

Minutes



Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Tuesday 19 September 2023

Location:	Meeting Room, Dougherty Community Centre, Victor St, Chatswood
Chair:	Wendy Norton
Attendees:	Members: Wendy Norton, Audrey Thomas, , Julia Norton, Ella Gillis, Mark Tonga; Srishti Mahhajan; Honie Boyd; Elisha Mangassarian (via zoom); Suzanne Hartley (via Zoom) Staff: Ellen Miller – WCC Community Venues and Services Team Leader; Adam Booth – WCC Council & Corporate Support Officer; Bushra Salam – Governance Administration Officer
Apologies/absent:	Members: Glenda Hewitt; Helen Woodman
Guests	Councillor Anna Greco Julie Whitfield – Open Space Planner

Items

Item	Topic / Discussion	Action
1	Welcome The meeting was declared open at 4:03 pm.	
	Acknowledgement of Country <i>Willoughby City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we meet today, the Gamaragal People, and their connections to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including those who may be in attendance today.</i>	
	Apologies Members: Glenda Hewitt; Helen Woodman	
	Declarations of interest A link to the <i>Disclosure of interest by Committee Members</i> form was circulated with the Agenda. Hardcopies were also available at the meeting. https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Council/Forms/Disclosure-of-interest-by-Committee-Members	

Margaret Kay declared a standing non-pecuniary less than significant interest as a Director of Yourside Australia, stating, “there may be (in the future) a relationship between Yourside Australia and WCC. None known at present.”

2 Appointment of Committee Chair

Committee Resolution:

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A chair be elected at each meeting for that meeting in order to give everybody an opportunity to chair if they wish.

Nominations for Chair of the meeting:

- Audrey Thomas nominated Wendy Norton.
- No other nominations were received.

The Committee voted the Chair of the meeting be Wendy Norton.

The Committee unanimously approved.

Welcome New Members

New and existing members attended a ‘Meet and Greet’ session prior to the commencement of the meeting. The session was arranged following a Council resolution at the 28 August Council meeting.

The Chair welcomed new members Srishti Mahhajan, Honie Boyd and Elisha Mangassarian.

3 Confirmation of Minutes – 20 June 2023

The Committee unanimously adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday 15 August 2023.

Moved: Margaret Kay

Seconded: Audrey Thomas

Carried

The Committee requested Toilet strategy plan

4 Actions from Previous Meetings

- Mr Tonga to prepare a vulnerable person discussion paper. The Committee agreed to set up a working party to aid Mr Tonga in the production of said paper in relation to identifying gaps in the current NDIS system. The first informal Working Party meeting was held on 17 October at 4pm at the Dougherty Community Centre.
- CV&S Team Leader advised the Committee the Draft Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan was currently on public exhibition via Have Your Say until 2 October 2023. Committee was invited to

The link for HYS was shared with the Committee Members.

provide their comments.

- The Committee discussed whether draft documents pertaining to access and inclusion issues should be forwarded to the Committee prior to public exhibition.

CV&S Team Leader advised that all draft documents intended for public display/community engagement needed to be approved by ELT first and then as part of the Communication Strategy be forwarded to the Committee for their input.

- The Committee unanimously resolved to note the actions of previous meetings contained in the agenda.
- Carried

5 Strategic Activities

5.1 Open Space presentation by Julie Whitfield – Open Space Planner

- **Bales Park Draft Master Plan**

Local community consultation for park improvements was undertaken in late 2022. Playground renewal is underway; sportsground renewal of drainage, irrigation and new turfing is complete. Community support for a perimeter walking path, exercise equipment and more seating.

Master plan for the park is on hold as Council shifts to place making approach under a new Public Spaces & Recreation Strategy.

Queries about playground inclusion/ access:

1. Accessible swings are sometimes hung very low and set for young children.
2. Children with autism need sensory experiences and quiet spaces. A very accessible park in the city would be better where everyone can play.
3. The seats and benches in parks are not accessible for everyone.
4. Extra things for children with disability could be added eg. Sensory wall, etc. and include all age groups.

Julie will investigate with design team. Playground renewals are planned for current financial year, with comments sought on Have Your Say.

- **Public Spaces and Recreation Strategy**

The Strategy is scheduled for the Council meeting in late October to be publicly exhibited. Strategic opportunities will guide the next 10 years. Emphasis on doing better with the

Links to HYS seeking comment of playground renewal plans.

land that Council owns – i.e. public spaces and streets. We already have arrangement with some public schools to hire their sportsgrounds. The Strategy seeks to optimise network connections for the community to enjoy the spaces that exist in the City.

Query about the Strategy- over the ten years with population increase, people's needs might change and the importance of open space will increase.

The Strategy can be reviewed earlier than 10 years if required.

5.2 LGNSW Age-friendly Toolkit

CV&S Team Leader informed the Committee that the toolkit contains a range of ideas, resources and examples of what councils can do to strengthen positive outcomes for older people and how it aligns with Outcomes in Our Future Willoughby 2032 Community Strategic Plan.

5.3 Updates on Age & Disability Activities

Numbers have increased for 18+ Dance to the Nines Disability Dance with 160 participants and carers attending September Halloween Themed event. Christmas dance scheduled for 8th December.

Under 18's Discobility event scheduled for 27th October at accessible Dougherty Community Centre.

Planning for annual Connect Collaborate Celebrate Art Competition complete. Results will be announced at morning tea on 30th November.

Social lunch club for Seniors has returned to post covid numbers with 80 seniors attending Spring luncheon. Transport was provided for those with mobility issues to ensure they can attend the lunch and connect with peers.

DCC Internet Kiosk for Seniors is well patronised with no spaces available until February 2024. New volunteer coming on-board shortly

6 Other Business

Disability Action Inclusion Plan – Annual Report

Annual Report against Willoughby's Disability Inclusion Action Plan is currently underway and will be available to the Committee at the November meeting.

WCC Community Venues and Services Team Leader to provide draft DIAP report at next Committee

meeting.

7 Next Meeting

Next meeting date

Tuesday 21 November 2023 4:00pm

Suggested agenda items

Discussion on the draft Annual Report against Willoughby's Disability Inclusion Action Plan at next Committee meeting.

8 Meeting Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 5:47 pm.
