

MINUTES OF THE ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 25 MAY 2021
IN THE ANDY MCNEILL ROOM - CIVIC CENTRE, ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

The meeting opened at 1:05pm with a quorum.

1. ATTENDANCE

Councillor Glen Auricht (*Chair*)
Jacinta Cordner
Annemarie Drummond
Zoe Franey
Sandy Robinson
Karen Stewart

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Stephen Baloban - Manager Infrastructure
Dilip Nellikat - Manager Developments
Kiri Milne - Community Development Officer
Stephanie Dominguez - Executive Assistant (Minutes)

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Annette Hiscox - National Disability Insurance Agency
Veronica Larson - Neighbourhood Watch NT

APOLOGIES

Mayor Damien Ryan
Scott Allen - Director Technical Services
Sabine Taylor - Director Corporate Services, Acting Director Community Development
Kristine Capangpangan - Administration Officer
Luke Allen - Acting ICT Officer
Peter Somerville - Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics
Adrian Scholtes - Disability Advocacy Services
Brigida Alberti
Cheryl Knight

13th Alice Springs Town Council Access Advisory Committee Attendance List 2020/21				
	Sep-20	Nov-20	Feb-21	May-21
Mayor Ryan		✓	✓	A
Councillor Glen Auricht	✓	✓	A	✓
Jacinta Cordner				✓
Annemarie Drummond	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zoe Franey	✓	✓	A	✓
Cheryl Knight	✓	✓	✓	A
Carol Muir	--	--	✓	--
Sandy Robinson				✓
Adrian Scholtes			✓	A
Peter Somerville	✓	✓	✓	A
Brigida Stewart	✓	✓	✓	A
Karen Stewart	✓	A	A	✓

✓ Attended
A Apology Received
-- No attendance and no apology tendered
Not on the committee at this time

The Chair welcomed new members Sandy Robinson and Jacinta Cordner to their first meeting of the Access Advisory Committee.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Access Advisory Committee meeting held 23 February 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Moved: Annemarie Drummond

Seconded: Zoe Franey

CARRIED

3.1 Action Items from the Previous Meeting

a. NeatStreets

The Community Development Officer confirmed information about Neat Streets had been circulated to the Committee via email and provided a printed copy for the members who did not receive or were unable to access the information. She offered assistance to follow up on any concerns that had been reported but may not have been actioned, and noted any concerns with the functionality of the app could be directed to Council's Media Officer.

Action:

Community Development Officer to circulate the contact details for Council's Media Officer to the Committee.

b. Disability Advocacy Service (DAS) and NDS

The Community Development Officer provided an update on behalf of Adrian Scholtes from Disability Advocacy Service (DAS) and noted the NDS submission in regard to Accessible Tourism NT project was not developed or submitted after further discussion with other services in the tourism sector.

c. Disability Royal Commission

The Community Development Officer advised the Disability Royal Commission went ahead and DAS and other members of the NT DRC Stakeholders thank Alice Springs Town Council for the 'in kind' donation for the use of the Andy McNeill room.

The meeting moved to agenda item 5 Deputations at 1:10pm.

The meeting returned to agenda item 4 Business Arising from Previous Minutes at 1:36pm.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Mayoral Awards and International Day of People with Disability - (Standing Item)

The Community Development Officer advised additional budget had been approved for the Mayoral Awards and activities, and noted that while these were scheduled to be held in the Double Tree Hilton Ballroom on the *International Day of People with a Disability* (3 December 2021). Support was requested to move the date for the Mayoral Awards event to **Wednesday, 1 December 2021** to ensure it could be given adequate attention by Council Officers. The Committee provided their support for this change.

The Community Development Officer noted the feedback from the previous event in regard to event location and catering and invited any individuals or organisations who were interested to contribute to this event, to get in touch with her.

4.2 Council Infrastructure and Accessibility Update

Manager Infrastructure noted 46 CBD pram ramps remained as part of the upgrade and all the ones identified on the priority list had been completed. A member of the Committee raised a concern with a crossing Gregory Terrace. The Manager Infrastructure agreed to investigate.

Action:

Manager Infrastructure investigate the CBD pram ramps and crossings on Gregory Terrace between of Uncles and the Todd Mall.

Discussion ensued in regard to the use of tactile indicators and mats and the potential placement of tactile indicators in the main streets of the CBD near driveways to avoid incidents. The Chair noted that NeatStreets could be used to report any areas of concern.

Action:

Manager Infrastructure to review and replace (as appropriate) the tactile mats at the entry to the Civic Centre.

Action:

Manager Infrastructure to investigate if it would be suitable to introduce tactile indicators in the main streets near driveways in the CBD.

Discussion ensued in regard to access ramps into Todd Mall Businesses. The Manager Infrastructure advised, despite Council's efforts and incentives in the past for shop owners to introduce ramps, these businesses are only required to meet the current code if they make any upgrades to their shop. The Community Development Officer clarified with Committee members, that they sought support from Council Officers to advocate and encourage Todd Mall shops to make these upgrades and agreed to have an offline discussion in regard to this.

Action:

The Community Development Officer to speak with Mr Brian Vidler from Building Branch about speaking to the Committee.

4.3 Mobility Map Update

The Community Development Officer provided a DRAFT of the Online Mobility Map, sought feedback on the icon's used, and advised of the steps that will be taken to complete this project. It was noted the printed Mobility Map would be refreshed annually and produced in a printed copy.

Feedback was noted in regard to making the street names darker and bolder.

4.4 Terms of Reference and Membership Update

The Community Development Officer noted the discussion from the last meeting, welcomed the new members, and advised the Terms of Reference would be undergoing further development and an update was hoped for the next meeting.

The Community Development Officer highlighted the correspondence from the CEO of DAS included in the meeting papers, and agreed to receive further feedback from members, which, in addition to the feedback given at previous meetings, would aid in the development of a final version which would be presented to Council to be endorsed.

Committee members enquired as to the focus the Committee would ultimately have, eg, *Disability/Accessibility* focused and expressed their support for a Disability/Accessibility focus for the Committee.

5. DEPUTATION

5.1 Annette Hiscox, Assistant Director Rural and Remote - National Disability Insurance Agency

Ms Hiscox presented the Committee on behalf of the National Disability Insurance Agency. She spoke in regard to the recent changes that have occurred over the last few months and provided a brief update on the following items:

- Consultation had occurred in regard to the independent assessments for participants and their eligibility. It was noted some information is available on the NDIS website here: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/independent-assessments>
- That the implementation and new changes that were due to occur on the 1 July 2021 have now been put on hold to allow the new Minister time to review all the information
- Implementation was hoped to include the introduction of access to interpreters, remote community connectors, and family participation

Ms Hiscox acknowledged that the consultation had highlighted community unrest across the nation and noted further consultation at a high level was occurring.

Further updates were provided in regard to:

- Early Childhood Early Intervention - Consultation
- Support Coordination - for management of NDIS plans
- Personalised budgets and plan flexibility - consultation paused, awaiting the result of the independent assessments
- The introduction of an NDIS phone app so participants can manage their plans
- Statistics for Central Australia:
 - 636 participants on NDIS plans
 - 73% of these plans are being used
- Utilization of plans and quality assurance processes

Ms Hiscox confirmed the current structure of the NDIS was still in effect, and the 'pause' was in regard to any changes had been proposed during the consultation. Questions and answers followed and the Committee acknowledged Annette for her time and presentation.

5.2 Veronica Larson, Southern Community Development and Engagement Officer - Neighbourhood Watch NT

Ms Larson presented the Committee and gave information on the goal of Neighbourhood Watch NT, which included:

- Providing safety information to the community, which included a newsletter providing information about events and statistics applicable to Alice Springs
- Events, which included *Community and Senior Safety Workshops*, occurring in June, September 2021 and February 2022

Ms Larson distributed copies of a book called '*The Little Black Book of Scams*' which has been produced by the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission, and circulated a sign-up sheet for members of this Committee to receive email updates from Neighbourhood Watch.

Discussion ensued in regard to personal safety workshops and the value of these. Ms Larson agreed to make a connection between Committee members and the facilitator of these workshops. A question was raised in regard to a matter relating to Victims of Crime, Ms Larson noted Chris Sanderson was the appropriate local contact for this.

The Committee thanked Veronica for her time and presentation.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Correspondence IN - Adrian Scholtes, CEO DAS

The Committee received and noted the Correspondence. The Community Development Officer advised this would be considered when forming a final draft of the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

Sandy Robinson noted a follow-up letter would be provided by the Board of DAS.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Carer's Gateway

The Community Development Officer tabled some information in regard to Carer's Gateway. The Committee received and noted the information.

Action:

Community Development Officer to arrange someone from Carer's NT to present at the next meeting.

7.2 Election Caretaker Period and Next Meeting

The Chair noted Council would be entering a Caretaker Period in the leadup to the Local Government Election (Thursday, 5 August 2021 until the election is declared). It was noted that this was unlikely to affect this Committee and the next meeting could still be conducted.

7.3 Community Development Officer

The Chair noted that this would be the Community Development Officer's last meeting as she was relocating out of Alice Springs provided thanks on behalf of Council and the Committee.

7.4 Consultation - Public Library

The Community Development Officer highlighted that comments on the *Reimagining the Alice Springs Public Library* were still being received, and provided printed copies of the feedback documents for the Committee to contribute.

7.5 Council Connects - Newsletter

Advice was sought from the Committee on what they would like to see in Council's newsletter 'Council Connects' and sought advice on locations for distribution of this physical newsletter.

7.5 Chairperson - Councillor Auricht

The Acting Director Technical Services thanked Councillor Auricht for his efforts as Chairperson on this Committee.

8. NEXT MEETING

TBC August 2021 at 1:00pm in the Andy McNeill Meeting Room

The meeting closed at 2:19 pm.