
PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Rob Turner
Brian Bucket - Access Building Designer
Helen Booby - Port Macquarie Access
Julie Priest- PMHC Aged & Disability Officer
Lyndel Bosman -Guide Dogs NSW
Max Waters - Port Macquarie & Vision Impairment
Mike Ipsen - Camden Haven Access
Nik Sandeman-Allen - Care & Mobility
Sharon Beard - Education & Access

Other Attendees:

Jaclyne Fisher - PMHC Group Manager Community Development

The meeting opened at 2.15pm.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

CONSENSUS:

That the apologies received from Cllr Lisa Intemann, George Payne - Wauchope Seniors, Peter McLeod - Hastings Macleay Community Transport, Phil White - Wauchope Access be accepted.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

That the minutes of the Hastings Access Sub-Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2012 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

Mr Nik Sandeman-Allen warmly welcomed Councillor Rob Turner to the Access Committee. He touched on the Terms of Reference and with the annual appointment of the Chair role under Administration. Now Councillors are involved and the Mayor desires that if a Councillor sits on a Committee that he/she Chair that Committee. This is a great opportunity for the Access Committee.

CONSENSUS

Councillor Rob Turner appointed as Chairperson of the Hastings Access Sub-Committee.

Cr Turner introduced himself and spoke about his business interest in health and warmly thanked Nik for his commitment over the past 5 years in leading the Access Committee. Nik has raised the profile of the Committee and is a strong advocate for the entire community and on behalf of the Committee thanked him.

Cr Turner advised that Cr Lisa Intemann is the alternate Chairperson.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Yellow Brick Road (YBR):

The Committee reviewed the three designs and selected Design "A". Discussion about the size of the design and frequency and if destination signage incorporated at the beginning and end of each route, and location of signage at junctions and frequency such as every 2 to 3 metres. Cr Turner suggested costs for each stencil and quote for 2 sizes (100% and 150%) and plan for implementation.

Julie advised Council received \$21500 Positive Ageing grant towards connecting retirement villages to main destinations with YBR project.

CONSENSUS:

Julie Priest to provide costings and plan for implementation at next meeting.

5.8 Access Map:

The printed Access Map has been distributed to Council Customer Services Centres and Visitor Information Centre. An online version is available on the Council tourism website for download.

Julie Priest advised that the i-phone app designer is unable to learn the voice to text software. The App was quoted to cost an affordable \$300 to create but now is unable to be created. Other App suppliers fee is \$3000 plus. There is no budget allocation for this and there is likely to be a low uptake in using the app. Discussion about piggy backing on existing technology and apps.

Suggestions for the next print edition of the map to include a QR code and Brian Bucket suggested a redesign of the front cover so more prominent.

Committee members are encouraged to visit the www.havewheelchairwilltravel.net site. The blogger who was a travel agent and has a son with a disability visited Port Macquarie with glowing reviews. Tourism emailed her our mobility map which was well received.

CONSENSUS:

1. Julie Priest to provide maps to Care + Mobility, Koala T-Care and retirement villages.
2. Opportunity to piggy back on existing apps to be explored.
3. Before the map is reprinted the Access Committee to revisit the design of the front cover and QR code.

5.11 Access Improvement Works for Buildings - Dunbogan Accessible Fishing Platform:

The grant application has been submitted to the Recreational Fishing Trust (Dept. of Primary Industries). Mike Ipsen provided onsite assessment of the location.

CONSENSUS:

Julie Priest to advice Committee of outcome of grant application (in approximately three months).

5.12 Aldi Car Park:

Ongoing concern in regards to the 'shared zone' of the accessible car parking space which is also used as the main entry pathway to the Aldi supermarket. There are potential safety issues with shoppers and trolleys and people with a disability.

Cr Turner has requested further information from Development Assessment. Dan Croft, Group Manager Development Assessment has advised the Australian Standards for Off-Street parking for people with disabilities. The current AS 2890.6:2009: section 1.3.2 defines a shared area which may be shared with any other purpose including a walkway, a vehicular aisle.

The Aldi car park seems to be compliant with the Australian Standard but in practicality it provides poor and unsafe access. Opportunity to appeal to Aldi management business sense as this parking space may actually prevent people with a disability being able to shop at Aldi. Our demographics with 6.6% of our population with a disability (Census 2011) certainly demonstrates the need for safe and accessible car parking.

CONSENSUS:

Cr Turner and Mike Ipsen to visit Aldi and speak with management about the shared zone

and accessible car parking space. Provide an update at the next meeting.

5.14 Access Friendly Project:

The Customer Care member meetings are currently on hold as Rachel Ross has left Council.

The CWA and Crema Café have been assessed by Nik and Julie for the Disability Friendly Awards and are approved to join Access Friendly. Julie has also contacted Priceline Pharmacy, Fig, First National Real Estate, Virtue, St George, Blue Illusion, Beaches@Port, Quality Discount Vitamins and Saltwater Wine Surf Centre who are also interested in joining.

Helen suggested the Asian Grocery store to be included.

Julie conducted an onsite visit to Willing & Able and recommended a few access improvements. Currently they are not able to join Access friendly as their flooring for their new extension has yet to be 100% completed.

Committee to review the draft Appraisal sheet and advise any changes to Julie. This is based on the PM Chamber of Commerce Disability Friendly Award assessment.

Julie has contacted the Wauchope and the Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce to request to speak at one of their meetings to promote Access Friendly.

Committee are requested to review the draft form and advise Julie of any changes.

Discussion about the project with Cr Turner interested in opportunities to link with PM Chamber of Commerce Awards.

CONSENSUS:

1. Include the Asian Grocery Store to be appraised.
2. Committee to advise Julie of any changes to the draft Appraisal Form.
3. Cr Turner to explore links with PM Chamber of Commerce and opportunity to promote the project.

5.16 Development Approval and Footpaths:

1. Nick Gainsford, PMHC Road Safety Officer, advised the Committee that Council is applying for a Port Macquarie State Government grant of \$70k for the construction and instalment of access friendly bus shelters. All units will be made of metal and painted blue and includes a concrete floor and space next to the bench seat which can accommodate a wheelchair or wheelie walker.

The previous grant of \$120k focussed on bus stops near retirement villages.

Max Waters recommended a site at corner of Ocean Street and Pacific Drive. Mike Ipsen advised there is no dedicated assessable bus to Laurieton.

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2. Rob Shaw, PMHC Design Engineer presented the three concept designs for the Flynn's Beach seawall. Opportunity for Access Community to provide comment with three different designs ranging from \$800k to \$1.34M.

Important to connect the accessible (wheelchair) car parking space to the footpath and ramp.

Max Waters opposed use of vertical seawall due to long-term maintenance issues and ineffectiveness of this type of structure.

CONSENSUS:

1. Access Committee to send their suggestions for bus shelter locations in Port Macquarie, Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills to Julie Priest by **Monday 25 February**.
2. Include bus shelter at corner of Ocean Street and Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie
3. Brian Buckett to review the Flynn's Beach Seawall concepts and provide comment to Julie Priest for a joint submission from the Access Committee with a prioritisation of the three concepts.

5.17 Access Requests - Wheelchair Access to the Ferry:

Brian explained there were a lot of variables when the ferry docks including tide and angle. The pedestrian access is not suitable as is a narrow walkway with a sharp 90degree dog-leg which prevents wheelchairs/scooters from accessing.

Discussion about scooter/wheelchair mix with vehicles. Nik Sandeman-Allen advising that although classed as a 'pedestrian' if no footpath available is rightfully able to use the road.

Julie has discussed with the Manager and another difficulty is contractors who operate the ferry are engaged for egress of vehicles and pedestrians only, so operation of a ramp and OHS and risk management issues. Perhaps next Wheelchair Cavalcade could be on the ferry.

CONSENSUS:

Brian Bucket to conduct onsite assessment of the ferry and advise recommendation at next Access meeting.

5.18 Access at New Medical Centre, Park St & Hastings River Drive:

Julie has sent written correspondence to taxis and medical centre requesting that taxi pick up and set down is located at the Park Street end. No further action required.

06 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 The new Coles in Port Macquarie has some identified access issues with a pedestrian crossing at the round-a-bout requiring TGSIs and the taxi rank does not have a kerb ramp.

CONSENSUS:

Julie Priest to inspect and include on listing for Technical Services requests and provide update at next meeting.

6.2 Bus Terminal on Gordon street. Max identified that a rubbish bin is installed in the middle of the footpath blocking access.

CONSENSUS:

Julie Priest will inspect and provide update at next meeting.

6.3 Park bench furniture request on William Street. Max advised the need for two park benches at corner of Grant and William St and corner of Owen and William St. 80 year old resident with vision impairment has requests. Nik kindly offered free wheelie walker however resident using a long cane hence the need for bench seating.

CONSENSUS:

Julie Priest to discuss with Recreation and Buildings and provide an update at next meeting.

6.4 Pedestrian crossing request at Lake Road near the Hermitage and medical facilities'. There is a bus stop either side of the road and she onsite with a client with vision impairment. Committee submission for pedestrian crossing at refuge. Vehicles currently turning across the road when they are coming out of driveways from medical centres.

CONSENSUS:

Julie Priest to submit request to Technical Services on behalf of Access Committee.

6.5 Lasiandra Park footpath connecting to BBQ area and allocation of designated parking space. Access Committee reviewed this request. In 2012 the Committee prioritised for the works (now completed) of connected footpath to amenities and kerb ramp. Access Committee assessed this request as a LOW priority.

CONSENSUS:

Julie Priest to include on listing of requested works as a low priority.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.