



*Disabled in
Norwood Payneham and St Peters*

Newsletter 13 – October 2014

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

YOUR COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Council works to meet a myriad of our needs and our candidates for the forthcoming election have limited space in various publications to make a statement about their policy on disability action in particular.

Most of the candidates have been asked to supply a 100-word summary of their policy for this print version and up to 250 words for the on-line version. Unfortunately some did not supply an email address to the Local Government Association website and thus could not be contacted. Some also did not answer the request for a brief statement of policy.

To those who did, thank you.

This newsletter is not making any suggestion you vote for any particular candidate. Rather we ask that you take the responsibility of voting in your ward by reading the policies below in conjunction with your candidates' other policies. Choose candidates you believe will work for you and your community.

In view of the relatively small numbers voting in each ward it is important that you do vote.

The entries following are in no particular order.

Evonne Moore - St Peters Ward

I have always supported measures and policies to assist people with disabilities in the past and, if elected, I am committed to supporting such measures and policies in the future. I appreciate that people in wheelchairs may have difficulties negotiating bumpy footpaths as well as signs placed on footpaths. I support strong controls over the placing of outdoor furniture on footpaths to ease the passage of people using wheelchairs on The Parade. On the issue of council's website, I would, support a professional upgrade of this site to improve its accessibility to everyone. On other issues of concern to your group I would be very pleased to listen to your suggestions for improvements.

Garry Knoblauch – Torrens Ward

The NPSP Council has adopted, during our present term, an ACCESS and INCLUSION POLICY (the full policy can be viewed on the NPSP website).

This policy addresses barriers which may exclude individuals with disabilities and their carers from fully participating in civic and community life. It is a commitment to provide equal access for people with disabilities and their carers. The Elected Members fully supported the policy when presented by the staff and will continue to do so.

Stefan McAlindon – Payneham Ward

My name is Stefan McAlindon and I am running as a candidate for Payneham ward in the upcoming elections. As a Doctor working in hospitals throughout Adelaide, I have had the privilege to meet and work with some truly inspirational members of our community who live with a disability. It is important that policy makers recognise that disabilities come in a wide range of forms; not always easy to recognise, but all important. I believe that too often people living with disabilities are told what services they need, rather than being listened to.

Kevin Duke – Payneham Ward

I suggest that you ask candidates if they are aware of the Council's Disability Policy and have they any awareness of what a person with a disability experiences in not being able to access the public spaces available to able bodied people. This includes ALL footpaths even the side streets blocked by tables and chairs, etc.

I think that you know my awareness of the needs of people with a disability. As someone who has served on the Board of the Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association for over twelve years including two as the President I am well aware of difficulties confronting people with a disability in the community and more importantly I am aware that I have not experienced this myself.

Kevin Shepherdson – Maylands/Trinity Ward

Supporting people with disabilities in my volunteering with Holiday Explorers has given me a small appreciation of the difficulties these people face. The main concern for everyone is accessibility.

1. Footpath condition, width and signage positions affect the mobility of people getting around.

2. Building access where a ramp should be in place and when inside, aisle width to cater for mobility vehicles. These should be enforced in the planning and building code.

3. Road crossing refuges to allow the slower moving to cross roads safely.

4. Have correct height park benches placed at appropriate intervals along streets

John Minney – Torrens Ward

Our Council has a disability policy which together with some other members of our council I had a considerable input and fully support its direction, you may also be aware that there is housing in Royston Park and also in Felixstow which I have supported through the processes of approval and I believe these are not only accepted but well supported in our community which is pleasing.

So I am a supporter of the Council's policy which is based on disabled requirements.

Sue Whittington – West Norwood/Kent Town Ward

I believe, that for those living with a disability, Council should provide:

easy and convenient access to Council buildings and property

a reduction of barriers on footpaths, kerbs and pathways so as not to impede safe passage

.appropriate restraints on footpath merchandise and signage

improved library facilities for the vision impaired

and if re-elected I will ensure that Council responds in a timely manner to the needs of those with a disability.

Christel Mex – Kensington Ward

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an outline of my views on disability policy for the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters. I am aware of the Issues and Options Paper drafted in 2013 and the important input that many of you members made for this work. If elected, I would support the progression of a new Access and Inclusion Plan for the city.

I believe it is important that people living with a disability are integrated with the community, especially around volunteering opportunities. I applaud the work that you have done with the access guide and look forward to learn more about your initiatives.

Alex Andryszczak – St Peters Ward

My name is Alex Andryszczak and I'm running in the ward of St Peters. My disability policy is the same as the heart of my platform and that is grassroots democracy. No one councillor can possibly represent and understand the variety of needs and desires of its residents let alone the disabled, it is only through close contact with community groups like Disabled in Norwood that we can hope to achieve a council that serves the interests of all residents. If elected I will push for continual and meaningful consultation and dialog with Disabled in Norwood and its members.

Sophia MacRae – Maylands/Trinity Ward

It is important to increase awareness of access for all.

Anyone in our community with issues of mobility, vision, hearing, mental health or any other disability should be able to access our public places and public information, and be able to contact the Council with confidence that any barriers to access will be addressed.

Councils provide most of the infrastructure for safe mobility in the local area. This includes well-maintained level footpaths with clear passage.

If re-elected I will move that Council reviews its footpath maintenance system, and that Council prioritises the enforcement of clear passage on all footpaths.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Extended information can be found for some candidates on our webpage. Please feel free to share this newsletter or direct people to our website.

OTHER NEWS

You are probably aware of The Parade Precinct's new webpage.

Unfortunately this page is lacking some elements of accessibility and further paints an extremely glossy picture of The Parade as an accessible destination, beyond the realms of reality.

Yes there are accessible toilets, but when are they actually open? Can you get your wheelchair into the shop you want to visit?

A detailed letter has been sent to The Parade Precinct Committee about this. Hopefully the page will be modified to meet accessibility requirements and reflect the reality of The Parade.

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