

PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Rob Turner (Chairperson)
Brian Bucket - Access Building Designer
Elizabeth Rose - Hastings Access
George Payne - Wauchope Seniors
Helen Booby - Physical Disability
Julie Priest- PMHC Aged & Disability Officer
Liz Conroy - Hastings Access
Lyndel Bosman -Guide Dogs NSW
Max Waters - Port Macquarie & Vision Impairment
Mike Ipsen - Camden Haven Access
Sharon Beard - Education & Access

Other Attendees:

Lucilla Marshall - PMHC Group Manager Community Development

The meeting opened at 2.00pm.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

CONSENSUS:

That the apologies received from Phil White (Wauchope Access), Nik Sandeman-Allen (Care & Mobility) and Councillor Lisa Intemann be accepted.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Hastings Access Sub-Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2013 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Yellow Brick Road Project:

Councillor Turner advised that the concrete footpath has been constructed at Garden Village. The Stencil design has been tested and will be painted yellow and black. The aluminium stencil cut -out is being manufactured and the stencilling will occur in the next few weeks.

CONSENSUS:

That an update be provided at the March meeting and discussion about a photo opportunity.

5.12 Aldi Car Park:**CONSENSUS:**

That Brian Bucket provide draft Australian Standards letter to Julie Priest for the Chair to sign.

5.14 Access Friendly Project:

Councillor Turner tabled the Port Newspaper photograph of the Access Committee at Growers IGA.

George, Mike, Max, Sharon, Phil and Julie undertook a visit to Laurieton United Services Club. Councillor Turner advised that the Manager Rob Dwyer was very appreciative of the visit. Once the deficient emergency exit is fixed then we will happily welcome LUSC as an Access Friendly Business.

Julie with the support of Sharon and Max gave a presentation at the Hastings Business Enterprise Breakfast which was a good event.

Businesses to visit include Job Centre Australia, Port Macquarie X-Ray, Ice Business, Majestic Cinemas and the Glasshouse.

CONSENSUS:

That Julie Priest will schedule the February Access friendly visit to businesses.

5.17 Access Requests:

5.17.1 Settlement Point Ferry:

The Ferry Manager has been tasked with arranging an independent Risk Assessment of access to the Ferry

CONSENSUS:

That the Access Committee receive a copy of the Risk Assessment Report when it is available.

5.17.2 Shared Zone and Town Centre Masterplan:

Brian Bucket advised that the shared zone concept was included in the review.

5.17.3 Rebel Sport removal of accessible parking space:

CONSENSUS:

That the Access Committee receive an update from Development Assessment about the removal of the accessible parking space at the next meeting.

5.17.4 Construction of handrail for new Lighthouse staircase:

Councillor Turner advised that the new handrail request is in Council's current works program.

CONSENSUS:

That the Committee be advised when the handrail has been installed at the Lighthouse staircase.

5.17.5 Parking at Wauchope Hospital, Palliative Care Unit:

Julie sent written correspondence to the Hospital Manager requesting an update and has not received a response. George suggested that undercroft parking would have been a neat solution and Sharon suggested that the budget for undercroft parking would have been too cost prohibitive. The plans include an accessible parking space at the rear of the complex once the works are completed.

5.17.6 Taxi requests for kerb ramp at Coles and layback on Horton St cab rank:

The request has been submitted to Technical Services as a high priority.

CONSENSUS:

That the Committee be advised when these works have been completed.

5.17.7 Pedestrian crossing on Lake Road:

Brian Bucketts' plan has been submitted. Vicky saw a near miss with a pedestrian recently.

5.17.8 Bench Seating:

The Access Committee's recommendations for bench seating locations have been submitted.

5.17.13 Busways Update:

Councillor Turner read out the letter received from Busways in response to Julie's written correspondence. In summary Busways has 10 accessible buses that operate in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region. This exceeds the current compliance target of 55% with 100%

accessibility not due until the end of 2022.

5.17.14 Stairlifter at Majestic Cinemas:

Phil White had advised at the November meeting that the stairlifter did not work as the capacity was too light for his chair. Mike volunteered to conduct an onsite inspection.

CONSENSUS:

That Julie Priest organise an Access Friendly visit to test drive the Majestic Cinema Stairlifter.

06 REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SUB-COMMITTEE - NIK SANDEMAN ALLEN

Councillor Turner advised that Nik Sandeman-Allen has requested a leave of absence.

CONSENSUS:

1. That leave of absence from the Hastings Access Sub-Committee be granted to Nik Sandeman Allen until 30 March 2014 and he be advised in writing.
2. That Mr Sandeman Allen be advised that should he require an extension of leave after 30 March 2014, he will need to make another request in writing for the Committee's consideration.

07 DISABILITY TRAINING PROGRAM

The New South Wales Government Ageing, Disability and Home Care team apologise that they were unable to attend today's meeting as they suddenly had to attend a mandatory training meeting.

08 GENERAL BUSINESS

08.01 Disability Friendly Fishing Platform successful Grant:

Council was successful in applying for a \$100k grant to construct a disability friendly fishing platform, accessible parking spaces and connected footpath for Dunbogan. Julie thanked Mike Ipsen for his help. Councillor Turner read out the media release.

08.02 Wauchope Accessible car parking spot:

Julie tabled photos of the new space. George asked about access and the hedge / plantings as it is a narrow space. The parking space enables vehicles needing rear access to pull up next to the ramp.

08.03 Community Garden Accessibility Open Day:

The "Lost Plot" community garden on Central Road is planning a fun open day in late April with the Disability Interagency Network.

CONSENSUS:

That the Committee be given an invitation to the event when details become available.

08.04 Cowarra Dam Steps:

Julie advised of an incident with a gentleman in a wheelchair navigating the steps who did not realise that there were two steps not one. Julie attended an onsite meeting with staff and subsequently Council has retro-fitted TGSIs and stair nosings along the full length of the steps. Photos were tabled of the completed works.

08.05 Stingray Creek Bridge Design meeting:

Brian, Mike and Julie provided an update about the meeting with Council's designer. After reviewing the plans we requested a continuation of the footpath underneath the Bridge (it was missing 10 metres of footpath) and additional kerb rails on the road to prevent pedestrians from darting across the intersection.

08.06 North Haven Breakwall:

In January Mike Ipsen had requested Council's Parks & Recreation team to remove the built up sand on the North Haven Breakwall as it prevents access. The service standard is 30 days however this request was completed the very next day and the Council Officer Jeff Norrie telephoned Mike and Julie to advise them that the job was done.

CONSENSUS:

The Access Committee acknowledges the fantastic job by Jeff Norrie and his colleagues which was done promptly and that he telephoned the Access Committee member when it was completed - a big thank you to all who were involved.

08.07 Port High Accessible car parking:

Julie received a call from a parent whose child will be attending Port High next year. There does not appear to be any accessible parking.

CONSENSUS:

That Julie Priest contact the school to discover if there is any informal onsite accessible parking and if not to discuss onsite parking and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

08.08 Glasshouse Access brochure:

The Access Committee reviewed the new draft access brochure for the Glasshouse. This raised a number of queries and the Committee agreed to conduct a site visit in the following fortnight. A discussion about Companion Cards occurred with those wishing to know more about this State Government initiative to google "Companion Card".

Lyndel discussed the Clear Print Guide as a useful resource.

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Committee attend a site visit at the Glasshouse in the following week.
2. That Julie Priest forward to the Council Communications team a copy of the Clear Print Guide provided by Lyndel Bosman.

08.09 Transport Strategy - Have Your Say:

Council will be undertaking a series of community workshops in mid-March to develop a transport Strategy. Committee members are encouraged to participate. A photograph of Max, Phil and Mike appears in the promotional materials for the strategy. A draft copy of the poster was tabled.

CONSENSUS:

That Committee members receive an invitation to the Transport Strategy Workshops.

08.10 Koolunbung Creek Bridge - footpath:

El Rose spoke about the new footbridge and that where the two footpaths join (near Waters Edge) the gradient is very steep.

CONSENSUS:

That Julie Priest review the gradient and reports back to the next meeting.

08.11 Round-a-bouts - sight limited by vegetation:

El Rose spoke about sight limitations at round-a-bouts including the Doughnut and Hollingsworth & Gordon. Vicky Whitfield also advised the medium strip near Thai Orchard has a lot of vegetation

CONSENSUS:

That Julie Priest discuss with Council's Road Safety Officer and report back at the next meeting.

08.12 Focus on Ability Short Film Competition:

Brian Bucket advised that the short film competition is aimed at raising awareness of the abilities of people with a disability and applications close 31st July. For more information visit www.focusonability.com.au

CONSENSUS:

That this is included as an agenda item for the next Committee meeting.

08.13 Pedestrian Refuge and Australian Standards:

Brian Bucket asked if there is an Australian Standard for the width of a pedestrian refuge. The one located at Buller Street looks very narrow. Lucilla advised that usually the refuge is to a standard.

CONSENSUS:

That the Buller Street pedestrian refuge is inspected and the Committee advised if there is an Australian Standard for the width.

08.14 Code of Conduct:

Discussion about Code of Conduct and pecuniary interest

CONSENSUS:

That the two new members El Rose and Liz Conroy receive a copy of the Code of Conduct booklet.

The meeting closed at 3.35pm.