



**Seniors Working Group
6 May 2021
Ashfield Civic Centre, Activity Rm 4
6 – 8pm**

Minutes

Meeting commenced at 6pm and concluded 7.45pm

1. Present

Community members	Staff	Councillors
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Graham Bennet – Chair2. Angelo Arulanandam3. Craig McMahon4. Michael Carney5. Joanne Minter6. Yash Sodhi	Mary Ciantar	

2. Chairperson

1. Graham Bennet – Chair

3. Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and provided an Acknowledgment of Country.

4. Apologies

- Norman Bradshaw



- Vera Anne Hannaford
- Pauline Kim
- Shradha Banthia
- Con Karais

5. Disclosures of Interest

No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

6. Quorum (minimum 4 members)

A quorum was achieved.

7. Confirmation of Minutes and Actions

- Minutes for the 4 February meeting were endorsed. Moved Michael, seconded Craig
- All actions had been completed except for investigating further about costs for Community Transport Groups.

8. Business arising

Food delivery Drivers

Issue discussed at previous meeting in February by Graham Bennet. Joanne Minter sent a link about the NSW Government Taskforce and Industry Action plan and worked with Graham Bennet to prepare a motion for the next Transport Advisory Committee meeting in Council. This was forwarded to members out of session.

At the meeting discussion recognised the need to assist in achieving improved safety for both the riders and other road users, particularly noting the impact on older pedestrians. Member suggestions included:

- Brighter taillights of FDRs
- A need to identify routes where FDRs are likely to be encountered
- Increased awareness of all road/path users, including potential for “Share the Path” campaigns
- The need for behavioural protocols for FDRs, motor vehicles and pedestrians
- Reforms to the manner in which FDRs are employed/paid
- Identifying areas safe and suitable for FDRs to ride



Action plan has circulated out of session to members: [Working-together-to-improve-food-delivery-rider-safety \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://Working-together-to-improve-food-delivery-rider-safety.nsw.gov.au). Still concerns the actions are from a rider's perspective although community safety and safer roads mentioned with following specific points . Inclusion of a 12-month reporting period is positive:

- P 23 Not ride on footpaths
- P 23 Not ride on marked zebra crossings
- P 26 Safer routes
- P 28 reporting procedures/opportunities.

Ken Welsh, Team Leader in strategic Transport and State Projects is reviewing options of a safety campaign and can discuss with the group.

Rates rebates

- The new Revenue Policy is going to Council and as yet not available for public comment. The old policy and guidelines have a section on Hardship
- Craig phoned around - Case by case for rates rebate at other councils
- Keep on agenda to discuss when new policy released.

Agenda items

Item	Summary	Recommendations / actions	Council's response
1. Ageing Strategy and Action Plan Update – Johanne Gallagher (also Convenor of Social Strategy Advisory Committee)	<p>Group issued a copy of the Draft Ageing strategy and Action plan. The next steps in the process were outlined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Briefing - 18 May to Council • June/July - Public Exhibition • Back to Council – 10 August for adoption • Social Strategy Advisory Committee also interested in outcome • Opportunity to be consulted during the exhibition phase. <p><i>Discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some items very general • Will be any additional funding and Councillor support of specific actions, any prioritisation. 	<p>A further consultation next meeting once the strategy is on Public Exhibition.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Action plan will form the work of Seniors Working Group once adopted. 		
<p>2. Financial Information sessions – scope event</p>	<p>Purpose:</p> <p>Draft Ageing Strategy and Action Plan has an action about financial literacy</p> <p>Research</p> <p>Yash – Services Australia (Centrelink) - FIS – Officers – General advice for a one to one appointment but can present on many topic areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What Centrelink Offers – Pensions Medicare Safety Net Understanding Superannuation Retirement Income Streams Accommodation Options in Retirement Estate Planning Creating Savings. <p><i>Discussion</i></p> <p>Best if speakers we use are independent. Start with one event at a Town Hall, in spring and pilot. Could put up a poll about other topic areas to determine interest and inform future scheduling.</p> <p>Other speaker opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee and Guardian – Planning ahead tools Seniors Rights – Retirement Villages, Elder Abuse, Free legal service and advocacy, Planning Ahead Tools National Seniors – sponsored by organisations Australian Banking Association (ABA) not so impartial Services NSW can speak about state government rebates and energy. <p>Topics of interest to group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for retirement Downsizing house Government assistance – lower income Single Women – not enough superannuation Planning ahead 	<p>Mary to see what venues are available in Spring and speak to libraries</p> <p>Mary - arrange a meeting with Services Australia, (Centrelink) for Yash, Craig, and Mary to discuss best topic areas.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Aged Care – Navigating • Pension Loans Scheme • Bills help. 		
<p>3. UN Global Report on Ageism</p>	<p>Joanne Minitier spoke to an article that was circulated to the group out of session (Seniors newspaper about the World Health Organisations Ageing report) and link to report.</p> <p>Language impacts on people’s perceptions - Seniors versus older people – young people versus juveniles.</p> <p><i>Language: Language conveys meaning and can fuel misconceptions that can lead to ageism. Words such as elderly, old, or senior elicit stereotypes of older people as universally frail and dependent, and they are frequently used in a pejorative sense. Similarly, the word juvenile elicits a stereotype of younger people as immature. This report uses neutral language when referring to individuals and groups, including the terms older person, younger person or older people, older populations, and younger people.</i></p> <p>Information only at this stage - could be a topic of future discussion as ageism and age friendly, dementia friendly communities is articulated in Draft Ageing Strategy and Action Plan – e.g. joining Every Age Count Campaign.</p> <p><i>Useful links:</i> WHO World report on ageing and health Every AGE Counts</p>		
<p>4. General Business</p>	<p>Impact of Council elections on Local Democracy Groups</p> <p>Commitment for the working groups and advisory committees was until June end 2022. The term of the LDGs aligns with Council’s 4-year delivery program. Year 4 is 21/22. The new council will be developing a new delivery program during the first months of its term and it must be adopted by June 22. Unless there is a Council resolution, that’s when the LDG term ends.</p>	<p>Mary to pass on thanks to Kate Dingle</p>	

	<p>Aspirations of members of Local Democracy Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keeping people aware of what's available• Safety and access• Addressing the digital divide. <p>Friday Seniors Group Group used to meet at Tom Foster Community Centre and has reformed since COVID to be coordinated by the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre. Kate Dingle from Council has supported the reformation of the group and the transition.</p>		
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