



Minutes Banyule Disability & Inclusion Committee

6 December 2023

Meeting details

Date of meeting Wednesday, 6 December 2023

Time 5.30-7pm

Venue 1 Flintoff Street Greensborough

Level 4

Chair/Facilitator Cr Allison Champion

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. Champion	Councillor Substitute
Angela Bergman	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Aaron Williams	Brotherhood of St Laurence (Local Area Coordinator)
Ros Melling	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Emma Lowe	Belgravia Leisure representative
Merryn Lawson	BANSIC representative
Laila Fernandez	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Rocio Silva	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr. Melican	Chair
Gina Haebich	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Allan Leenaerts	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Shannon Joyce	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Sarah Hockey	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member

Council staff

Sherryn Prinzi	Banyule City Council (Coordinator, Community Impact)
Jo Wilson	Banyule City Council (Manager, Connected and Resilient Communities)
Paty Galan	Banyule City Council (Senior Urban Planner)
Georgie Meyer	Banyule City Council (Manager Inclusive and Creative Communities)

Guests

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Kathryn Drake	IDV

Items

1. Introduction

Councillor Champion chaired this meeting and introduction Cr Tom Melican as new Councillor Chair of the Disability and Inclusion Committee. Councillor Champion read the Acknowledgement of traditional custodians and the Diversity Statement. Gina was acknowledged as the newest Disability and Inclusion Committee member.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Agenda Item	Progress
Action 1: Steph Ashby, Social Policy Lead, to investigate if other gambling venues are situated on Council land.	Complete - Apart from Montmorency RSL, no other commercial lease agreements are in place with venues that generate income from gambling.
Action 2: Sherryn to distribute link to the Gambling Policy Shaping Banyule page to committee	Complete
Action 3: Merryn to explore the options of promoting the BANSIC Social Circle group and discuss other opportunities to provide social connections for people with disability.	Merryn reported that the BANSIC social circle group is full and in order to expand the group, a bigger site is needed. Looking at option in Bellfield Community Hub.
Action 4: Committee to provide further comments on Resilient and Safe Framework via Shaping Banyule by 29 October.	Complete
Action 5: Council to provide committee with Volunteer policy with minutes of meeting.	Complete
Action 6: Council to find the similarities between all-inclusive Banyule business guides and come back to the committee with options that reflect an intersectional approach.	Ongoing - identified Nillumbik's Good Access for Good Business Guide and believe this is the best simple representation of a guide for businesses. From January team will progress further investigations into an intersectional approach.
Action 6: Committee members to advise Sherryn on what they want to keep from the existing guide, noting the value of the self-assessment tool.	Committee members to report back
Action 8: Council to share link to new reporting and Sherryn to work with Communications to advocate for a tab for reporting accessibility issues.	https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/UX-shortcuts/Report-something In progress
Action 9: Sherryn to share link to Certificate 1 program and the Immersion Therapy program with minutes.	Emma reported that one person enrolled in the Certificate 1 program, so Belgravia will be adapting the program to offer shorter courses instead. Emma reported the Immersion Therapy program was successfully launched and welcomed visitors to view the program in action each Friday at 2pm. Cr Champion noted the benefits of participants.

3. New business

3.1 Public Realm Strategy Consultation (20 minutes)

Paty Galan, Senior Urban Designer invited the committee to share feedback on shopping precincts, parks and open spaces, transport and linking spaces.

Discussion

Shopping precincts-

Ivanhoe shopping precinct- disability access an issue. Lack of parking spaces that accommodate vehicles with back access. In one parking area, because of the dual flow of traffic, it is unsafe to use rear access vehicles as the ramp blocks the driveway. Many Ivanhoe shops have steps into the door and doors without magnetic locks, making it difficult to access.

Greensborough Plaza- Footpaths are wide, which is good. Lots of ramps in the shopping centre, makes it easier to get around. Youth gathering near the bus stop on Main Street makes people feel unsafe because of swearing, drug dealing. There is confusion on how to navigate between Greensborough Station and the Plaza.

Heidelberg shopping precinct- easy to access the shops, the eating areas on the footpaths are more contained than Ivanhoe, making it easier to get around.

East Ivanhoe- Whilst some of the areas have been repaved, creating wide paths, not all areas have been refurbished. The space towards the roundabout is still uneven and creates issues for people with mobility aids. Where traders install outdoor seating, limits flow of foot traffic. Some traders have make shift ramps into shops to create accessibility, but it creates impediments on the footpath. There are 3 accessible parking spaces, but one on a steeper incline.

Rosanna- Streetscape refurbishment is great. There are issues for groups using buses to visit the area, with no designated drop off or pick up zones and there are safety issues for visitors without carers who are navigating back to the bus due to people reversing out of carparks. Suggestion- allocated bus pick up point behind the medical centre.

Woolworths in Greensborough- Accessible parking used to be located under cover. Moved to top deck of carpark to make room for click and collect. Questioned prioritisation of space.

Parks-

Heidelberg Gardens- the rotunda is a great place to sit, relax and read a book. It connects well to Possum Hollow and onto the Yarra River.

Rosanna Parklands- Connects Macleod with Rosanna, it is open with great walkability. The gravel paths are not suitable for all people with mobility aids and it is better to have a more solid surface. If paths are to be unmade, suggest tightly packed materials.

East Ivanhoe- Chelsworth Park is well connected by trails but the surfaces are all unmade and difficult to navigate for several reasons including the shared use by cyclists, who can create hazards for non-cyclists. Web style basket swings are a great option for people with disability, especially those with limited neck control. Bucket swings with tall backs are another great option. All abilities swings are good, but recognise that they are costly.

Wombat Bend is a great example of an accessible play space for all abilities.

Heidelberg Park- the maps on the website are great, as they help visitors understand what to expect when they visit. Treasure hunt maps are fun.

Kalparrin Gardens- the crisscrossing paths are great and easy to navigate.

Binnak Park- could be designed better for people with disability- a wasted opportunity as it is easily accessed via bus.

Ivanhoe Park with seniors exercise equipment is well utilised by many ages and it is great seeing community meet there to have fun.

Toileting facilities should be considered for people with disability, and consider describing what features the accessible toilets offer.

Transport

Greensborough and Rosanna- the lifts at the stations are great and the improved support of transit staff to way find is appreciated.

Greensborough- beyond the new station development, the surfaces are sloped and uneven.

Ivanhoe station is inaccessible and needs attention.

Watsonia station needs lots of work and it was short sighted not to include it in the NEL project scope.

Idea- at bus interchanges number the bus stops to help people know which one to stand at.

Links

Chelsworth Park- paths are too narrow, unmade paths difficult to navigate, bridges good.

Paty reports next steps:

- Consider community feedback
- Amend strategy
- Come back and share what has changed

Action

Action 1: Sherryn to share Paty's email with committee and members invited to contact Paty directly with additional feedback.

4. Committee priorities

4.1 Events and celebrations (30 minutes)

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

Georgie Myer, Manager Inclusive and Creative Communities, shared the measures Council took to uplift inclusion at the recent Malahang Festival on Sunday 12 November. To improve accessibility Council provided:

- Social Story available on the website
- Sensory friendly / quiet zone at festival
- Accessible parking and drop-off / pick-up areas
- Accessible toilets
- Phonic Ear system (to listen to performances from the stage/PA)
- Noise-cancelling headphones available
- Temporary accessible pathways around entire site, linking to permanent sealed pathways

Discussion

Committee noted that the accessible pathways were valuable and appreciated by the community as they were wide enough for two way flow.

Suggestion- advertise the accessibility features so people know what is on offer before they go.

Georgie discussed the upcoming Carols by Candlelight which will be held on Saturday 16 December in Greensborough. To improve accessibility, Council will:

- Social Story available on the website
- Accessible parking
- Auslan interpreters onstage
- Designated seating area at front for people with disability, carers and older adults patrons (booked apply)
- Community bus transport to the festival for people with disability, carers and older adults patrons (bookings apply)
- Accessible toilets
- Accessible entry/exit points onto oval, and to food court (permanent pathways at site)

Discussion

Important to note that residents must book a seat on the community bus, which will pick up from their home, and register for a seat at the Carols. This can be done through ringing Banyule Customer Service 9490 422 by 11 December.

Georgie informed the committee of the plans for Boulevard Lights, noted the traffic management, community engagement and concerns for protecting people's safety. Georgie noted that there were many elements that Council could not control. Temporary lighting, changed speed limits and traffic control measures will be put in place. A safer option to enjoy boulevard lights is to remain in the car.

Discussion

Committee members noted that the pathways are not wide enough or don't exist.

The opinion that closing part of the road was the best option was shared. Georgie noted that keeping traffic flowing two ways is important but extending paths where possible has been explored.

Georgie noted that Council are keen to facilitate as much feedback and communication to inform people as possible.

Kathryn noted that many other streets are being decorated and may be considered as alternative places to visit.

Action

Action 2: Sherryn to provide Ros' residential address to Georgie.

4.2 Inclusive Business Guides (15 minutes)

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

The Nillumbik Good Access For Good Business Guide was presented as an alternative. The Committee reviewed the current Age & Disability-friendly guide.

Discussion

Opportunities for improvement and things to keep for Inclusive Business Guide:

1. "Offer to read menu items or specials to a customer" – may embarrass some people. Alternative recommendation is to include menu's on website.
2. "Cordless EFTPOS unit can accommodate less mobile customers"- consider that some people prefer to use cash as the displays on the EFTPOS machines are too small and can lead to distrust.
3. Keep front of mind that not all disabilities are visible.
4. "Communication: Attitudes cost nothing and make an enormous difference." It was suggested this point should be elevated as it is the biggest enabler of inclusion.
5. Reshape the narrative that inclusion is important to people.
6. Consider including the recommendation to employ people with disability- lowest rates of absenteeism.
7. Handrails needed to support access, thresholds without steps, and magnetic catches on doors.

4.3 Improving Community Places and Spaces (10 minutes)

Inclusive Banyule Action 3.9 We will continue to make improvements to Council's community buildings to improve disability access.

Inclusive Banyule Action 3.10 We will make it easier for community to report access issues in Council's major activity centres.

Council's Community Infrastructure Planner provided a written update to the committee on priorities of sites requiring disability access updates.

Priority improvements for Community Neighbourhood Houses and Community Halls have been identified for 2023/2024. This is based on the Banyule Accessibility 2021 Audit.

Rosanna Fire Station accessible toilet remains the priority project which will be completed by June 2024. Concept designs have been developed and a request for quotation will go out after Christmas. Additional funding has been allocated to the project.

In the process of developing an information resource on the accessibility of community halls for hire in Banyule. Part of the process is collecting information on accessibility features of community buildings.

Action

Action 3: A report on development of accessibility maps for council's community halls for hire will be tabled at the February meeting.

Council reported on progress towards an additional category on the new "Report Something" page on the Council website. The new category will be to report accessibility issues.

Action

Action 4: A report on progress towards the accessibility category on "Report Something" will be tabled at the February meeting.

5. Other updates (10 minutes)

5.1 Other updates invited from Committee

The Disability Pride Flag. The Committee were asked to discuss raising the Disability Pride Flag.

Discussion

Council flew the Disability Pride Flag for the first time in 2023. Committee were asked to reflect on the meaning of the flag and provide guidance to council on flying this flag in the future.

Comments included:

Name of the flag doesn't fit- Pride is confusing, especially in light of LGBTIQ+ Pride.

Flag confused as LGBTIQ+ disability pride. It was noted that the flag is new to Australia and its meaning and purpose continues to require socialisation.

Committee discussed the meaning of the colours and noted it did not include all forms of disability.

When asked to discuss the importance of raising this flag, the committee suggested:

1. To raise awareness and demonstrate that some people need additional supports to enjoy community life.
2. To educate others- a flag can be the start of a conversation.
3. Not all people experience equity- makes a difference to individuals in the community. A flag, when it means something, welcomes people and represents a safe place.

Action

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.

6. Close and date of next meeting.

Next meeting Wednesday 28th February 2024- Location Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub.