

Community Inclusion & Wellbeing Reference Group

Date	7 August 2023	Time	11am
Venue	Large meeting Room Wingham Library	Note-taker	Lyndie Hepple
Present	Felicity Carter, Margaret Guider, Mydie Keegan, Christopher Rowsell, Craig Partridge, Stephen Prom, Alex Mills, Lyndie Hepple, Cr Katheryn Stinson; Neal Ames; Rhett Pattison		
Apologies	Arthur Chapman, Tim Larritt, Gemma Green, Cr Dheera Smith, Paul De Szell		

Meeting Items

Item	Key points/actions
1	Welcome Acknowledgement of Country
	Corrina Rowsell (NDIS) has resigned from the committee to take up another role. Anna Burley is attending as a representative for the Bucketts Way Neighbourhood Centre. Apologies have been received from Cr Dheera Smith, Arthur Chapman, Tim Larritt and Gemma Green and Paul De Szell
2	Previous notes and action list. Lyndie Hepple provided an update on the action list. Correct previous notes, the Manning Suicide Prevention presentation was by Gemma Green not Mydie Keegan,
3	<u>Open Spaces Strategy</u> Neal Ames, Recreation & Open Space Planner, presented the main details of the Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted by Council 2 weeks ago • 12-year plan • Over 400 actions from community engagement (2022) together with input from Neal's 23 years' experience

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft strategy on public exhibition “did we get it right?” Resulted in 60 detailed submissions. Almost all suggestions have been added to the Strategy. • Includes an assessment model to prioritise works. • This will be the umbrella strategy that sits over a number of other strategies, eg play Spaces, skate parks (also about making them inclusive – wheelchair skateboarding) outdoor sports courts, sports lighting etc. • The community told us that participation in structured sport has decreased to 20%, and instead people are utilising opens paces more broadly to play (87%) • Council wants to get it right for the community, but also need to be sustainable. Protect environment, birdlife, animal life, coastal heath is important along the coast. • The Strategy includes lots about inclusion, access for all, actions to deliver more inclusive play spaces. Important because 25% of our population lives with a disability. • Includes actions to review beach access and shared path linkages • More inclusive programming in sports spaces – change rooms (universal design) • Includes action for more accessible multi-use paths, trails (including access for wheelchairs 20% gradients etc.) • Plans are important to attract external funding. • Almost all actions need to be funded by State and Federal government. • The Strategy includes an audit of what we already have, and also future plans to accommodate population growth.
4	<p><u>Access Improvements across Council Assets</u></p> <p>Rhett Pattison, Manager Community Assets briefed the group on the investment into community assets and the reality of ability of Council to fund all access improvements expected.</p> <p>Snapshot of buildings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 740 in total • 432 are available to the community, the others are emergency services, waste and water services buildings, etc • Estimated \$437 million replacement value <p>Open Space assets include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgrounds, • Wharfs and jetties, • Boat ramps

- Sports lighting (321 poles)
- Shelters,
- Fish cleaning tables,
- Cricket nets & wickets,
- Swimming pools,
- Sports grounds

The budget (from General Revenue) to manage these assets is as follows:

- Building renewal \$500,000 pa. Most will go to maintenance to extend the life of buildings (new roofs etc). Upgrading normally requires grant funding. The team is currently administering approximately \$20 million in external funding.
- Open Space Capital 150,000 pa
- Wharves & Jetties \$100,000 pa
- Playgrounds \$319,000 pa (equates to approx. 2 new playgrounds each year)

Asset Management plans include implementing accessibility into new works and retrofit where possible.

The team is currently working with the following Masterplans:

- Wingham Central Park
- Old Bar Park
- Forster Main Beach

Rhett would like to hear from this group regarding priorities for retrofit projects.

Flood damage repairs:

The team is currently administering \$7 million in external funding to repair flood damage. Works must be contracted out, not performed by Council. Works will include a replacement playground at Queen Elizabeth Park, which will be rebuilt further towards the rowing club where the ground is higher.

The team is currently receiving requests for disposal bins in male toilets for incontinence product. An estimated \$150k /year will be required to manage one in every male cubicle, so a reduced program will see a few cubicles in each location with one, and a sticker on the door to identify those cubicles.

5

Aspirations for the group

The group discussed what's important to them, and topics that they would like the group to tackle, which included:

- Input into access to beaches,
- The information gained from being a member of this group is valuable – can feed the information back to the community.
- Support the Voice (referendum). This was discussed at Council two weeks ago, and Council resolved:
 1. So that the community are able to make an informed decision with respect to the forthcoming Referendum on “The Voice”, Council encourages the community to utilise the information provided by the Australian Electoral Commission which is also available at Council libraries.
 2. Council respects the rights of individuals to have an opinion and to exercise their democratic right of choice via the electoral process.

As the Community Inclusion & Wellbeing Reference Group is an advisory group of Council, it is also bound by the Resolution. Council will make information available through libraries, but Council is not supporting either the yes or no vote.

Alex Mills (Manager Libraries, Community and Culture), advised that three different sets of information going out through libraries.

- Anti-discrimination Board leaflets.
- Booklets from the Australian Government that present both sides of The Voice debate.
- Information from Aboriginal Affairs and Library Association booklets - resources written in plain English and facts to cut through the misinformation.

It was noted that this information is also available at local Aboriginal Land Councils.

Through consultation with the Aboriginal community, the Aboriginal Action Plan includes an action to establish an Aboriginal Reference Group, which will be considered at the August Ordinary meeting of Council.

- Being a voice for minority groups – little things in the area that the group notices – homeless people, disabilities, disconnected footpaths, etc.
- Consideration for mental health.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiling info for the community about the location of accessible fish cleaning tables, MLAK mapping, accessible toilets etc
6.	<p>Other business</p> <p>Query about the artwork in the current Forster Library. The collection at Forster will be handed over to the Manning Art Gallery to be part of the Collection. Smaller artworks will go into storage at Yalawanyi Ganya. The others will be stored at the back of the Gallery. The new Forster Civic Centre includes a section in the Library that will be an exhibition space and art from the Collection will be cycled through there</p>

Next meeting

Date	6 November 2023	Time	11 am
Venue	Manning Entertainment Centre 33 Manning River Dr, Taree NSW 2430	Note-taker	Lyndie Hepple