



Being Disabled in the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters

Newsletter 1 - August 2012

Welcome to this brief newsletter.

Some of the people with whom I have been in contact are not on the internet, so while I will be putting updates on line, I will also use this mechanism to keep you informed.

Unfortunately, perhaps because Messenger did not include the original article in the East Torrens paper and gave an incorrect address for the web page and did not put in a contact phone no., people contacting me have been few and far between.

The aim of all this is to have a group of people who might consult with council and bring pressures to bear for the disabled and their carers for council to institute measures under a Disability Action Plan as required by federal law.

Because of the small number of people involved I have not yet attempted to have any meetings or institute a formal group.

I have been trying to work on some issues which have arisen so far.

CONSULTATION

While the word “consultation” is scattered throughout council literature it is apparent that there is a reluctance by council staff to consult on many issues e.g.:

The Norwood Residents Association has also suggested that, as part of monitoring the implementation of the Ageing Strategy, a small group comprising residents and staff be established to act as response or action group. It is not recommended that this be endorsed.

(Minutes, 2 April, 2012)

Both the Universal Design Principles and Design for All have similar intentions. However, as the Universal Design Principles have been used within the Council's Ageing Strategy and the Principles are commonly used in the building design industry it is recommended that the term Universal Design Principle be retained.

(Minutes, 4 June, 2012)

(Note: **Universal Design** and **Design for All** are two different sets of principles. **Design for All** is used in Europe and calls for consultation with residents **before** the development of plans rather than after. They cannot be equated and by so doing council staff have minimised the prospect of prior consultation with residents.

“The practice of Design for All makes conscious use of the analysis of human needs and aspirations and requires the involvement of end users at every stage in the design process.”)

Send a message to non-users that playgrounds are legitimate play spaces for children should not be subjected to undue interference or influence. (sic)

(Minutes, 6 August, 2012)

These comments are, to me, all indicative of a tendency to avoid other than required minimal consultation and this is disappointing.

CURRENT ISSUES

Playgrounds

The right of residents to enjoy their property if living near a playground viz Coke Park after 10 pm has been questioned by Mayor

Bria. Surely residents do have that right and it is up to council to find a compromise which enables children their enjoyment during the day and residents freedom from disturbance and intimidation after dark.

On the wider question of playgrounds and the disabled, I question the extent to which disabled children and adults, both disabled and older, will be catered for in council's new playground strategy. There is little evidence of provision for disabled children, and none I have found for adults.

Pedestrian Crossings and TGSIs

Congratulations to council on installing Tactile Ground Surface Indicators at a number of intersections on The Parade and improving most of the pedestrian crossings to allow a safe refuge in the median strip.

I have been informed that the very unsafe pedestrian crossings at the intersection of The Parade and Sydenham Rd are under the control of the state Dept of Transport, Planning and Infrastructure and I have been trying to get some progress on improving these.

Norwood Parade Precinct Committee

I notice in the Messenger Press that \$150,000 will be spent installing six poles with flags at either end of The Parade, together with uplights into the trees, etc. No doubt the committee sees this as a strategy to increase business.

Over 20% of the population is disabled. Nearly half of the shops/businesses on The Parade have steps which prevent the access of mobility scooters and wheelchairs and are doubtless inconvenient for pushers. Many shops are also so cluttered it would be impossible to move around inside.

Parade vendors, you are ignoring a large potential customer base and council seems to do nothing to encourage you.

There is also no disabled parking on The Parade, nor provision for dropping off the

disabled/elderly with suitable ramps to the footpath.

HACC

I have been concerned, frankly for some years, about the inflexibility of Home and Community Care services. It is not possible to exchange tasks from cleaning session to session, which can result in unsanitary conditions in those areas of a home which are never cleaned.

As funding will become a federal responsibility I would like to speak with those of you having problems with this service as I have seen the word "flexible" in conjunction with federal funding!

POLICY AND PLAN

Council has passed an Access and Inclusion Policy and is currently working towards hiring a consultant to develop a plan after which there will be some consultation.

As I feel it is important we get in at the ground floor I have asked to be informed when and where this position is advertised so that maybe we can have some influence prior to the automatic passing of a plan.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

I need the involvement and input of as many disabled people and their carers as possible. I can continue to push for those things I see we need but it would be better done if we can develop a large enough group to do this on a wider basis.

Please continue to promote this group.

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or Google "DisabilityNPSP"