



Disabled in Norwood Payneham and St Peters

Newsletter 5 - May 2013

OUTDOOR DINING POLICY

The last newsletter was largely concerned with council's proposed new outdoor dining policy. While elements of this concern matters such as bollards, etc., our emphasis is on the segments which would give permission to council staff to allow the placement of dining furniture next to the building line of our streets. The failure to allow 2m clear space next to all building lines will create difficulties for people passing each other with mobility scooters, wheelchairs, etc. as well as ordinary pedestrians and visually impaired people will have the confusing task of having to zig-zag in and out from an inconsistent building line.

It is important that this is handled **now** because there is also the need for council to have a footpath trading policy with regard to goods on the footpath which create pedestrian hazards. A-frames are also a hazard as they are not placed according to council by-laws.

This all needs to be incorporated into one consistent policy and form part of the new Access and Inclusion Plan. I can only see it as being harder to change later.

Council has received a number of short individual submissions that I am aware of. I have forwarded a lengthy submission to council staff and to the Mayor and each of our councillors. I have received support from two councillors at this point, and I expect the matter will be taken up at the council meeting.

Staff (so far) insist that their legal advice is that there is no problem with allowing furniture next to the building line. This is contrary to legal advice available on line and in my view would leave open a situation

where possible legal action could be taken against council – and we all pay for that. That is all apart from the continual inconvenience and lack of accessibility of our streets.

Exactly what the council's legal advice was I don't know because I was refused access to that, even when I applied under FOI.

I am informed that "it is anticipated that the Council will consider all representations at the Council meeting to be held on 3 June." The agenda for that meeting should be available on council's website by 5 pm on the Thursday prior to that. Or phone me on 8362 5526 if you cannot access the webpage.

Support at the meeting would be appreciated.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN

While the number of people attending the meeting with council's consultant on Tuesday, 12 April, was not large, it was, I hope, an informative meeting.

The consultant is Purple Orange, the "social policy arm of the Julia Farr Association Inc." The meeting was conducted primarily by Geoff Barber who may be contacted at:

Phone: (08) 8373 8333

Email: geoffb@purpleorange.org.au

There are no results evident as yet, and I expect it will take quite some time.

Major issues at the meeting included:

- Communication from council in various forms
- Bumps in footpaths
- Hazards on footpaths
- Parking
- Access to shops

- Lack of consultation with the disabled
- Accessible toilets

Both Purple Orange and the council have a copy of our proposed Action Plan. At this point we can only await feedback from which to evaluate how effective the plan might be in meeting our needs. I emphasised at the meeting that I saw an Action Plan, not as something to be controlled by the evaluations of council, but as a co-operative effort between disabled residents and the council to meet the needs of the disabled – something which has flow-on benefits for all residents.

HISTORY MONTH

I was disturbed to find in the History Month programme for this year that “walks” around quite flat areas such as Norwood, St Peters, Rose Park, etc. had been marked with a crossed-out wheelchair symbol. Not very encouraging!

I have had discussions with local representatives and with History SA which co-ordinates the activities. They had other reports of concern about this and will be looking at more appropriate guidelines next year.

ST PETERS LIBRARY

A lovely lift for wheelchair/scooter users, but not much point in being able to get “upstairs” if the door to the local history collection is so narrow someone else is required to open it.

ACCESSIBILITY OF SHOPS, ETC.

Any of you who use wheeled mobility devices and other general pedestrians such as delivery people, people with pushers and so on have difficulty or find it impossible to enter some business premises. Inside it may be impossible to move around because of crowded aisles. There may be no seats for people who cannot stand for long periods. There may not be appropriate help for those who are visually or hearing impaired. Staff may not be empathetic to the needs of the disabled.

This is not the responsibility of council, but Australia-wide councils are encouraging businesses to become accessible and friendly to the disabled. Failure to have an accessible shop can lead to the loss of up to 20% of business.

I have included this issue in our proposed action plan. I also wrote a fairly strongly worded letter to The Parade Precinct Committee late last year, but have had no response at all. They seem to be intent on the idea that we want “authentic retail experiences”, whatever that might mean.

If only we could get in!

Some councils have an access guide on line, and I have begun developing such a guide for Norwood, Payneham and St Peters. This will take a considerable amount of time and I would appreciate your feedback on the matter. I would also welcome anyone else’s involvement in developing this guide.

My hope would be that such a guide would encourage shops/businesses to be more disability-friendly.



Even less than ducks??

users.adam.com.au/marcia/DisabilityNPSP.html
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