



Minutes Banyule Disability & Inclusion Committee

21 February 2024

Meeting details

Date of meeting Wednesday, 21 February 2024

Time 5.30-7pm

Venue Ivanhoe Library and Community Hub

Clara Southern Room

Chair/Facilitator Cr Tom Melican

Minutes Sherryn Prinzi

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.”

Diversity 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. Melican	Chair
Angela Bergman	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Emma Lowe	Belgravia Leisure representative
Merryn Lawson	BANSIC representative
Laila Fernandez	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Allan Leenaerts	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Shannon Joyce	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member

Council staff

Sherryn Prinzi	Coordinator Community Impact
Nyunkia Tauss	Community and Social Planner
Jo Wilson	Manager Resilient and Connected Communities
Jay Underwood	Inclusion Content Development Project officer
Glenn Frish	Coordinator Communications

Guests

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
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Gurvinder Singh Cheema	Prospective Disability & Inclusion Committee member
Kathryn Drake	IDV, prospective Disability & Inclusion Committee member
Kelly Bolton	Brotherhood St Laurence

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr. Champion	Councillor
Rocio Silva	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Gina Haebich	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Aaron Williams	Brotherhood of St Laurence (Local Area Coordinator)
Ros Melling	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member

Items

1. Introduction

Councillor Melican read the Acknowledgement of traditional custodians and the Diversity Statement. All members present introduce themselves and Gurvinder was introduced as a new possible Disability and Inclusion Committee member. Nyunkia introduced as Council's new Community and Social Planner. Gina will be stepping away from her position as a committee member until July, as she is now a Banyule staff member. Kathryn Drake, who has submitted an EOI for organisational membership on the committee, was nominated and accepted as a co-opted member of the Disability and Inclusion Committee until the end of the term, being September 2024.

Councillor Melican discussed the recent adoption of the Aging Well Framework, the Resilient and Safe Banyule Framework and the changes to the Community Bus route.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Agenda Item	Progress
Action 1: Sherryn to share Paty's email with committee and members invited to contact Paty directly with additional feedback.	Complete
Action 2: Sherryn to provide Ros' residential address to Georgie (for Carols by Candlelight).	Complete
Action 3: A report on development of accessibility maps for Council's community halls for hire will be tabled at the February meeting.	Progress report will be provided in this meeting.
Action 4: A report on progress towards the accessibility category on "Report Something" will be tabled at the February meeting. https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/UX-shortcuts/Report-something	No progress to report.
Action 5: Council to discuss the Disability Pride Flag with a range of peak bodies that service the disability community in Banyule to ask their perspective on the representation of the flag and bring a report back to the committee at the February meeting.	Progress report included in briefing paper

Action (from previous meeting): Council to find the similarities between all-inclusive Banyule business guides and come back to the committee with options that reflect an intersectional approach.

Progress report included in briefing paper- in principle agreement with Nillumbik to use Good Access for Good Business Guide.

3. New Business –

3.1 Community Climate Action Plan

Rowena presented information on the Community Climate Action Plan and spoke about reducing emissions whilst climate change is still happening. Council wants to understand how they might help the community adapt. Curious to understand how Council can help keep the most vulnerable safe and protected. Noted that only 3% of emissions come from Council, so the biggest impact can come from helping the community to adapt

Discussion

Committee raised a number of points that Council could consider, including where new trees are being planted, being mindful to make sure the trees are not planted too close to powerlines. Cr Melican made mention of the Urban Forest Strategy and its aim to increase tree coverage. Cr Melican noted one of the biggest problems is the impact of real estate development, where trees are getting cut down at an extraordinary rate. A suggestion was that Council could not allow black roofs on new homes.

Improving access to relief centres was raised, as people might not know where they are, and some people rely on places to go locally to get relief from extreme heat or cold. The cost-of-living factor associated with heating and cooling was raised, with particular mention of the impact on the elderly and other people struggling with the rising costs. A suggestion was made to provide more grants that will help people pay for adaptations, as these are not always affordable. Council could improve awareness of options and information and provide resource videos- tip and tricks- more information about what to do. The matter of road and local street congestion was raised, and members shared the concern that it will be hard to get out of some communities if there is an emergency event.

Action

Action 1: Committee are invited to complete the Climate Adaptation Survey via Shaping Banyule <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ClimateResponse>.

3.2 Accessibility Website Project

Jay Underwood presented an update on progress towards improving Council's website information for people with disabilities and their carers. After reviewing the goals of the project, Jay discussed how Council has found information and services that community have said they'd like to see on the website, and showed how the information was grouped into new categories, then connected to information in different parts of Council's website.

Jay showed the committee a draft version that had yet to be published for the public to view and stated that it cannot be viewed at home yet. As Jay was presenting the new format of the webpages, the committee were invited to provide comments and feedback.

Discussion

Where to start- Council advised to provide a warmer connection - video or animation making it easier to connect with. Need less information that could be read, more videos. E.g. when you go to a service, these are the questions you could ask. How you can find a GP and a list of GP's that have specialisation. Council advised to consider engaging expertise to develop a list of questions. Provide examples of peak bodies that can help people understand what people could ask to get started.

In response to the question of how Council decides what goes on the website, the committee here informed that we have opted to include information that helps people to navigate to services, rather than listing all the services. Service directories to help people find services will be included.

Getting support-

A suggestion was made to separate 12-17 years and 18-25, noting the support you get at a particular age is important and there is a big difference between a person underage versus an adult. Council asked to consider changing the numerical categorisation to names of service groups, e.g. children, teenagers, young adults. In this section, Council should consider differentiating the sections to the type of person who is seeking the information. For example, for people with disability, for a carer of people with disability or a family member, as the types of supports they seek may be different.

Council advised to make sure there is a list of support organisations that help people use this information or access the links. Another idea could be including a Council contact e.g. "if you have trouble navigating this page, please call this number".

A committee member asked if organisations could apply for accessible parking permits.

Building skills-

Consider including U3A and learn locals under the older adults section.

A committee member noted that it is evident that Council is making progress, it is much better than where we were last year. If the page is to be entitled access and inclusion, Council needs to ensure that there are easy ways for people to navigate to the page, considering most people will use the search term disability.

Action

Action 2: Council to respond to Shannon about whether a company can apply for an accessible parking permit.

Action 3: Council to consider the committee feedback and report further progress at the next meeting.

4. Committee Priorities –

4.1 Events and Celebrations

Inclusive Banyule Action 3.13 We will continue to elevate visibility and awareness of people with disability through events, advocacy and days of celebration.

At the previous committee meeting, the Committee asked Council to engage with key organisations regarding the use of the Disability Pride Flag.

Nyunkia spoke to people who work for Banyule Community Health, Brotherhood of St Laurence, VALiD and Nillumbik Council. Their feedback was:

- They support Council being a leader and bringing others along on a journey. They support Council showing what we are doing as a community to celebrate achievements, unlock barriers and raise awareness of additional barriers people face.
- The Disability Pride flag is slowly becoming more well known in Australia. Flying the flag might help more people feel welcome, seen, safe and included. Flags and being more visible is a great start to some important conversations.
- Disability Pride month, the Disability Pride flag and other celebrations are part of bigger conversations about language and identity. It is important to celebrate different identities and pride in community and to recognise achievements. We also need to acknowledge some people who don't feel "proud" to have disability, but who also don't want to be excluded or discriminated against.
- Some neighbouring councils feel the flag isn't well known enough yet. They will not fly the flag yet but are glad that Banyule is.

We looked at the Cerebral Palsy Alliance website. They are promoting the use of the Disability Pride Flag and say to be a good advocate, we should:

- Listen to what we have to say. We all have something unique and interesting to say.
- Stand up for what is right – when you hear someone harassing and bullying a person with a disability, stand up and stop it.
- Stop with the assumption – one of the common ones is "You don't need the accessible room/toilet/parking because you are not in a wheelchair." There are a group of us who still need accessible features or are limited in their mobility.

- Ask questions respectfully – do not be afraid to ask a question but please be respectful if we do not want to answer your question. Not everyone feels comfortable answering questions about their disability.
- Cerebral Palsy Alliance said there is another disability pride flag but says that this one doesn't represent the whole community because it is mainly used for sports.

Discussion

The committee acknowledged this new information and agreed that whilst the meaning and use of the Disability Pride Flag was not well understood in the first conversation with the committee, there is now agreement that the flag a good representation of the disability community, and flying flags is a good way to raise awareness. The Committee noted that it is important for Council to also educate the community on what the flag is and what it represents.

It was acknowledged that not all people are proud to have a disability and it important to continue to recognise this as we continue to promote the value people with disability contribute to our Banyule community. All committee members indicated their support for making a recommendation to Council to fly the Disability Pride flag.

Recommendation

Recommendation item 1: For Council to fly the Disability Pride flag during the month of July to acknowledge Disability Pride Month and on 3 December, to acknowledge the International Day of People with Disability each year. Further, it is recommended that Council educate the community on the use of the flag and its meaning through communication channels and networks.

4.2 Inclusive Business Guide

Inclusive Banyule Action 3.1 We will review the Inclusive Business Guides to support businesses to uplift inclusive practice for people with disability.

Kelly from Brotherhood St Laurence (BSL) presented to the committee a project they have being working on to support business to be more inclusive. BSL have been working with Merri-Bek Council in the area of Coburg to help businesses understand how to improve accessibility for all people. They have spoken with Merri-Bek residents and business owners and found that there is agreement that accessibility is important, that some businesses are not sure about what to do to improve accessibility, and some are worried about the costs of being more accessible. BSL want to work with businesses to make sure that businesses understand. A guide has been produced by Merri-Bek Council and BSL want to help businesses in Coburg to understand the guide and use it.

Kelly noted that Sherryn had shared the committee's feedback on the issues with accessing businesses in Banyule and acknowledged the feedback was consistent with what they have heard from Coburg residents. For example, boxes in doorways, menus in small print, colours on menus unreadable.

The key challenge is understanding what traders need from Council's and organisations like BSL to improve their practices. BSL are seeking to work with Banyule in an activity centre to implement a similar project.

Discussion

Council are working towards an objective similar to BSL and the committee are keen to see progress made in Banyule. Council discussed the permission it has received from Nillumbik to use the Good Access for Good Business Guide, with appropriate acknowledgements, and plans to look at this resource, as well as others publicly available to create an updated resource for Banyule, that will replace the Disability and Older Adults Inclusive Business Guide.

The Committee were asked to comment on the opportunity to work with BSL on this project. It was agreed that a working group will be established once Council and BSL agree on the scope of the project and desired outcome. Once this has been decided, Committee members will be asked to confirm if they would like to participate.

Initial interest to be involved was strong from attending members including Emma, Angela and Shannon, and our guest Gurvinder.

Action

Action 4: BSL and Council to meet to agree on the scope of project, then invite Committee members to participate in a working group to inform the development of the actions.

5. Other Updates -

5.1 Other updates invited from the Committee

Angela went to Carols by Candlelight, travelled to the event on the Community Bus, and had a wonderful time in the reserved seating area.

Boulevard Lights - Laila shared feedback that the placement of the barriers between the path became a tripping hazard, and because of poor lighting, it was hard to see. Laila noted that the traffic management was poor at the times she attended, and people started attending before the traffic management commenced. There was mixed experience with the management of the pedestrian crossing - with some experiencing ineffective management of that area. A comment was made that there was not enough homeowner consultation prior to the event.

Belgravia's launch of immersion therapy program. Emma reported the launch was a great success and would welcome an opportunity to report back to the Committee on the impact at the next meeting.

Nyunkia shared that a wheelchair tennis opportunity is available at the Bundoora Tennis Club and information will be shared with the distribution of the minutes.

Close and date of next meeting.

Next meeting Wednesday 24 April 2024- Location: Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub.

June meeting to be held in Greensborough.