

Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee

12 February 2018



Minutes

HELD AT Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Present

Ron Finneran OAM	Anthony Basford (BVSC)
Cr Robyn Bain	John Grady (BVSC)
Graham Carmody	Jason Deller (BVSC)
John Reynolds	Gary Scott-Holland (BVSC)
Colin Dunn	Colin Slade (BVSC) attending on behalf of Jonathon Pyke
Rosemary Oates	Mark Fowler (BVSC) attending on behalf of Keith Tull
Francis Pearce	Jason Heffernan (BVSC) attending on behalf of Ian Macfarlane
Jennifer Russell (departed 1:15pm)	Katrina Berenguer (BVSC)
Nathan Johnston (arrived 11:55pm)	

1 Welcome and apologies

That the apologies submitted by Jenny Robb, Felicity Gates, Chris Sparks, Sue Thomas, Michaela Pascolutti, Jonathon Pyke, Keith Tull and Ian Macfarlane for their inability to attend the meeting be accepted.

2 Confirmation of minutes

That the minutes of the previous AIAC meeting held on 13 November 2017 be taken as read. Motion moved by Ron Finneran and seconded by Colin Dunn. The majority of the AIAC agreed.

3 Review of Action Items & Outcomes Register

Item No 13/2017 – Excessive taxi spaces in Merimbula

Cr Bain advised the committee that parking and planning for Merimbula is currently under review in the Local Traffic Committee (LTC). The issue of excessive taxi spaces being replaced with accessible car spaces can be addressed in that review.

Jason Deller advised that a parking study will be conducted as part of that LTC review this year to review the area as a collective. The draft study can be forwarded to the AIAC for comment before Council approval.

New Action: A review of taxi spaces in Merimbula will be included in the parking study being conducted by the LTC. Jason Deller will provide the AIAC with a copy of the draft Merimbula parking study to provide input/comment before Council approval.

Item No 12/2017 – Safe access and accessible car park on Bunga St, Bermagui

Issue will be addressed via LTC.

Item No 11/2017 – IMB Eden entrance step

Letter to be sent to Simon Dunn Manager IMB Eden Branch from Ron Finneran.

Item No 8/2017 – BVSC Guidelines for placing café furniture on public footpaths

Colin Slade advised to refer to the Use of Public Lands Procedure.

Post meeting note – below is the excerpt from Procedure 3.02.1 Use of Public Land

Item 22 - Outdoor Eating

Council encourages the establishment of Outdoor Eating areas within Commercial zones. To maintain a regulatory function, the following are general conditions for any Outdoor Eating area within the Bega Valley Shire.

General Requirements

- A clear distance of at least 2m is required between the outer extremity of the area allocated for outdoor eating and the kerb line to provide sufficient area for pedestrian movement.
- The pedestrian corridor must be continuous with the frontage of the property and/or contiguous with the adjoining properties to provide for a constant pedestrian corridor along the footpath. In this regard the use of the outdoor eating area should comply with the requirements of AS1428, in terms of access at all times.

Furniture style

- Furniture should be strong, durable, waterproof and weather resistant, designed appropriately for its intended use. The design must not contain parts that are likely to cause damage to the pavement.
- All outdoor furniture shall be maintained at all times in a physically sound state and be able to sustain frequent use to prevent damage and movement to ensure public safety.
- The furniture used must be aesthetically suitable and involve a colour scheme and materials that are both practical and serviceable and in keeping with its surrounding area and shop front. Council reserves the right to reject unsuitable furniture.

Nathan Johnston arrived at 11:55am.

Item No 18/2016 – Camber of footpath out the front of Club Sapphire Merimbula

Jason Deller advised that this area has been identified as works that require improvement and will be submitted for budget consideration next year.

Item No 13/2016 – NSW legislative improvements in Access

Chris Sparks to follow up on action and advise at next meeting.

Item No 10/2016 – Additional accessible public toilet in Merimbula

John Grady advised that the Bega Valley Shire amenities review will be presented to Council in the next couple of months.

New Action: CRM to be raised regarding the Palmer Street public toilets. Possible trip hazard with a platform that has been painted white with no delineation for a step.

Item No 9/2016 – Bermagui Pharmacy

Jenny Russell reported that recently a visitor in a wheelchair stopped her in the street and asked her to take her script into the Bermagui Pharmacy because she could not access the premises. The pharmacy staff advised that they would fill the script and deliver it to her on the street.

The AIAC expressed their concern that the owner of the building and business manager have not responded to any offers of assistance to rectify the access issue for customers. It was decided to raise this issue with Andrew Constance.

New Action: Graham Carmody to approach The Hon. Andrew Constance MP Member for Bega with this issue on behalf of the AIAC to raise the profile of limited access to an essential service in Bermagui.

4 New and other Business

4.2 Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)

Anthony Basford advised that the DIAP is included in the Operational Plan actions which are reported to Council on the 21 February 2018. All actions from the DIAP will be allocated to Council officers and will be available to view on the Council website.

4.3 Sub Committees reports and updates

Business – Colin Dunn

- Business brochure - might be considering an electronic version rather than paper. Ron Finneran did believe that a hand out would be beneficial after a presentation.
- Consult/presentation to the Business Chambers to get on board.
- Consult/presentation to the Business Forum (rep from each Business Chamber attends).
- Please submit any ideas to Colin Dunn directly.

Post Meeting Note – Colin Slade forwarded documents to Colin Dunn that are used by other organisations to create access awareness opportunities for businesses.

Community – John Reynolds

- Church Street rough guttering and cobble stone paving causes difficulty for accessibility and it was raised in a previous meeting that this area was heritage listed.

New Action: Mark Fowler advised that the Heritage Advisor is visiting Council this Thursday. He will ask him to have a look at Church Street for an opportunity to upgrade and advise the AIAC of the outcome.

- Taxi zone in Church Street. Possibility of changing to accessible parking to enable better access to people on that side of Bega.

Anthony Basford advised that there is a current adopted masterplan for Bega but acknowledged that parking in the Shire is not consistent and that is why the accessible parking study is underway.

- Magic Mountain, Merimbula. Access from the car park to the facility is on dirt and path of travel is very rough.

Colin Slade advised that entrances can be on dirt as long as the grade is 1:20. There would be a consent condition in the DA and if it is not compliant then Council Officers can take action with the owners.

New Action: Colin Slade to review the DA consent conditions for Magic Mountain on the path of travel from the car park to the facility and advise the AIAC.

To all AIAC members, any queries regarding access issues in a public place are best reported via the Snap, Send & Solve application.

Tourism – Jenny Robb

Ron Finneran advised that he would like to formally approach Council for funding to assist in the promotion of access to businesses in the Shire in conjunction with Sapphire Coast Tourism.

Cr Bain advised that the Council budget for tourism in the Shire is allocated to Sapphire Coast Tourism. Sapphire Coast Tourism is the organisation to approach for funding.

1:15pm Jenny Russell and Nathan Johnston left the meeting.

4.4 Revised Short Point Master Plan

John Grady provided a copy of the draft revised masterplan. There are several objectives of the master plan relating to improving access, enhancing recreation opportunities, environmental improvements and recognition of cultural heritage. The main changes from the adopted master plan are:

- Removal of switchback path to beach steps, viewing platform and picnic area.
- The promenade is predominately a viewing area.
- Feedback from the community requested that the picnic area be located up along the car park rather than the beach area.
- No park furniture in the grassed area. Furniture is on the promenade deck.
- No formal path linking amenities to beach access steps.

Ron Finneran objected to the Headland pathway and advised that it is not acceptable because it is not accessible to people in a wheelchair. He also believed that the AIAC was not consulted.

Anthony Basford advised that it was presented to the AIAC 18 months ago and was approved. Representatives of the AIAC were on the site stakeholder groups. An important consideration that had to be taken into account during design and determining the location of the headland path was the aboriginal cultural significance of the site. This determined the path location on the old road access to enable a 'no excavation' construction method. This was chosen to reduce potential cultural impacts while still delivering significant access improvements. The pathway was constructed after stakeholder and AIAC review but before Council endorsement as it was a grant funding requirement. Aboriginal artefacts were found during the pre-construction inspection by Bega Local Aboriginal Lands Council.

Post meeting note – References regarding Short Point masterplan consultation with the AIAC are recorded on the minutes of meetings held on 7 December 2015, 7 March 2016 and 5 September 2016. These can be viewed on Council's website and link below
https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-RTQ-25-00-71

New Action: It was suggested by the AIAC that the accessible car parking spaces be split up around the car park rather than grouped together. The revised plan was approved by the AIAC. This motion was moved by Colin Dunn and seconded by John Reynolds.

Cr Bain advised that the Headland pathway did have some erosion. John Grady advised that maintenance to the pathway will be needed on an ongoing basis. A CRM will be created to review.

4.6 Other Business

Budget report was handed out by Anthony Basford.

Colin Slade was seeking AIAC support regarding lodging a formal complaint with the building owner of 3 Market Street Merimbula with the Australian Human Rights Commission to arbitrate on the use of an internal limited mobility lift as a storage cupboard back to its intended purpose of providing access to and within the retail shop.

A motion was moved to support Council lodging a formal complaint to the building owner of 3 Market Street Merimbula to the Australian Human Rights Commission. Moved by Rosemary Oates and seconded by John Reynolds.

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Rosemary Oates wanted to officially congratulate Ron Finneran Chair of the AIAC for being awarded Senior Citizen of the Year.

Meeting closed at 1:50pm. Next meeting to be held 14 May 2018.