

Access Advisory Committee

27 June 2016



Minutes

HELD AT Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Present

Chris Sparks (Acting Chairman)	Sue Thomas	Ian Macfarlane (BVSC)
Graham Carmody	Cr. Tapscott	Peter Newton (BVSC)
Jennifer Dessens	Anthony Basford (BVSC)	Rob Quick (BVSC) on behalf of Keith Tull
John Reynolds	Jeff Tipping (BVSC)	Katrina Berenguer (BVSC)

1 Welcome & Apologies

That the apologies submitted by Ronald Finneran, Colin Dunn, Nathan Johnston, Rosemary Oates, Simon Schweitzer, John Grady and Keith Tull for their inability to attend the meeting be accepted.

2 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the previous Access Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting held on 7 March 2016, be taken as read. Motion moved by Cr. Tapscott and seconded by John Reynolds.

3 2040 CSP Consultation

Sophie Thomson and Carmen Falvey advised that the first phase of Bega Valley Shire Council's 'Understanding Our Place' survey is complete, and the community has really responded to the opportunity with over 1,500 surveys being completed. The second phase being targeted consultation with community groups like the AAC.

The end result is the Community Strategic Plan 2040 which will be released for comment in early 2017 and will help shape the direction of Council's work and spending for the next 4 years.

The AAC committee were asked as a group the following questions of how they felt about the Bega Valley.

What do you love?

Beaches	Fresh Air	National Parks
No traffic	Cross section of people	Security/safety
Small and friendly community, "know your neighbour"	Opportunity for diverse recreational pursuits	

What are the Challenges?

Employment especially young people.	Air travel cost is a barrier	Frustrations – DA process
Health challenges – physical access and geographical access	Distance to medical specialist services	Lack of after hours specialist services
Ageing population	Lack of tradespeople especially in Bermagui	Topography a barrier for improvements
Internet access	Mobile phone coverage	Diminishing State & Federal funding for infrastructure
Lack of accessible Public Transport	Lack of technical industry – place to live remotely	Education/Training opportunities

What would you like to see/changes?

More young people gainfully employed	Improved transport for all (taxis, availability, appropriate for needs eg access)	CBD’s greener, meeting spaces, shade, seating, pedestrian friendly.
Improved pedestrian crossings	At least one accessible beach in each town	Centre of excellence for health and education
Improved connectivity to other areas eg air connectivity to Canberra	Opportunity for young people to learn outside school eg hackathon, mentoring, non-school learning	Improved repair method for roads
Development of high tech industry	Opportunity to work remotely	Teleconferencing facilities

4 Business arising from last meeting

4.1 Archiving the Barriers List

- Item No. 23/2015 - Bermagui Medical Centre **Action Update:** Jeff Tipping advised that the camber of path to the front door grade is 1:50 which is compliant. Sue Thomas advised that the accessible entrance is at the rear of the building but the back entrance door is kept locked with a buzzer. The staff do not respond to the buzzer sometimes which is why access is required at the front of the building.

New Action: Jeff Tipping advised he will contact the Bermagui Medical Centre about the rear car park and that they are required to keep the back door access open during business hours as per the DA requirements.

- Item No. 25/2015 - Bermagui Pharmacy **Action Update:** Jeff Tipping advised that a pharmacy is not classified as an essential service.

New Action: Jeff Tipping will check the Bermagui Pharmacy original consent for any conditions about access and advise the AAC.

- Item No. 23/2015 - Bermagui Surf Club **Action Update:** John Grady has met with Sue Thomas. John Grady will be looking at options for increasing the size of the accessible toilet and possibly incorporating change rooms as well.

4.2 Review of DA approval conditions for local business renovations

- Item No. 24/2015 - Jeff Tipping to prepare a report to Council regarding possible options on providing incentives for business owners that improve access over and above what is legally required. **Action Update:** Jeff Tipping advised that appropriate changes can be included in Councils Section 356 Procedure to identify actions that Council can instigate to assist applicants who wish to voluntarily upgrade access and facilities for people with disabilities.

New Action: Anthony Basford will keep the AAC informed as to when the reimbursement under Section 356 Applications for Financial Assistance will commence. This will form part of the overall Grants Review that is being presented to Council on 20 July 2016.

4.3 Sub-committee report/update

- Item No. 3/2016 - CRM to be raised for the Works Manager to review the public toilet cleanliness standards at Palmer Street, Merimbula and Apex Park, Bermagui. **Action Update:** Completed – CRM raised and referred to town team for action.

4.4 Awareness campaign non-compliant cars parking in accessible car spaces

- Item No. 10/2015 – Organise an awareness campaign across the shire regarding non-compliant cars parking in the accessible car spaces. **Action Update:** Completed – Blitz on mis-use of disability car spots occurred in April-May 2016. It was considered a successful campaign and Council will conduct more into the future.

Chris Sparks suggested tourism peak times would be an ideal time to conduct another blitz.

5 New & Other Business

5.1 Council Motions

Item No. 2/2016 - LG NSW

A motion titled “Planning requirements for improved access for people with a disability” to be presented to the LG NSW Annual Conference regarding advocating changes to planning requirements for improved and equitable access for people with a disability.

New Action: Anthony Basford to prepare a report for Council to endorse the submission of the motion to the LG NSW Annual Conference. After Council has endorsed the motion, a copy should be sent to local member The Hon. Andrew Constance MP and Minister for Disabilities The Hon John Ajaka MLC.

Extension of Committee tenure

Given the status of a number of matters raised during the AAC strategic planning process, Anthony Basford proposed to extend the AAC tenure by a further 3 months. It is proposed that December 2016 would be the last meeting of the current Committee.

The formation of a new Committee would occur in the first half of 2017.

The motion was moved by Chris Sparks and seconded by John Reynolds.

New Action: Anthony Basford to prepare a report for Council to approve a three month extension of the AAC tenure to December 2016.

5.2 Update on internal Grant Review

Council provides significant amounts of funding per year to a range of organisations and groups across the Shire, who in turn are providing valuable activities and services for residents and visitors.

A review of grants provided by Council is being presented at the 20 July 2016 Council meeting to improve transparency, guidelines and processes.

As part of that review it is proposed that the \$20k budgeted for the Access Advisory Committee be allocated to a small grants program to improve access around the Shire. All applications will be assessed and approved by the AAC. This will also raise the profile of the AAC.

Proposal moved by Cr. Tapscott and seconded by Chris Sparks.

5.3 The Legislative Assembly Committee on Community Services submission

As previously advised, please email Anthony Basford with any comments on the Access to Transport for Seniors and Disadvantaged People in Regional NSW submission by 7 July 2016.

5.4 Snap Send Solve demonstration

Chris Sparks highly recommends the Snap Send Solve application that can be downloaded via the Bega Valley Shire website. It covers Australia wide and he has used this application on a couple of occasions while travelling and have received responses within 48 hours. The only recommendation would be to ensure you describe the exact problem to ensure it is fixed properly.

Click here to the website link

http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-JUR-62-46-27

5.5 Companion Card

The NSW Companion Card is for people with a significant and permanent disability who need a carer with them at all times to enable participation in community based activities and venues. An Information Handbook was distributed to the committee.

Chris Sparks requested Council/AAC to increase awareness of this card via media release, Sapphire Coast Tourism, Chambers of Commerce, etc.

New Action: John Reynolds and possibly Ron Finneran volunteer to drive the awareness of the Companion Card in the community.

Click here to the website link

<http://www.nswcompanioncard.org.au/>

5.6 SCIA Accessible Toilets Update

Due to Ron Finneran not being in attendance this item will be deferred until next meeting.

5.7 Accessible Tourism Forum

Due to Ron Finneran not being in attendance this item will be deferred until next meeting.

5.8 Sub-committees reports/updates

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- Bermagui – Sue Thomas raised the Bowling Club front access.
New Action: Jeff Tipping to review the DA conditions on the ramp access/pathway and advise the AAC.
- Tathra – Chris Sparks raised concerns that he had heard very little about the new NDIS.
New Action: Anthony Basford to invite the Manager Children, Families and Ageing and the NDIS Project Officer to the next meeting to provide an update.
- No other reports/updates were provided.

It was noted that Chris Sparks left the meeting at approximately 1pm and Anthony Basford assumed as Chairman.

5.9 Major works/developments Project updates

- **Eden Wharf Extension** - Anthony Basford advised that Greg Johnson is the project engineer at Eden Wharf. He has offered to come along as a guest speaker to the AAC .

Cr. Tapscott advised that in approximately six months, the infrastructure plans will be released and Council will have an opportunity to make comments to the NSW Government plans. That may be a better time for a presentation.
- **Aquatic Strategy** – Anthony Basford advised that Sapphire Aquatic Centre is the only facility that has disability access into the water. An Aquatic Strategy is being proposed to Council for public exhibition on the 29 June 2016. This was agreed and will be released shortly.
- **Kianniny Boat Ramp** – Anthony Basford advised that this project is underway with the jetty deck levels being changed for improved access after consultation with Ron Finneran, Chris Sparks and the local fishing club.
- Welcome to Ian McFarlane the new Works Manager.
- Rob Quick advised that he attended a 2 day training course on Access Audits Australia training to keep up to date with new developments and technologies.
- Peter Newton advised that they are in design phase of moving the accessible parking space at Pambula River Mouth so that it is directly out the front of the toilet block.

6 Closure

The meeting was declared closed at 1:25pm.

7 Next meeting

The next ordinary meeting is to be held on the 5 September 2016. Further details to be advised.