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| **Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee**  **Minutes** |  |

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| **Date:** | **Friday 23 August 2024** |
| **Time:** | **10.00am – 12:00pm** |
| **Venue:** | **Nillumbik Shire Council; Council Chambers** |
| **Chair:** | **Angela Clare** |
| **Scribe:** | **Julie-Anne Grech** |

**Attendees:**

**Councillors:**

Nil

**Council Officers:**

Narelle Hart (Manager Community Programs), Angela Clare (Disability Inclusion Officer), Ignacio Zamora (Arts Development Officer), Natalie Town (Senior Communications Officer), Chris Gipps (Recreation and Community Infrastructure Project Manager) and Julie-Anne Grech (Business and Program Support Officer)

**Committee members:**

Neville Coutts, Gina Lloyd-Thomas, Rhonda Bain, Helen Ryan (Araluen), Silvana Scibilia, Seane Cumming (Different Journeys), Aaron Williams (Brotherhood of St Lawrence), Nicole Coxford (Carers Collective)

**Other:**

Andrea Jovev, Aligned Leisure People and Compliance Officer

**Apologies:**

Cr Perkins, Angela Lampard, Diana Warrell, Melanie Keely, Sue King, Shannon Morgan (St. John of God), Carol Lee.

**Order of business**

1. **Welcome by Chair, Angela Clare.**

1. **Acknowledgement of Country**

Acknowledgement of Country was read by Angela Clare.

1. **Conflict of Interest and Informal Meeting of Councillors Record**

Nil

1. **The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 June 2024 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

**Proposed:** Neville Coutts

**Seconded:**Helen Ryan

1. **Accessible Work Experience (AWE) Program at Eltham Leisure Centre – Andrea Jovev, Aligned Leisure People and Compliance Officer**

**Disability Action Plan Priority Area reference: 5.2.5**

Andrea provided the Committee with an outline of their new Work Experience Program. Whilst it has taken a little time to design a program that participants feel comfortable with, the program has been a great success for the first two participants and for the Aligned Leisure staff. The two students from St. John of God have been quite independent of their carers and every effort has been made to customise a program for each participants individual needs. The program has led to one of the participants enquiring about extended pathways to learning, a great result.

1. **Changing Places artwork update (grant funded) - Ignacio Zamora Arts Development Officer**

**Disability Action Plan Priority Area reference: 5.3.12**

The Arts Development Officer led the Committee through the selection process for artists for the murals in the Changing Places facility at Alistair Knox Park. Following an expression of interest process, 16 portfolios were collected, from which 4 candidates were shortlisted. Each of these candidates submitted a concept proposal with a selection panel including members of the Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee and the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee choosing the concept proposal by Ling and MEGGS.

Committee members commented that it was difficult it was to choose the final candidate given the talent of applicants.

Ling and MEGGS have over 30 years combined experience in producing large scale murals and public artworks in Melbourne, throughout Australia and internationally. Their proposal focuses on the use of colour, texture and balance inspired by the beauty of Eltham’s natural landscape and the colour palettes of Australian native flora and the movements / shapes found in the local geography / landscape.

Two workshops are being coordinated between artists at Araluen and Ling and MEGGS. The contribution from artists at Araluen will be integrated as part of Ling and MEGGS final artwork design for the interior of the Changing Places facility.

The Arts Team (in partnership with Disability Inclusion) are also exploring further opportunities for external artwork via this grant initiative. This is yet to be confirmed.

Despite some unavoidable delays on-site, Changing Places and the associated broader toilet facilities are anticipated for completion by the end of 2024.

1. **Communications check-in - Natalie Town, Senior Communications Officer**

**Disability Action Plan Priority Area reference: 5.1.13 and 5.1.18**

**The Senior Communications Officer provided an update on the recent Participate Nillumbik ‘Council Communications’ consultation survey. The aim of the survey is to seek** out **what information residents want to hear from Council and the best means of distributing this information. The feedback from the Committee included the following:**

* **Look at including Easy English and making the website more accessible for the vision impaired**
* **Not everyone is connected to the internet or knows how to use it so written / hard copy is very important.**
* **Face to face connections including pop-ups in town squares and speaking to community groups**
* **A committee member queried if there might be potential for volunteers to go door to door. Some committee members responded that for many people, door knockers would be unwelcome and an invasion of privacy.**
* **The lack of local newspapers impacting flow of information. Natalie advised that The Manningham / Nillumbik bulletin, Warrandyte Diary and Hurstbridge Roundabout are all still available in local pick up points**
* **Greater use of noticeboards**
* **The digital section of the library could provide an area for dissemination of information for the e-news**
* **Data collected on how many ‘hits’ each site or newsletter receives will help to gain insight into what are areas of interest for residents**

The committee member from Different Journeys asked if there was a regular ‘What’s on in Nillumbik’ brochure that they could distribute at their regular local social events. Natalie advised that the information was being updated constantly in the events webpages on the Nillumbik website.

Committee members were advised to visit [Events calendar - Nillumbik Shire Council](https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Explore/Events-and-festivals/Events-calendar).

**A printed copy of the survey was handed out to Committee members for completion.**

**Committee members who could not attend this meeting are welcome to contact the Senior Communications Officer, Natalie Town to provide feedback (contact details below). Natalie can also send a hard copy of the survey, upon request. Feedback is requested by Monday 9 September.**

**Natalie Town**  
**Senior Communications Officer**   
**Communications**   
[Natalie.Town@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Natalie.Town@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

9433 3105 | 0418 871 979

1. **Promotion of accessible features and spaces in Nillumbik – Chris Gipps, Recreation and Community Infrastructure Project Manager**

**Disability Action Plan Priority Area reference: 5.1.22**

The Recreation and Community Infrastructure Project Manager presented a Recreation and Leisure Department overview, highlighting their work with trails, playgrounds, open space, sports grounds, sports infrastructure, project planning and delivery.

Currently the team are reviewing the Council website re: recreation and leisure content and are seeking feedback about how information is presented.

The team are working in partnership with Angela Lampard to improve website content and to assess/improve accessible features at Diamond Creek Trail, Hurstbridge Dog Park / Fergusons Paddock, Diamond Creek Regional Play Space, Eltham North Adventure Playground and Alistair Knox Park and Playground.

Some of the valuable suggestions from the Committee included:

* Noting where sitting points / park benches are located along routes
* Listing the distance between points i.e. how far is it on the trail from Edendale to Eltham centre
* Listing available water taps
* Distance to toilets / facilities
* What BBQ areas / eating facilities / tables are available
* Greater signage for cyclists i.e. advising that trails are shared trails or more signage directing cyclists to give way to walkers
* The Hurstbridge Dog Park is not overly accessible
* Include information on each page about reportable incidents
* Include information about which areas are on/off leash for dogs including acceptable dog/owner behaviour
* Detail which times at each area are busy/less busy for those wanting a quieter play
* Diamond Creek Regional Play Space is very hard to find; needs better physical signage
* Detailing which areas have fencing / physical barriers
* Whether carparks are sealed or unsealed
* Snake safety in summer

Any further suggestions in addition to the above can be directed to the Recreation and Community Infrastructure Project Manager 0437 241 701 or email [Chris.Gipps@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:Chris.Gipps@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

1. **International Day of People with Disability Grant applications to date – Angela Clare, Disability Inclusion Officer**

**Disability Action Plan Priority Area reference: 5.3.5**

The closing date for applications has been extended by one week to 1 September 2024 due to lower than expected numbers of applications.

Angela advised that two applications had been received so far. One application was for workshops for people with disability to create Christmas decorations and giftwrap from recycled textiles (Christmas ReFelt) and one for a community Mental Health workshop and morning tea, exploring issues around the co-occurrence of mental ill health with autism and intellectual disabilities.

Angela advised that in alignment with the Council Community Grant Policy, any grants under $5000 per individual award are now required to be assessed by an internal Council panel. Successful applications will be promoted via the Disability Inclusion e-newsletter.

Should the grant pool not be expended, any unspent funds will be carried over and made available next year.

**10. Other Business and reminder about the election period**

The election period starts at midday on 17 September and ends at 6pm on 26 October. Advisory Committee meetings will not be held until after Council’s Extraordinary Meeting which is likely to be held in the middle to end of November 2024.

**11. Next Committee meeting:**

**Where:** Nillumbik Shire Council (Council Chamber)

**When:** 13 December 2024

**Time:** 10:00am - 12:00pm.

Please reach out to Angela Lampard about any Agenda items you’d like to propose.

**Meeting closed 12pm**