



## *Disabled in Norwood Payneham and St Peters*

### *Newsletter 9 - December 2013*

#### **WHERE DID 2013 GO?**

I have been trying to assess what we have achieved this year and what still has to be accomplished.

While not displeased with some minor accomplishments, it has become obvious that anything we might achieve in the long term for the disabled will take considerable ongoing effort on our part. Some Council staff have shown goodwill, answered communications promptly and assisted in various ways. On other occasions the exact opposite has been true.

On the plus side we have a couple of places in the Town Hall premises with signage pointing out particular dangers, agendas for Council meetings are now delivered a day earlier as they should be, outdoor dining furniture has been banned from being next to the building line.

On the downside, we are still waiting for various matters to be brought before council, matters such as a draft Action and Inclusion Plan, the report on the use of footpaths for business merchandising and any significant response to our very disappointing web page.

#### **TRAMS AND PLANS**

At the 2 December Council Meeting, council passed a motion to send a letter to the state government supporting the idea of trams on The Parade:

“The re-introduction of a tram on The Parade aligns with the Council’s vision set out in its Strategic

Management Plan, *CityPlan 2030* and is therefore supported. However, the proposed medium term priority for its implementation in the draft Plan is of concern, as it could take up to fifteen years to implement. Such an extensive implementation timeline is not desirable, given that the Council has committed to and commenced the preparation of an extensive Masterplan for The Parade and its surrounds.”

(P303/864)

In fact the only thing *CityPlan 2030* (published in 2008) said about trams was “Less (sic) cars are on the road and more people are walking, cycling and using public transport; maybe a tram as well.” Should we view this rather light-hearted comment as Council policy?

Apart from Mayor Bria making a promotional comment or two in the press, the question disappeared till the October draft Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan for South Australia from the State Government.

The implication on P303 is that Council is well into preparation of a Master Plan for The Parade. My information is, however, that the plan is still at a stage where a Project Brief needs to be drawn up and approved, a consultant engaged, etc. This process, by the way, is going to cost us \$100,000.

This Master Plan will, I understand, be addressing not only the question of trams, but be guiding “the upgrading of infrastructure on The Parade (including footpaths, public realm, landscaping, public art, signage, etc.)

While the plan will be of interest to traders and residents generally, there would appear to be many implications for the disabled in the community.

Would trams affect our safety on The Parade? I can see possible difficulties both for those with mobility issues and for those who might not hear or see a mechanical monster trundling down the street. Would our trees be affected? Would parking on The Parade be reduced?

Would footpaths finally be cleared of extraneous items, allowing a clear passage for all?

Would Council actually encourage traders to replace steps with ramps, and in other ways encourage greater empathy by traders for the disabled?

On past experience, this will all take time but I consider we should keep our eyes on the plan as it develops and be ready to provide feedback as the opportunity arises.

### COUNCIL WEB PAGE

I commented on this in the last newsletter, but essentially nothing has happened since then. I forwarded my report on the webpage to my ward councillor on 10 October, but have received no response which forwards the action at all.

I note that in digging up information about trams and the Master Plan that:

- There are no minutes on the webpage prior to 2011
- The Search Engine requires the user to return to the Home page for each search and then scroll down to find the Search box.
- The Search Engine doesn't work. The word "tram" is known to occur in at least 3 documents, but there are no results from the Search Engine. Similarly a search for "master" or "masterplan" fails to find an article of

28 July 2013 hidden away in Media Releases Archives.

- Many documents are still in unsearchable image-based pdf format and therefore require browsing through hundreds of pages.

Consequently I spent hours finding the information I needed rather than minutes.

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In this season of goodwill I will not look for further matters on which to castigate Council!



May I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a rewarding New Year.

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