

PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Peter Alley (Chair)
Ben Oultram
Bruce Gibbs
Helen Booby
Ian Irwin
Mike Ipsen
Sharon Beard
Lucilla Marshall (PMHC Group Manager Community Development)
Julie Priest (PMHC Aged & Disability Officer)

Other Attendees:

Graham Saunders (Observer)
Barbi Radliffe (Observer)

The meeting opened at 2.00pm

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

CONSENSUS

That the apologies received from Elizabeth Rose, Julie Haraksin, Cheryl Dimmock and Phil White be accepted.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS

That the Minutes of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Access Sub-Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2019 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Ian Irwin disclosed his non-pecuniary interest in Item 5, the reason being he owns a shop in Colonial Arcade and owns a dwelling in the Northpoint Apartments building.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

05.01 ACCESS FRIENDLY PROJECT

Thank you to Helen Booby, Ben Oultram, Bruce Gibbs, Ian Irwin and Julie Priest for undertaking a visit to the new Bunnings. The inside of the store was generally fine with wide aisles and an accessible toilet for patrons. The car park raised concerns.

Discussion about next visit with Cr Alley put forward Settlers Inn and surrounds, Ian Irwin suggested Northpoint Apartments, Bruce Gibbs suggested Rotary Lodge at the Hospital could also be considered for a visit.

Cr Alley read out the letter sent to Colonial Arcade requesting a compliant accessible toilet. No response has been received from the Strata Manager.

CONSENSUS

1. That Council's Development Engineers investigate Bunnings omission with no tactiles anywhere at car park or at traffic lights, pedestrian crossing is unresolved and vehicles parking across the end of it, tripping hazard because of unfinished concrete at light pole and a falls hazard with kerb ramp steep drop off. Recommend wayfinding signage directing patrons to the accessible toilet.
2. That the next Access visit be coordinated to review the refurbished Settlers Inn and surrounds and that Julie Priest contact Northpoint Apartments management to request an appointment for an access visit.

05.02 ACCESSIBLE UPDATES

It is expected that the Council Report requesting \$30k from the Footpath Programme budget will be presented at the April Council meeting. This is to fund high priority kerb ramps as prioritised by the Access Committee. Pip Cox has audited Lake Road and a map was tabled showing there are five missing kerb ramps from the round-a-bout to the Private Hospital.

The new accessible toilet at Comboyne War Memorial hall has been installed.

New footpaths installed include the final 350m at The Parade, North Haven, 130m at Central Road Port Macquarie, 292m at Hill street Port Macquarie and 90m at Kendall Rd, Kew. Main Street upgrade works are continuing at High Street Wauchope.

Guide Dogs have requested tactiles at the pedestrian refuge near Coles. Council has undertaken an onsite inspection and will install the tactiles soon.

Guide Dogs have reported a problem at Wauchope Pool with vehicles parking across the kerb ramp. Pip Cox has investigated this and will be sign posting the entrance as a drop off area only.

The new accessible car park space on Murray Street, Port Macquarie has been installed.

05.03 ACCESSIBLE REVIEWS

Nil

05.04 CHANGING PLACES ADULT CHANGE TABLE

Council has had to apply for an excavation permit from the Office of Environment & Heritage as the site is significant for early colonisation. Scheduled installation is for mid-May, depending on permit being received. Launch planned for late June.

05.05 ACCESS TO NOBBY'S BEACH

Director Melissa Watkins has advised that the decision has been made to retain the stairs and interested parties have been advised.

05.06 ON EXHIBITION COUNCIL'S DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

Cr Alley spoke about the draft Operational Plan. Committee members received a fact sheet about how to make a submission. The draft Plan includes an allocation of \$107,700 for Disabled Accesses – Buildings/Recreation Facilities.

CONSENSUS

That Committee members can make a submission about the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan, which closes 18 April 2019.

05.07 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY PROGRAM

Julie Priest advised that she presented at the Regional Experiences in Dementia Conference about the Four Seasons Programme. Recently six workshops were delivered with people living with memory loss and an animation created to be screened at the winter ArtWalk event.

06 GENERAL BUSINESS

06.01 DUNBOGAN ACCESSIBLE BUS SHELTER REQUEST

Discussion about a request received from a Dunbogan resident for a wheelchair friendly bus stop on Camden Head Road near Scarborough Way.

CONSENSUS

That a compliant wheelchair accessible bus shelter (with an elevated concrete slab), be included in the priority list for the grant application for bus shelter infrastructure.

06.02 LETTER FROM PHYSICAL DISABILITY AUSTRALIA AND MLAK

A letter from Physical Disability Australia was tabled. It demands that all MLAK toilets are unlocked during daylight hours or the MLAK locks removed permanently. Discussion ensued with general consensus that the Committee appreciates a toilet that is clean and useable and not discriminatory at all. Having locked MLAK toilets means it is clean and useable and not vandalised. For example the Glasshouse toilets are in the basement and since being MLAKed have not been vandalised. In principle can understand PDA, however on a practical level the scheme is working in Port Macquarie and this undermines the whole Australian + NZ scheme. That this is a decision not on a council level but Australia/ New Zealand.

CONSENSUS

That Lucilla Marshall will raise this issue at her meeting next week with regional Councils and provide feedback at the June Access Sub-Committee meeting.

06.03 NSW BUSINESS CHAMBER WORKSHOP IN PORT MACQUARIE

The NSW Business Chamber has an Inclusion Promotions Officer. 12 regional areas will host a workshop in the next year including Port Macquarie. More details and invitations will be provided once the dates are locked in.

06.04 ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLES

Discussion about a request for accessible picnic tables at McInherney Park. Opportunity at the new Kew playground for Access Committee to recommend an allocation of funding for accessible picnic setting.

CONSENSUS

That accessible picnic tables at McInherney Park be added to the list. That when the Committee recommends allocation of funding for 2019/20 that Kew accessible picnic setting be considered.

06.05 MISSING FOOTPATH LINK AT SHERWOOD ROAD AND TULLOCH ROAD

Cheryl Dimmock from Guide Dogs has identified a missing footpath link with her clients. Two large nursing homes are located on Sherwood Road.

CONSENSUS

That this footpath missing link be added to the footpath request list as a priority.

06.06 STINGRAY CREEK BRIDGE ACCESS REPORT

CONSENSUS

That the Access Consultant's report about Stingray Creek Bridge be tabled to the Committee for review when it becomes publicly available.

06.07 BOLD STREET CROSSING AT LAURIETON

Discussion about the planned Bold Street Crossing. This is scheduled for installation in June with detailed design completed. Affected businesses and residents have been advised and onsite face to face meetings held. The crossing location is grant funded and identified within site constraints. An idea to move it closer to the pharmacy is not an option.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.