



## Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee Meeting Record of Proceedings

Thursday 21 November 2019  
10:00am -12:00 pm, Realm

**Attendees:** Cr Kylie Spears, Cr Tony Dib, Madeline Bough, Cara Hudson, Judith Lenthall, Ron Major, Jacob Matthew, Melinda Spencer

**Support:** Phil Medley, Team Leader Council and Community Planning; Fiona Burrige, Acting Social Planning and Development Officer; Jack Mulholland, MetroAccess Officer; and Brian Tu, Community Planning Officer

**Apologies:** Michelle Egan, Angela Fitzpatrick, Amelia Milroy, Jenny Newman, Andrea Salmon

### Guest speakers:

Item 2	Liveability and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation	Fiona Burrige, Community Development Officer
Item 3	Review of Maroondah Festival and the sensory garden/ possible use of access keys	Josh Burt, Co-ordinator Sport, Recreation and Events Bianca Laycock, Event Coordinator Jack Mullholland, MetroAccess Officer
Item 4	Consultation of Croydon Community Precinct	John Richardson, Co-ordinator Assets Projects & Facilities

### 1. Opening of meeting

Welcome by Cr Kylie Spears

#### 1.1 Apologies/ Conflict of Interest Declaration

Cr Kylie Spears

Apologies noted from Michelle Egan, Angela Fitzpatrick, Amelia Milroy, Jenny Newman, Andrea Salmon

No Conflicts of Interest were declared.

#### 1.2 Welcome to new committee member

Cr Kylie Spears introduced Madeline Bough from NEAMI National to the Committee. Madeline works as a community rehabilitation support worker, specifically focusing on people with a mental illness.

#### 1.3 Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting

Minutes moved by: Cara Hudson

Seconded: Judith Lenthall

#### 1.4 Business Arising

Council is hosting the annual Volunteer Recognition Function on Thursday 5 December to acknowledge volunteers across Maroondah. Fiona reminded committee members of the event and provided details.

**Action: Fiona to resend the invitation to all community committee members**

## 2. Liveability and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation

Fiona Burridge

Fiona Burridge, Acting Social Planner and Community Development Officer, presented to the Committee on the development of Maroondah's Liveability and Wellbeing Strategy. Council's current Maroondah Health and Wellbeing Plan concludes in 2021. Council has commenced developing the next version of the Plan which is intended to be a holistic social plan for the whole of Council.

In the next 6-12 months, considerable research and community engagement will be undertaken to identify:

- The social issues and influences that affect the Maroondah community;
- the population groups they impact;
- where these issues occur in Maroondah; and
- how these issues overlap.

A question was asked about Council's role in Affordable Housing.

- Council does not have a lot of policy levers. Largely the domain of Federal & State Governments.
- Council's Affordable and Social Housing Policy 2018 outlines Council's role in supporting the provision of affordable housing within the municipality. Council's Greening the Greyfields project has the potential to include affordable housing as part of future developments.
- Council is a member of the Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance, a collaboration of six Local Government Authorities in the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR). The Alliance is advocating for the most disadvantaged people in the EMR, in particular, to be able to access affordable housing. The EAHA has been campaigning on behalf of member councils to State Government seeking mandatory inclusionary zoning, a method that aims to provide a portion of affordable housing when redeveloping / subdividing land.

Cara noted that housing needs to be safe as well as affordable.

The Liveability and Wellbeing Strategy consultation has commenced and aims to engage with multiple populations of all ages, abilities and background in Maroondah. Suggestions were put forward on ways to engage with these populations. These included:

- Using an interpreter for culturally diverse communities
- Plain English surveys for people with an intellectual disability
- An online easy English survey option

Feedback was noted and will be considered for future community consultation activities.

After the presentation, a workshop was run to gain the Committee's input for the Maroondah's Liveability and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2031. Four questions were posed.

1. What makes Maroondah a liveable city?
2. How can we improve the liveability of Maroondah?
3. How do we currently look after the health & wellbeing of our community?
4. What can we do to further improve health & wellbeing in Maroondah?

After the workshop, Fiona noted that she will collate the responses, If any Committee members have additional feedback, they can send it to Fiona or add it through the online survey on Council's 'Your Say' community engagement portal.

### **3. Maroondah Festival Review, Sensory Gardens and Access Keys**

Josh Burt, Bianca Laycock, Jack Mullholland

On 10 November 2019, Council hosted its annual Maroondah Festival. Josh Burt, Co-ordinator Sport, Recreation Events, along with Bianca Laycock, Event Coordinator, attended the meeting seek feedback from the Committee on the event.

In previous festivals, Council had incorporated a quiet space at Keystone Hall. This year, a sensory garden space was introduced. A short video was shown illustrating the space in action as well as the users interacting with the activities.

Feedback on the day highlighted that this sensory garden approach worked better as it was outdoors rather than the quiet space in Keystone Hall. Josh acknowledged that the entry to the sensory garden could be placed in a more accessible space which will be considered for next year's Festival. Council's MetroAccess Officer expressed appreciation to the Festival organisers for their work to ensure the Festival is accessible.

Melinda spoke about the difficulty providing information to her volunteers at Different Journeys. As a result, their participation levels were down due to limited information. It was suggested that the potential use of an access key could be put together which would ensure all necessary information was covered. Council's MetroAccess Officer shared the Knox City Council Festival access key as an example. This access key was organised through Accessibility Australia. The document is universal and covers all abilities.

Further feedback was provided to the Committee relating to:

- The placement of marquees at Festival to encourage positive relationships and minimise conflict. Festival organisers currently survey organisations for feedback.
- The importance of engaging with volunteers to receive feedback on improvements.
- A suggested wheelchair pathway around the sensory garden.
- The potential to invite more multicultural groups to share cultures similar to the Main St, Croydon Cultural Festival.
- Maroondah is an ageing population and this needs to be taken into account with future planning.

Bianca noted that this feedback will be considered as part of the planning for next year's Festival.

### **4. Croydon Community Precinct Consultation**

John Richardson

John Richardson, Coordinator Assets and Project Facilities, provided an update with the Committee around the Croydon Community Precinct project. Council is looking to consolidate the buildings on site into an integrated community space with 66% more open space than the current area.

Over the past 12 months, Council has been consulting with the community and key user groups gathering feedback to help inform a draft Masterplan for the Croydon Community Precinct. During the consultation period, Council has engaged with the community through multiple channels, including the Maroondah Festival.

At the Maroondah Festival, the project team presented a 3D scale model of the draft Croydon Community Precinct Masterplan to assist the community in visualising ideas for the precinct. The 3D model is currently on display at the Croydon Library seeking feedback on the project. The Committee was shown a 3D flythrough video of how the precinct could look. Features in the draft masterplan include: three community hubs, improved pedestrian linkages, increased areas of open space and future development site opportunities.

Feedback from previous Disability Advisory Committee meetings around accessibility has been taken into account. As a result, sensory zones, Changing Places toilets and multiple lifts are planned. Consideration is also being given to colouring, noise levels, room design and as well as other accessibility features that could be implemented into the new precinct.

Council is seeking co-funding from Commonwealth and Victorian governments. Discussions are continuing with potential user groups of the community buildings.

Discussion turned to Council's consultation approach with the community. The project team have engaged with the community through a range of mediums (surveys, face to face and online), signage in Croydon, a local newspaper advertisement, and face-to-face consultation at various locations (Arndale Shopping Centre, Town Square, Realm, Aquahub and Croydon Central).

Discussion followed on any future updates to Aquahub and the possibility of a new outdoor pool in the precinct.

John concluded his presentation by encouraging Committee members to visit Council's YourSay Maroondah website to provide further feedback. Consultation on the draft masterplan closes on Sunday 15 December 2019.

## **5. Close of Meeting**

Cr Kylie Spears

Cr Kylie Spears expressed her thanks to Committee members over the past year and provided proposed dates for the 2020 Committee meetings as follows: 12 March, 14 May, 23 July, 17 Sept and 19 Nov.