

Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

Monday 5 September 2022
Meeting Minutes



Present

Chair:

Cr Williams

Community Representatives:

Emma Grey, Zione Alepha Phiri, Elizabeth (Liz) Ellis, Ray Jordan

Carers:

Brooke Underwood (left at 12pm), George Jiang

Service Providers:

Pauline Risoli (National Disability Insurance Agency) (left at 12:30pm)

Kathy Kondeka, Melbourne Polytechnic

Council staff:

Katie Kiley, Senior Team Leader, Access and Inclusion

Jade Myconos, Community Development Officer, Access and Inclusion

Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer, Access and Inclusion

Guest speakers:

Kevin de Leeuw, Senior Transport Engineer, Darebin City Council

Oliver Conlan, Transport Planner, Darebin City Council

1 Present and Apologies

Chair welcomed all present to the meeting, did an acknowledgement of Country and noted the following apologies:

Apologies:

Edward Manuel
Jo Banks
Judith McLean
Helen Caliguiuri

2 Matters arising from the previous minutes

Actions pending: No actions pending.

3 Endorsement of June meeting minutes

The minutes from the last meeting, held on Monday 6 June and emailed to members on 16 June 2022 were endorsed.

4 Round table check-in

(This is an opportunity for members to add items to the agenda, prioritise agenda items, report back on events, updates or issues that may have come up since the last meeting and table any other issues).

Everyone introduced themselves.

Following items added to General Business:

No items were added.

5 Parking permit policy and carers permits

Kevin de Leeuw, Senior Transport Engineer
Oliver Conlan, Transport Planner

Purpose: Seeking feedback about Darebin's parking permit policy and the introduction of carers parking permits.

Summary of presentation:

- The Transport Team is planning to review the parking policy.
- One of their key concerns is increasing equity and introducing carers permits.
- Four options will be put out for community consultation.

- All the options included: adding a carers parking permit; daily visitor permits; and removing transferable resident parking permits.

Questions to DDAC:

- Any feedback on what you've been shown?

DDAC provided the following feedback:

- It is important to think carefully about how a carer will be defined and who will be eligible, as there are many types of carers and situations in which they may need to park.
- This may include family, friends, allied health workers, NDIS workers, and others.
- Can you pass along some comparisons of what other Councils are doing regarding carers permits?
- Option Four sounds good –individualised solutions are good.
- Discussion around parking availability and the option to install accessible bays.
- Option four raises logistical problems around: the potential for permits to be revoked; flexibility around temporary and/or acquired disabilities; and people moving house.
- Please provide updates on the parking permit policy as it develops.
- The Transport Team will continue to discuss with the Committee as required.

ACTIONS:

- Tobi to check in with Transport team to see if they can give an additional update
- Tobi to share Kevin's details with DDAC after meeting

Links to examples from other Councils will be provided with the minutes.

NOTE: Councillor Williams left at 12:12pm.

6 Pickup/drop-off zone in local streets

Liz, DDAC Member

Summary of conversation:

- There is currently a lot of development going on in Darebin, so many apartments are being built.
- Proposal for apartment buildings to have a pickup/drop-off zone (like a business loading zone) for 15 minutes to ensure that accessible taxis etc can access the building and people aren't parking out the front all the time.

ACTIONS:

- Tobi to follow up with Transport team

7 Preston Rail Station

George Jiang, DDAC Member

Summary of conversation:

To discuss whether the DDAC would like to visit the new Preston Rail Station and assess its accessibility.

DDAC Comments:

- The Committee is interested in seeing Preston Station and Bell Station.
- Reservoir station is very accessible, so if the same team worked on the new stations, they are likely to be accessible.
- It would be good to assess signage, bathrooms, elevators, and how well connected the station is to the local community (e.g. bus, train, tram, shopping and high street).
- Council has an advocacy role to play.
- Council to facilitate this excursion ideally with some council officers.
- Some Melbourne Polytechnic students with intellectual disability will be shown how to access different facilities at the station this week. We can also follow up with these personal tours for the Committee.
- Ray will be visiting in late October, so please organise for then.

ACTIONS:

- Tobi to organise time and day to do a site visit in late October and invite relevant Council officers.
- Tobi to investigate tour of Preston and Bell Stations.

8 Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Updates

Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer

Katie Kiley, Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion

- With Ray and Virginia leaving the Committee, we now have four open positions.
- We will be working to fill these in the next few months.
- Future Committee meeting days and times will need change to accommodate Councillor attendance.
- Officers will consult with members to determine new meeting schedule.

DDAC Comments:

- After hour meeting time
- Happy to keep meetings virtual
- Katie outlined Ray's contribution to the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee and thanked him for his work.

ACTION:

Katherine Kiley and Tobi Evans will continue to work with Councillors to find a new meeting date and keep DDAC members updated.

Tobi to follow up with members about what day and time would be their preference for future meetings

9 General Business

Council Updates:

Katie Kiley, Acting Senior Team Leader, Access and Inclusion

Disability Action Plan

- Final updates are being sought for the Disability Action Plan 2021 – 2022.
- There have been a lot of achievements including audit by Vision Australia and improvements to website accessibility, signage and wayfinding installed at Bundoora homestead and farm, footpaths and kerb ramps repaired and replaced at priority locations in the municipality, universal design approaches for current major project designs including Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre, Narrandjeri Stadium and the Intercultural Centre, completion of the all abilities play space at Penders Park, and a variety of other project and process improvements.
- The next plan will be developed shortly, and will include relevant actions in the Council Action Plan 2022 – 2023, and Access and Inclusion Unit Plan.

Writeability

- The Writeability 'Come and try' session will run on 13 September at 11am in the Preston Library - we are promoting this opportunity and the Writeability program to our networks and encourage you to do the same.
- Writeability is a free creative writing program for writers and aspiring writers with disability.
- It will run in the Preston Library on Tuesdays 11am -1pm over 8 months starting in October.

Special Meeting

- We are planning a Special Joint Committee meeting regarding the climate emergency strategy later in the month.

- Invitations will be sent to all members of DDAC.

Jade Myconos, Community Development Officer

Good Access is Good Business

- Darebin has purchased Darebin branded access guides called Good Access is Good Business.
- These resources support businesses to be more accessible for people with disability.
- They are now complete and available for free download on Darebin's business website page.

Employment forum

- We are still waiting to hear if we have been successful in our application for Information, Linkages and Capacity Building funding to run a disability employment forum and training series in Darebin.

Tobi Evans, Community Development Officer

DDAC training - Voice at the Table

- Voice at the Table is ready to offer their training, but we have decided to prioritise members being paid for their time to attend the training.
- We are collecting evidence for appropriate payments and then we will advocate for this internally.

ACTIONS:

Tobi to continue conversation with Voice at the Table about payments.

Ray, DDAC Member

All Aboard update

- Bimonthly meetings still being run. Public transport advocates coming together to discuss. Not a lot people coming along anymore.

- Department of transport regularly come so it's a shame more people don't come! A professor from Federation University also attends.

ACTIONS:

Tobi to send info about All Aboard to DDAC members and Ray's personal email.

10 Meeting feedback – everyone

DDAC members did not provide any feedback.

Next meeting: 5 December 2022, which may change subject to Councillor availability and member preference.

11:00am – 1:00pm

Location TBC