

**MIN NO**      **MINUTES OF THE ASHFIELD ACCESS COMMITTEE OF ASHFIELD COUNCIL, HELD AT PRATTEN PARK TENNIS CLUB, 40 ARTHUR STREET, ASHFIELD ON MONDAY 7 MARCH 2011, COMMENCING AT 12:00 PM.**

**PRESENT**      Councillor Caroline Stott in the Chair  
Donna Economidis – Community Representative  
Meaghan Devane – Commonwealth Carelink  
Gerard Howard – Manager Community Services, Ashfield Council

**APOLOGIES**      Ruth Paillas – Ashfield Council

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LOCAL INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY**

"Let us acknowledge that we are meeting on country for which the members and elders of the local Indigenous community have been custodians for many centuries, and on which Aboriginal people have performed age old ceremonies. We acknowledge their living culture and unique role in the life of this region."

### **MOMENT OF PRIVATE CONTEMPLATION**

The chairperson invited Councillors, staff, members of the press and gallery to stand and observe a moment of private contemplation.

### **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

No disclosures were made.

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**                      Economidis / Devane

**That the minutes of the Ashfield Access Committee Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010 be accepted.**

### **ISSUES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **Bus-stops**

Council will soon be going out to tender for Bus Shelters. All existing bus shelters are to be replaced. 55% have to be accessible by 2012 eg features such as tactile surfaces, accessible path of travel etc.

**Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP)**

Update to be given at next meeting.

**GENERAL BUSINESS****Funding**

An application is being prepared for Commonwealth Accessible Communities funding. The application will be in two parts: construction of an equal access playground and construction of accessible pathways to public toilets in parks and reserves. It was noted that the playground should cater for all ages & contain features relating to sensory, sight and motor skills. It was noted that the Liberty Swing is a very good feature for an equal access playground. There should also be accessible pathways to the playground.

**Business use of Public Footpaths**

It was noted that this matter has been deferred by Council and a working party is to be set up on the issue.

**Access Committee Budget**

There was discussion around priorities for the small budget allocation for the Access Committee. It was determined that given the process currently underway to complete a Recreation Plan for the Municipality, it was important that expert advice be sought on recreation planning for people with disabilities.

**RESOLVED****Economidis / Devane**

**That expert advice be sought on recreational planning for people with disabilities and that this advice inform the process leading to completion of Council's Recreation Plan.**

**Key Policy Issues & the ALGA Conference**

The Committee discussed key policy issues impacting on the disability sector in the immediate future. Such issues included:

- National Disability Insurance Scheme. This relates to present and future disabilities. The proposal is for a scheme somewhat like Medicare where it would be funded via a levy.
- Respite for people with disabilities.
- Information provision concerning dementia, its treatment and prevention.

**RESOLVED****Economidis / Devane**

**That a motion be put to the Australian Local Government Association conference to the effect that Universal Housing Design Principles be applied to all new residential housing and public buildings.**

**Access Committee Future Directions**

Ideas canvassed for future Access Committee meetings included:

- Invite Business Owners and Guest Speakers to meetings
- Hold nine meetings per year.
- Hold a meeting at Cardinal Freeman Village
- The Frequency of meetings is to be discussed at a future access committee meeting.
- Request that the Brown Street DA come to the Committee for consideration.

**Boundless Playgrounds**

Based in the United States, the mission of Boundless Playgrounds is to build truly inclusive playgrounds where children — and adults — of all abilities can play and learn together in a fun and welcoming environment. The vision is to create a world where ALL children have the opportunity to gain the developmental and health benefits derived from unstructured play in an inclusive environment.

**Access Committee Promotion at the Carnival of Cultures**

- Photos of Equal Access Playground
- Promotion of Companion Card
- Promotion of Access DCP
- Promotion of Disability Employment Program.

**Next meeting:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011,  
12pm-2pm,  
venue TBA

**PROCEEDINGS TERMINATED AT 2PM**

Chairperson of the meeting of Ashfield Access Committee  
when the Minutes were confirmed

Chairperson

Date