



Minutes Banyule Disability & Inclusion Committee

22 February 2023

Banyule Disability and Inclusion Committee | 22 February 2023 | Minutes



Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 22 February 2023
Time	5.30pm-7.00pm
Venue	Room 3.16, 1 Flintoff St, Greensborough
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Peter Castaldo
Minutes	Jo Wilson

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

"Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as Traditional Custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history."

Inclusive Banyule Statement

"Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community."

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr. Peter Castaldo	Councillor, Banyule City Council
Emma Lowe	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Parvin Ahadi	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Ros Melling	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Shannon Joyce	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Laila Fernandez	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Merryn Lawson	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Jo Wilson	Banyule City Council
Sherryn Prinzi	Banyule City Council
Niki Efstratiou	Community Infrastructure Planner, Banyule City Council
Brooke Carter	All Abilities Project Officer

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
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Xenia Taunt—Rivers	Banyule City Council
Cr. Alison Champion	Councillor, Banyule City Council
Allan Leenaerts	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Sarah Hockey	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Elizabeth Parry	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Alisha Rotella	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Donna Pritchard	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Vicki Martinez	Banyule City Council
Nick Bramford	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member

Items

1. Introduction

- Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians
- Inclusive Banyule statement read
- Shannon and Merryn introduced and welcomed as new Committee Members.
- Resignation and acknowledgement of Dani and Kerry, with thanks for their time and commitment.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Agenda Item	Action Arising	Progress
Urban Food Strategy	Members invited to provide feedback on Food Strategy and Banyule Residential Parking Permit Policy	Completed
Website Review and Development	Council officers to re-engage with the Committee as the feasibility piece moves forward.	Ongoing
	Vicki to invite other members to be involved in project working group via email	Follow up required post engagement of consultant
Days of Significance	Vicki to seek information on outstanding days of significance from members via email.	Completed
Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee	Agenda discussion on mental health prevention and the difficulties faced by community added to February agenda	Completed
Autism Day Event	Council Officers to look at venue options for hosting event and share with Parvin	Completed
	Parvin to put call out to members to help form a sub-Committee to work on project	Completed

Committee Mid-Term Check in Survey	Vicki to send out survey link to all members post-meeting	Completed
Future meetings	Council Officers to determine value in hosting meetings in person versus in a hybrid setting.	In progress

3. New Business

3.1 Inclusion@Sport Presentation – Brooke Carter

Brooke provided an update on the Inclusion@Sport Project and consulted on engaging with sporting clubs and the types of programs that would be well received by people with disability.

Discussion

The key points regarding the Inclusion@Sport program raised were:

- Creating more sporting opportunities for people who have a disability
- Disability Awareness Training offered to sporting clubs
- Existing toolkit – Sport4all
- Inclusion Action Plan
- 5 Clubs participating

Committee members raised the following feedback during the discussion:

- Ensuring that staff and volunteers at clubs are informed and understand the unique needs of each individual
- Understanding the motivation of the individual – may not be about being competitive. Understanding why and how someone might want to participate
- Creating sporting opportunities which are not overwhelming
- Having an opportunity for new people to join through informal drop in sessions. Keeping in mind that people may attend with hesitation, sporting clubs should create an environment which makes people feel included and welcomed.
- Clubs could run a training day for people with a disability to get engagement (eg cricket day) to explain the rules and help people get involved
- Information sharing:
 - A local banner could be created to share information
 - Having a communication process to identify what different clubs are doing to promote inclusion
 - Closing the gap between finding information and clubs know how to disseminate information
 - Having links to clubs on the website could improve access to finding sporting clubs
- Clubs offering different options of sports
- Having the ability to contact peak bodies to improve inclusion in sport
- Improving access at venues and making sure clubs think and act on how needs can be accommodated for. This would also extend to being clear about who a club can cater for, to avoid disappointment.
- Clubs and participants should start with small goals to ensure long term succession
- A mentor program could be created
- Special development schools could run excursions to the sporting clubs
- Some people with disability may have a preference to play with other people with disability
- A Banyule Disability Inclusive cricket club could be formed.

Action:

Action 1: Brooke to consider if Council would support people with a disability to establish a cricket club/ group.

3.2 Community Infrastructure Plan – presenter - Niki Efstratiou

Council is currently developing a Community Infrastructure Plan to develop investment priorities and actions over a 10-year period to meet current, emerging and future needs of Banyule. The community buildings within the scope of the plan include Libraries, Neighbourhood Learning Centres, Community Halls, Jets Youth Centre, Kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health, Childcare centres, Arts and Cultural Space and Sports Pavilions. Niki will be seeking community feedback on the plan (draft), who else to consult with, groups that may need to spaces to deliver services, activities and events and how to maximise usage of existing buildings. (See Briefing Paper Attached)

Link to Community Infrastructure Plan on Shaping Banyule: <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/CIP>

Discussion:

Key discussion points raised by Niki:

- 132 buildings – some with services co-located - Up to 95 non-council owned buildings but wanting to work in partnership to get community access so these are in the Plan.
- Seeking to work with non-council owned community building owners including churches, schools and scouts.
- To establish benchmark measures, Council is looking to provide community buildings that are fit for people (accessible), fit for purpose (well-designed) and fit for place (location).

Key priorities are to:

1. Make better use of existing buildings because groups are seeking access to more spaces to provide programs that help people connect.
2. Review lease and licencing agreements to enable multiple uses, especially of sporting pavilions
3. Upgrade buildings for children and youth, especially in line with 3 year-old kindergarten policy changes
4. Create clusters of buildings with complementary uses

Emerging issues identified through consultation:

1. Post-covid people realising the importance of social activities and events in sites close to home
2. Want to connect with activities and events in local area
3. Groups want to expand their services and programs but need more space
4. More accessible information on how to book facilities (bookable on line).

Niki asked the Committee to comment on ways to make buildings more accessible.

Key points discussed included:

- Council should not charge for use of buildings – make it free, cost is a barrier for participation.
- Online booking system should be optional – some people don't like this option, prefer to speak to a person
- Trying to find a venue for events should be available in different formats, recognising that people absorb information in different ways. For example, the information on Bellfield Community Hub is too much and confusing.
- Buildings should have disability parking available/close by.
- It would be beneficial to know the availability of facilities and when they are being used (i.e sporting clubs – training)
- Having assistance from Council Staff- recognising that having an internal contact can support the process.
- Accessibility should be holistic – i.e. close to public transport, location of entries and exits
- Site/building maps aren't always useful – video might support better
- Maintaining the grounds around buildings is important – i.e. grounds can be uneven and not accessible, ramp in the wrong place with no signage and overgrown planting

3.3 Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee

Council has been working with the Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee to identify some high level priorities. These are mental health and social and affordable housing. The committee is now seeking feedback from the population groups on these issues.

What are the key opportunities faced by populations and what opportunities would the population committee like Council to focus on to uplift local mental health supports?

Discussion

Member feedback

- Exercise and physical activity assist with managing mental health. To alleviate costs which can be unaffordable and therefore prohibitive, Council should look to subsidies and support available to community.
- There should be a focus on improving access and referral pathways for existing programs with subsidised access. I.e. some programs require referral through GP and psychologist but these are hard to access and also cost. Further, people with disabilities may not have the skill sets to research and find opportunities or understand referral pathways to access them.
- Services should deliver multiple approaches that reflect the needs of differing disabilities
- Information needs to be accessible, keeping copies available to the community, with multiple ways to access info – large writing, hard copy, braille, online.
- Mental health support services can struggle with co-mobility issues e.g, autism diagnosis and mental health concerns, which can present as a barrier for people in the community in accessing services.
- There should be investment in safe and connected places and communities is important to support people with disabilities to participate.
- Prevention should be the key focus.

What are the key opportunities faced by populations and what opportunities would the population committee like Council to focus on to uplift access to local social and affordable housing?

Discussion

Member feedback

- Rent to buy programs should be offered.
- New social housing builds should incorporate accessibility in their design. Making accommodation which is liveable and suited to individual needs is important.
- Wrap around supports needed to accommodate the needs of residents.
- Community and relevant stakeholders should have a say before decisions are made on housing stock.
- New social and affordable housing developments should consider that people with disability don't necessarily respond well to overcrowded living conditions and may be better suited to smaller
- Friendships – keeping people together
- Council having a NDIS expert to support community to help people understand their options

3.4 Advisory and population committee feedback

In response to the survey sent at the end of 2022, a total of 36 responses were received from the members across the eight Committees. The key observations made were:

1. 5 responses from D&IC
2. Positive experience but ways to continue to improve
3. Inducting new members
4. More opportunities to come together with other committees
5. Briefing papers working well
6. Accessible agenda is very well received

7. In person meetings – value of conversation is better but also providing opportunities for those than can't be in person due to personal issues

4. Standing Agenda Items

4.1 Inclusive Banyule Workplan for Disability

A number of key projects are progressing within the Inclusive Banyule Plan. Committee members were invited to comment on items within the workplan via email.

4.2 Existing Website

Existing website page for People with Disability is being reviewed and updated. A progress update was provided, with the key point being that information will be adapted to ensure it is up to date and relevant, with the addition of web addresses.

<https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Community-services/People-with-a-disability>

4.3 New Disability Website

As per Council Resolution to invest into the development of a new disability website. This agenda item will provide an ongoing update on the status of the project and gain feedback as required. See attached project plan.

Discussion:

Two distinct phases of the digital project are planned:

Phase One: A discovery and options phase to understand more about the needs and challenges of people with disability in Banyule, their families and carers. Recommendations from this analysis will inform Phase Two.

Phase Two: The design and build phase of a digital product based on the recommendations from Phase One.

- Council will form a Panel of Experts (internal and external) to feed into the project and will engage the BDIAC as soon as we have more details.
- Council is meeting this week with three potential consultants who could do the user-focussed discovery work. Discussions from the last BDIC meeting (December) are being used to guide the selection of the consultant.
- A Project Control Group has been established to provide direction to the project and make key decisions as needed. Their first meeting is on Monday 27 February.

4.4 Accessible Communication Guide

Council in partnership with the Brotherhood of St Lawrence is in the throws of community consultation for the development of an Accessible Communication Guide. Members were asked to use the Consultation Survey to provide their feedback. Link to Consultation survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/X8sG0N4UqE>

5. Council and Community Updates

- Committee members were asked about the potential extension of Committee Term

Discussion

Should Council extend the term of the committee, members would be interested in continuing, with the understanding this is optional.

- Sherryn provided an update on the Easy English versions of Inclusive Banyule, Council Plan and Community Vision 2041

Discussion

Council are in the process of working with Scope to transform key documents into Easy English. The Community Vision is being transformed into Auslan.

- Parvin provided an updated on the Autism Day event.

Discussion

Parvin shared details of the event on World Autism Day, Sunday 16th April from 11-3 at NJ Telfer Reserve in Bundoora. Committee members invited to participate, and volunteers are sought to help on the day.

Members to contact Parvin if they have contacts or able to support the event.

- Accessible Parking Permits – item held over to April meeting
- Disability Services Network – item held over to April meeting
- Age Friendly Framework – item held over to April meeting

6. Close and date of next meeting

- 26 April 2023, 5.30-7.00pm to be held at the Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub. Meeting to be offered in hybrid format. Catering to include cake to acknowledge birthday of a member.