

NOTES

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING

held in the Manly Chambers, Belgrave St, Manly on

THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2017

Minutes of the Inclusive Communities Strategic Reference Group Meeting

held on Thursday 20 April 2017

in the Manly Chambers, Belgrave St, Manly

Commencing at 5.00pm

ATTENDANCE:

To Committee Members

Alex McTaggart (Chair)	Implementation Advisory Group
Kay Millar	Social Local Representative Committee
Vanessa Moskal	Social Local Representative Committee
Maria-Elena Chidzey	Manly Community Centre & Services Inc.
Amanda Farrar	Resident – Curl Curl Ward
Bill Gye	Scotland Island Residents' Association
Julia Hornsby	Warriewood Residents Association
Tania Johnson	Uniting - Ability Links
Elaine Kent	Resident – Manly Ward
Carolyn McKay	NBI (Northern Beaches Interchange)
Amanda Parkinson	Sydney North Health Network
Yvonne Parsons	Mona Vale Hospital Auxiliary

Council Officer Contacts

Lindsay Godfrey	Executive Manager Community Services
Fiona Winter	Community Development Officer – Social Planning
Janine Curtis	Community Development Officer
Hannah Schulz-Fulham	Community Development Officer
Sherryn McPherson	Administration Officer Governance

Quorum

Majority of members (excluding vacant positions)

1.0 APOLOGIES

1.1 APOLOGIES – HELEN LEVER

DECISION

That apologies for non-attendance be received from Sue Alexander, Susan Watson, Greg Jones, Sandra Wong, Mark Daly & Kathryn Pritchard.

Note:

Alex McTaggart sought feedback as to why there are so many apologies; for example, is it due to time or location? The following matters were raised:

- Meetings scheduled during and around school and public holidays can create an issue, would be great if away on holidays or on business, Council could improve technology surrounding and introduce live streaming.
- The meetings need to include more discussion / workshops and less presentations
- Two (2) hour meetings are not long enough and need to be extended.

RECOMMENDATION

That a survey of members be undertaken at the next meeting of the reference group on ways to improve meeting structures in the future.

2.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 MINUTES OF INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP HELD 16 FEBRUARY 2017

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Inclusive Communities Strategic Reference Group held 16 February 2017, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

(Kay Millar / Vanessa Moskal)

4.0 AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 MULTICULTURAL ISSUES

DISCUSSION

Janine Curtis – Community Development Officer addressed the group on this item.

With the new amalgamated council boundaries, there is an opportunity to review this paper and discuss its relevance to the broader Northern Beaches. The SRG members are invited to read through the document and to make comment on various aspects, in particular the six strategic directions contained within.

A copy of the presentation provided to the group is attached to the Notes at **Attachment 1**.

The group recommended that Council:

- Consider the inclusion and promotion of a multicultural day as part of either Australia, Harmony or Social Inclusion Day.
- Communicate and showcase through local publications such as Pittwater Life and Peninsula Living – What's on Pages and Council's website – Your Say – Your Voice
- Encourage and empower multicultural communities to have their own voice.

The development of a multicultural strategy was identified as a key priority in Warringah Council's Operational Plan for 2014/15.

More than 800 people from various cultural backgrounds were consulted as part of this strategy. The engagement was conducted in 2014/15 and focused on the former Warringah local government area.

As a result, six key strategic directions were identified:

1. Housing
2. Employment, Education and Training
3. Access to Information and Services
4. Identity and Belonging
5. Celebrations and Events
6. Health and Safety

The Strategy was adopted by the Council of the time on 22 September 2015.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. That the information presented and discussed at the meeting be noted.
2. The group recommended that Council:
 - a) Review and investigate the possibility to include and promote multicultural day as part of either Australia, Harmony or Social Inclusion Day.
 - b) Communicate and showcase through local publications such as Pittwater Life and Peninsula Living – "What's on" Pages and Council's website – Your Say – Your Voice
 - c) Encourage and empower multicultural communities to have their own voice.

NOTE:

Amanda Farrer joined the meeting at 5.22pm.

4.2 DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

DISCUSSION

Fiona Winter, Community Development Officer- Social Planning addressed the group on this item

The NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 specifies that all public authorities are required to have a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) by 1st July 2017. The four year Disability and Inclusion Action Plan seeks to improve the access and inclusion of all Council's business, services and facilities. The actions identified in this plan will be integrated within the Operational Plan and Delivery Program for the organisation.

The plan needs to consider four focus areas:

- 1) Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours
- 2) Creating liveable communities,
- 3) Supporting access to meaningful employment
- 4) Improving access to systems and processes.

Council has undertaken extensive consultation between November 2016 and February 2017 to develop its first Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan. This included consultation with people with disability and carers, service providers, and internal stakeholders.

Community input from the consultation to develop this document has informed the development of Council's first Community Strategic Plan.

The draft DIAP will be available for a period of public exhibition and comment at:

<http://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/DIAP>

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER COMMUNITY SERVICES

That the update be noted.

4.3 DEVELOPING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY - WORKSHOP

DISCUSSION

Janine Curtis Community Development Officer and Hannah Schulz-Fulham Community Development Officer addressed the group on this item.

The aim of this workshop is to acknowledge and build upon the work completed to date by the Strategic Reference Group (SRG) on the issues and priorities for 'Inclusive Communities' which will inform the development of an Inclusive Communities Key Issues Paper for the incoming Council in September 2017.

The Inclusive Communities SRG has had a number of opportunities to identify the key issues and priorities for 'Inclusive Communities' which have informed the development of the Draft Community Strategic Plan. In addition to these engagement exercises the SRG has been able to build upon their current knowledge on the issues involved with 'Inclusive Communities' through a series of detailed information presentations on the rollout of the NDIS and the Aged Care reforms.

The next step for the SRG and the aim of this workshop is to build upon the body of work that has been created so far and to deliver an Inclusive Communities Discussion Paper for the incoming

Council in September 2017.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER COMMUNITY SERVICES

That a copy of the results will be reviewed and sent to the group for additional feedback. Please send additional feedback to Hannah Schulz-Fulham, Community Development Officer: Hannah.Schulz-Fulham@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au. Feedback will then be collated into one document (refer **Attachment 1**). Further opportunities for feedback will be available and included into a draft discussion paper which will be discussed at the next meeting.

4.4 DEVELOPING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN - UPDATE

DISCUSSION

Lindsay Godfrey, Executive Manager – Community Services addressed the group on this item.

The development of the CSP is currently in Stage 2, with a Discussion Paper released and various community forums held throughout the Northern Beaches. Almost 300 people have attended forums so far, and provided valuable feedback on the draft goals and strategies. All 11 SRGs were consulted in their February 2017 meetings, with a workshop on draft goals and strategies for the Discussion Paper.

Consultation details and the full Discussion Paper can be found at <http://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/communitystrategicplan2>

All comments from the SRGs were considered and analysed. The comments were generally thoughtful and helpful in understanding that Council was on the right track with the Discussion Paper goals and strategies. The comments varied in relevance from strategies for the 10-year CSP, to actions for Council's next Operational Plans and Delivery Programs, and actions that Council could consider in future service delivery.

Where it was considered relevant, some of the goals and strategies were 'tweaked' and adjusted at this stage to provide greater clarity and definition. The comments will still be used in the context of further adjustments to CSP goals and strategies, and considerations for future planning and performance targets.

With regards to the specific comments raised in February by the Inclusive Communities SRG, the following was noted:

Comments regarding accessibility and diversity were noted for the CSP, and have been referred for further consideration in Council's future Delivery Program and development controls.

The next steps in developing the CSP include a focus group to be held in April, further refinement of the goals and strategies, and production of the draft CSP document in May-June. This will then be exhibited for final community feedback in July-August 2017.

RECOMMENDATION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGER CORPORATE STRATEGY & PLANNING

That the SRG note the information update on the development of the Community Strategic Plan

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Nil

The meeting concluded at 7:15pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 7 pages
numbered 1 to 7 of the Inclusive Communities Strategic Reference Group
meeting held on Thursday 20 April 2017 and confirmed on Thursday 22 June 2017

Places for People

Goal 7: Our well –designed public spaces inspire social interaction and inclusion and support health and wellbeing.

Strategy 7a: Develop urban design requirements that support the health, wellbeing, safety and inclusion particularly for seniors and people who live with a disability.

Note: This group was facilitate by Janine Curtis

Barriers

- Older people not being tech savvy
- Voice not being heard (Perception vs reality by older people) – some older people perceive that they are invisible to society and that their voices are not heard i.e. a silent sector of the population
- WHS/ safety concerns/ regulations/ litigious – we live in a society that is particularly litigious and concerned with safety and regulations. Sometimes this can prevent fun public spaces being developed as designers are afraid of people hurting themselves or of being sued for damages
- Physical access (transport, users) – Some public spaces can be difficult to access due to their physical location, and physical access for some users (e.g. people with physical disabilities)

Places for People

Goal 7: Our well –designed public spaces inspire social interaction and inclusion and support health and wellbeing.

Strategy 7a: Develop urban design requirements that support the health, wellbeing, safety and inclusion particularly for seniors and people who live with a disability.

Opportunities

- Online engagement better online engagement in design so that residents get to decide on what the infrastructure will look like (e.g. playgrounds, select three designs and have the community pick their favourite)
- Exercise equipment suitable for older people in parks
- Games in public spaces, e.g. chess
- Sensory gardens.
- More community gardens- make them easier to set up – build it & they will come – Council could take a lead role in creating more community gardens as there is too much effort required on individuals to get them up and running
- Better maintenance of public parks/ reserves/ spaces (grass mowing, paving)
- Clever design to minimise maintenance issues
- Appropriate lighting to activate late night spaces + safety
- Wider walkways + paths + bike paths
- Universal design of picnic tables etc. so that people in wheelchairs can also sit at tables
- Design permanent gazebos/ umbrellas/ stages/ shade shelters for market stalls and events- three phase power amphitheatre – use funding to create more public infrastructure that makes it easier for community events, markets and festivals to occur such as ...
- Floating stage on the water e.g. Carmen <https://www.viator.com/tours/Sydney/Opera-Performance-on-Sydney-Harbour/d357-2554HARBOUR>

Places for People

Goal 7: Our well –designed public spaces inspire social interaction and inclusion and support health and wellbeing.

Strategy 7b: Collaborate with the community to design public open spaces and neighbourhoods that cater for a wide range of uses and social interaction

Barriers

- Getting the community to focus on the details- ask specific questions not so many open ended questions. – Stick to yes/no type consultations- pick one of three designs. (as per previous page / playground designs)
- Council needs to build in more time of planning/ roll out phase of project Some projects seem rushed to get them completed, allow more time in the planning stage for more community engagement

Places for People

Goal 7: Our well –designed public spaces inspire social interaction and inclusion and support health and wellbeing.

Strategy 7b: Collaborate with the community to design public open spaces and neighbourhoods that cater for a wide range of uses and social interaction

Opportunities

- Engagement on final designs e.g. choose one of these three designs on playgrounds.-Gives community a vision of how it will look.
- Continue to provide many platforms/channels for consultation e.g. your say, Manly Daily
- Council to use designs submitted by tech-savvy residents e.g. urban design students (through CAD) design and tech students
- Rotundas/ stages/ waterways for floating stages. Have a series of events that rotate
- More galleries and creative spaces e/g/ Warringah Creative Space
- Use rugby/soccer clubs, scout halls & activate these vacant spaces

Places for People

Goal 8: Our community is healthy, active and engaged with the Northern Beaches lifestyle and various recreational opportunities

Strategy 8c: Encourage a broad range of activities that enable social interaction, stimulate wellbeing, and support people at each stage of their life.

Barriers

- Existing physical limitations of open spaces, some spaces too small to be multi-functional or to retrofit

Places for People

Goal 8: Our community is healthy, active and engaged with the Northern Beaches lifestyle and various recreational opportunities

Strategy 8c: Encourage a broad range of activities that enable social interaction, stimulate wellbeing, and support people at each stage of their life.

Opportunities

- Making attractive public spaces that can incorporate arts and culture, music, performance spaces
- Spaces that bring us together- make them more affordable
- Sport- broaden sporting opportunities for older people- less expensive e.g. yoga/tai chi in public spaces and have wet weather option indoors as a back-up
- Council to facilitate easier access of groups to use public spaces (no/low cost) less formal booking process.
- Art galleries next to sports fields- attracts different clientele/ intergenerational. E.g. Curl Curl netball courts, soccer and baseball fields next to the Curl Curl Creative Space, great for attracting passing traffic
- Incorporate more public art e.g. Shelly Beach sculptures along the walkway
- Sign post Aboriginal heritage walks on North Head – low cost exercise but very informative and meaningful
- Sign post bush walks e.g. bush tucker, plants, “did you know?” at Warriewood escarpment/ Narrabeen Lake Walk.
- Better signage/ promotion of existing facilities Some residents may not know of the vast array of facilities that Council provides
- Better communication online of playgrounds/facilities/parks etc.

Community and Belonging

Goal 9: Northern Beaches culture is stimulated through the arts and a variety of cultural and creative events.

Strategy 9b: Expand cultural activities, events and creative opportunities, including safe nightlife opportunities across the area.

Note: This group was facilitate by Hannah Schulz-Fulham

Barriers

- Alcohol- its negative effects on safety and behaviour.
 - Needs to be controlled.
 - Can effect cost of events.
- Mona Vale Carols used to be a good community event- however we have now lost the focus. Focus is not on families/socialising. Now focus is about alcohol.
- Lack of lighting at events can be a barrier.
- Lack of transport to and from event.
- Safety is a barrier.
- Not knowing and understanding target audience for events and activities.
- Community not having ownership of event.
- Need to manage community expectation.

Community and Belonging

Goal 9: Northern Beaches culture is stimulated through the arts and a variety of cultural and creative events.

Strategy 9b: Expand cultural activities, events and creative opportunities, including safe nightlife opportunities across the area.

Opportunities

- Need to have more 'family friendly' activities/ events.
- Activate empty/ under-utilised spaces.
- Provide better lighting
- Timing is important in controlling an event/crowds, i.e. an earlier/day time event for families may have less incidence of alcohol related problems.
- Value-add to existing events instead of re-inventing the wheel.
- Target parts of the community for events- age appropriate events.
- Cultural events would assist to showcase different cultures.
- Utilise community groups to deliver events.
- Community needs to 'own' an event.
- Council could lend equipment to community groups to run an event, thus lowering the cost to the community group.

Community and Belonging

Goal 11: Our community is open and friendly, providing social and cultural opportunities for everyone.

Strategy 11a: Facilitate a strong sense of community by encouraging community groups and volunteer opportunities.

Barriers

- Social barriers- people feel invisible, particularly difficult for those from CALD backgrounds, for e.g. have to conform to 'dress codes', social norms.
- Lack of communication and education for the general community.
- Those from CALD backgrounds have difficulty obtaining volunteering opportunities as they don't have any references.

Community and Belonging

Goal 11: Our community is open and friendly, providing social and cultural opportunities for everyone.

Strategy 11a: Facilitate a strong sense of community by encouraging community groups and volunteer opportunities.

Opportunities

- Utilise existing events to showcase volunteer groups- for e.g. Volunteer expo @ Pittwater Food & Wine Fair.
- Council could assist with references for those from CALD backgrounds when trying to obtain volunteer positions.
- Volunteer expo's make huge difference in promoting organisations and their volunteering opportunities.
- Council could work more closely with Community Connect to deliver better outcomes for volunteering on Northern Beaches.
- List volunteer organisations and opportunities on our website.

Community and Belonging

Goal 11: Our community is open and friendly, providing social and cultural opportunities for everyone.

Strategy 11b: Enable all people- irrespective of age, gender, identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, mobility or cultural background- to participate in community life by breaking down institutional and social barriers.

Barriers

- Group queried whether terminology of these groups is a barrier in itself?
- Safety
- Language

Community and Belonging

Goal 11: Our community is open and friendly, providing social and cultural opportunities for everyone.

Strategy 11b: Enable all people- irrespective of age, gender, identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, mobility or cultural background- to participate in community life by breaking down institutional and social barriers.

Opportunities

- More funding for volunteer coordination at Council.
- Council should endorse a statement that is inclusive of all of these groups.

Community and Belonging

Goal 10: Our community feels safe and supported.

Strategy 10a: Enable our community to feel safe and supported through the provision of quality services.

Note: This group was facilitated by Fiona Winter.

Barriers

- Equity, access and visibility of some members of community. Some communities have a low profile/visibility across the Northern Beaches e.g. Aboriginal community,
- A voice for particular groups (lack of).
- Resources limited.
- Gaps in services, we need to know what's needed.
- Lack of awareness of multicultural issues
- Lack of understanding of service system- some members of the community (individuals and specific communities) may have limited knowledge of what is available, and how to access services. Council cannot provide everything- there are limits in what is reasonable to expect Council to provide. Many services are provided by community organisations.
- Lack of transparency in eligibility for services.
- Limited transport connections in some areas.

Community and Belonging

Goal 10: Our community feels safe and supported.

Strategy 10a: Enable our community to feel safe and supported through the provision of quality services.

Opportunities

- Council has a role to advocate/ lobby and provide a voice for needed services/resources
- There is a willingness on the part of Council to work with the community. Amalgamation has brought about a change in culture.
- Northern Beaches Council is representative of the whole of the northern beaches and can advocate for the community.
- Transparent communication- knowledge of processes/systems.
- Community infrastructure in the northern beaches is strong
- Transport - Council has the potential to partner with transport providers e.g. EasyLink, potential to extend Hop Skip & Jump type service to other areas of the northern beaches.

Community and Belonging

Goal 10: Our community feels safe and supported.

Strategy 10b: Promote social inclusion through neighbourhood programmes.

Barriers

- Resourcing- lack of both human and financial resources
- People are not necessarily aware of what already exists Fragmentation - Identified that there may already be many things on offer but that people are not aware of them.
- Lack of sense of community
- People not knowing their neighbours. People are often time poor due to patterns and hours of work and travel being unaware of opportunities/activities
- Changing demographics in some neighbourhoods. E.g. Retirees downsizing and younger families moving into suburbs.
- Feelings of disconnect in new developments
- Transient populations in different areas of NBs Manly and Avalon identified as suburbs where there is percentage of the population that is transient.
- Permits/requirements to host an event- prohibitive
Processes involved in getting Council approval to host an event such as a street party are bureaucratic/time consuming and act as a barrier to staging different neighbourhood programmes
- Places where people can meet and celebrate. There are a limited number of places where people can meet casually and hold activities.

Community and Belonging

Goal 10: Our community feels safe and supported.

Strategy 10b: Promote social inclusion through neighbourhood programmes.

Opportunities

- Engagement opportunities already exist (fragmented info).
- Use of Council resources e.g. community engagement/ events team as a resource for people wanting to host programs. Council staff may act as a resource to assist/support community members to host an activity, including compliance with any Council requirements. Capacity building role.
- Advertising opportunities – to promote what is currently on in different communities.
- Online platforms to promote neighbourhood events e.g. “Tinder”. Scotland Island uses social media successfully to promote events/activities to their community.
- Streamline administrative processes to host activities. Make it easy.
- Create “Bump in” places to meet informally/congregate. Relates to identified barrier.

Community and Belonging

Goal 10: Our community feels safe and supported.

Strategy 10c: Build stronger communities where neighbours know and support each other.

Barriers

- Limited places to meet.
- Topography- series of small clustered communities.
- Time limitations (people working/ travelling/ long hrs).
- Transport limitations – getting to and from activities

Community and Belonging

Goal 10: Our community feels safe and supported.

Strategy 10c: Build stronger communities where neighbours know and support each other.

Opportunities

- Small communities have a strong sense of community to build upon. E.g. Off shore communities such as Scotland Island have a strong sense of community, developed through different strategies including social media, regular events, established groups such as art, bushcare, RFS, Island Players.
- Partnerships with others e.g. Easy Transport/ Hop Skip & Jump extended/ sporting facilities.