> <p>Thursday 23 November</p>		<p>Location and time TBC</p>