

PRESENT

Members:

Ben Oultram
Bruce Gibbs
Helen Booby
Mike Ipsen
Ian Irwin
Julie Haraksin

Other Attendees:

Sandra Wallace Community Participation Manager
Carl Bennett GIS Team Leader
Sunni Boulton GIS Specialist
Anthony Mahr (Observer)

The meeting opened at 2:00pm.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

CONSENSUS:

1. That the apologies received from for Lucilla Marshall, Pip Cox and Sharon Beard be accepted.
 2. The Committee noted that Cr Peter Alley was not advised of the meeting therefore did not attend.
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03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Access Sub-Committee Meeting held on 1 October 2019 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.01 Access Friendly Project

Due to current vacancies in Council's structure, the audit of the Camden Haven Anglican Church and the Lakewood Shopping Centre will be deferred until the Inclusion Team Leader role is filled in the coming months.

5.02.01 Accessible Updates

Carl Bennett presented an embossed 3-D map of the Library precinct for feedback from the Committee. A general discussion followed on pedestrian refuges, and accessibility issues across the LGA.

Council advised that the non-compliant accessible car park on Cameron Street, Wauchope has been decommissioned due to ongoing safety concerns. New accessible car parks have been constructed on High Street as part of the Main Street upgrade works.

A request has been made for an accessible carpark in a Council-owned carpark located midway between Hollingworth St and Gore St. Council advised that:

- the existing pavement quality is poor;
- there is no line marking in the carpark;
- Council would likely need to resurface an area for the pavement markings and funding would be required for this from the DIAP budget;
- there are no plans for carpark pavement upgrade in the future
- manoeuvrability is a concern and there is an existing accessible carpark 80m from the requested location on Gore Street and other accessible car parks in the Growers Market carpark, 150m from the requested location.

A request has been made for an accessible car park at Tacking Point Surf Club. The Committee discussed options for the carpark's location and a recommendation was made. Following the meeting, it was found that not all relevant information was put before the Committee and so this is provided as an attachment to these minutes for consideration at the next meeting.

CONSENSUS:

1. That Council liaise directly with Lyndel Bosman and the Guide Dogs Assn to determine future development of the embossed map.
2. That the Access Committee request the installation of tactiles outside the main entrance to the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council main office at 17 Burrawan Street.
3. That the Access Committee request a review of the following pedestrian refuges considering width for mobility scooters and presence of tactiles:
 - a) Lake Road (near Private Hospital)
 - b) Coles @ Lake Innes
 - c) Near Finians on Gordon Street (the width does not allow for a mobility scooter to fit within the refuge area)
4. That the Access Committee request a review of the timing or commitment to the installation of kerb ramps at the following locations:
 - a) Cnr of Hill St & Lake Road and
 - b) Cnr of Lake Rd & Chapman St
5. That the Access Committee request Council to review the compliance of the Schools to Schools pathway (for slope) near St Albans Way, Laurieton.
6. That Council's report regarding pedestrian safety on Swift Street be held over to the next meeting to enable Pip Cox to present findings.
7. That the disability car parking map be updated to take into account the addition of new accessible carparks in High St, Wauchope and the removal of one car park in Cameron St, Wauchope.
8. That Council provide the Access Committee with the reasons for the request by the resident for a disability carpark in the carpark located off Gordon Street.
9. That a recommendation for the location and priority for an Accessible carpark at Tacking Point Surf Club be held over to the April 2020 meeting.

05.02.02 Accessible Parking Project

Thank you to Carl Bennet and Sunni Boulton (GIS specialists within Council's Digital Technology Team) who presented a beta version of a Disability Parking Map and sought feedback from the Access Committee as to the direction to take with the Map.

The City of Sydney website <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/explore/getting-around/accessibility/accessibility-map> was also demonstrated as a potential model to follow.

CONSENSUS:

1. The Committee agreed that in the first instance they would like to see:
 - a) All disability carparks to be shown but with different symbols if the parks are rear-to-kerb or standard
 - b) Different symbols to show whether the parks were private or public
 - c) Where possible a photo of the carpark to be displayed
2. Council to provide the Access Committee with a listing of all the fields captured and the Access Committee to recommend which fields they would like to see displayed on the map.
3. Once the display fields are determined, Council to provide Access Committee with any gaps in the data and request Access Committee to complete data. Carl to investigate whether the Access Committee might have access to the "app" that was used in the initial data gathering phase to update missing data.

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4. Once data is complete, make live the map on Council's website and seek input/feedback from the public about the Map and any future enhancements (e.g. accessible toilets, kerb ramps).

5.02.04 Tradies' Guide to good access

CONSENSUS:

That Cr Peter Alley provide an update to the Committee at the April meeting regarding the outcomes from the Local Government NSW Annual Conference.

05.02.06 Planning for International Day of People with Disability

An update on the International Day of People with Disability was provided at the meeting. Council joined with Aces Foundation & NewIDAFE & Essential Energy staff in a game of Finska on Thursday 5 December at McInherney Park. It was a well-attended and very happy event. The trophy (donated by the Access Committee) was much admired ... and then stolen/hidden more than a few times during the event!

05.02.07 Brisbane City Council Initiative

CONSENSUS:

That exploration of the Queensland initiative to discount developer fees when building accessible universal design homes be held over to the April 2020 meeting and to be led by Cr Peter Alley.

06 GENERAL BUSINESS

06.01 VISIT TO AIRPORT TO CREATE AN ACCESS MAP

Peter Allen, the Airport Manager, invites a contingent of the Access Committee to tour the upgraded airport and help create an access map.

CONSENSUS:

That a meeting be arranged with Peter Allen (Airport Business Manager) and Ian Irwin, Julie Haraksin, Bruce Gibbs and Ben Oultram from the Access Committee after Mid-March 2020 to tour the Port Macquarie Airport.

06.02 PROJECT UPDATES

Updates were provided on the Charlie Uptin Walk Upgrade, which is now complete and includes a wheelchair-friendly viewing platform and the Kew Playground Upgrade (which includes a wheelchair-accessible picnic table).

Revisions to the Wauchope Bundaleer Development Application were presented to the Committee:

The DA changes include:

- New accessible unisex WC added to entry foyer zone.
- Bathtubs on each level shown for clarification.
- Adjoining doors to link rooms added to all houses.
- Rooftop: Raised portion of building parapet (below height line) and added planting to surround and screen off the rooftop plant deck.
- Added second pedestrian access to western boundary.
- New pedestrian crossing and footpath access to local public transport, supermarket, tavern, café etc.
- Added site locality plan to show pedestrian travel access and local points of interest.
- Unisex accessible toilets shown on each level for clarification.
- Reconfigured houses 8, 10, 12 & 13 to address Council's concerns regarding privacy and noise impact.
- Elevations & Sections updated to suit the changes above.
- Accessible ramp into the Hydrotherapy pool added to plan.

CONSENSUS:

1. The Access Committee request that Council provide a sign indicating accessible toilets at the new Kew Playground.
2. That Council provide the Committee with an update on revisions to the Development Application for the Entertainment Facility (on Park Street) at the next meeting.

06.03 SHORT STREET TOILETS

Julie Haraskin provided positive feedback from a visitor regarding the Short Street “Changing Places” facilities and also paid a compliment to Council staff regarding a recent repair to an issue at the change facility.

Discussion followed on the 10-minute timer that is in place with the accessible toilets at Short Street, which may not be long enough for people living with disability.

CONSENSUS:

The Access Committee requested Council investigate options for those with an MLAK Key to be able to override the timer and extend the time at the Short St facilities.

06.04 BILLABONG ZOO

Helen Booby highlighted the improvements that have been made to the Billabong Zoo since the Access Committee’s access audit. Further renovations are going to be taking place in the near future.

CONSENSUS:

That following renovations at the Billabong Zoo, the Access Committee add this venue (along with the newly-opened Sovereign Place Shopping Centre) to the Access Friendly Audit visit schedule.

06.05 BEACH MATS

Bruce Gibbs highlighted that Beach Mats have recently been introduced in Coffs Harbour and Bondi Beach. Although considered not suitable when investigated earlier, it was felt that the suitability of Beach Mats might be re-investigated, particularly in light of recent updates to Flynns Beach (with the accessible ramp).

CONSENSUS:

The Access Committee requested that Council look at how Beach Mats are being used at other Councils and reinvestigate whether appropriate for Port Macquarie beaches.

06.06 ACCESSIBILITY TO TACKING POINT LIGHTHOUSE

Council has been approached by Neil Black of Sunrise Rotary requesting to present to the Access Committee regarding a potential project to increase accessibility to the Tacking Point Lighthouse.

CONSENSUS:

The Access Committee requested Council to invite Neil Black to present at a future Committee meeting.

06.07 STINGRAY CREEK BRIDGE AND OPEN PROJECTS

An update was requested of progress against the investigation into the accessibility of Stingray Creek Bridge.

Discussion followed about the need for an “Open Items” list to be created to ensure that the status of Open Items be reviewed at each meeting.

CONSENSUS:

1. The Access Committee requested Council to provide an update as to the status of Stingray Creek Bridge.
2. That an “Open Items” List be created and presented as an Agenda Item at future Committee Meetings.

06.08 HAVE YOUR SAY ON DISABILITY INCLUSION

Council advised that the State Government is reviewing the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* and is seeking input from people with disability, carers, service providers, peak bodies, government agencies and local Councils.

CONSENSUS:

That Council provide the Access Committee with the link to the website address in the minutes of this meeting to enable Committee members to provide feedback.

Link is www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/dia-review

06.09 ADDITION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE ACCESS COMMITTEE

Council was asked about the process for new members to be admitted to the Access Committee, which has been an open issue for an extended period.

Council apologised for the delay but indicated that this process is currently being reviewed for a number of Sub-Committees. Following this review, the new process will become clear. It is hoped that this will be in the next few months.

The meeting closed at 4:00pm.