

TOWN OF COTTESLOE



BEACH ACCESS PATHS COMMITTEE MINUTES

MAYOR'S PARLOUR, COTTESLOE CIVIC CENTRE
109 BROOME STREET, COTTESLOE
5.30PM, TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2017

MAT HUMFREY
Chief Executive Officer

12 July 2017

1. DECLARATION OF MEETING OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present

Cr Sally Pyvis	Chairperson	
Cr Sandra Boulter	Deputy Chairperson	
Cr Jay Birnbrauer	Elected Member	<i>arrived 5.38PM</i>
Cr Philip Angers	Elected Member	
Mr Mike Ewing	Cottesloe Coastcare	
Mr Francis Kotai	Ecoscape Landscape Architect	

Officers Present

Mr Mat Humfrey	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Nicholas Woodhouse	Manager Engineering Services
Elizabeth Nicholls	Senior Administration Officer

Apologies

Ms Vicki Woods	Landscape Architect
Mr Tom Van Been	ICEA Foundation

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved Cr Pyvis, seconded Cr Boulter

The Minutes of Beach Access Paths Committee meeting, held on 14 March 2017, be confirmed.

Carried

4. DISCUSSION WITH APPOINTED DESIGNER

Cr Pyvis thanked Mr Kotai for attending the meeting.

Mr Kotai addressed the Committee regarding the Beach Access Paths plan submitted by Ecoscape. Ecoscape has worked on the Cottesloe coastline for the Coastal Management Plan and the North Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club walkways.

Mr Kotai met with Mr Humfrey and Mr Woodhouse onsite to discuss access ways. Mr Kotai commented that beach access paths located in the northern part of Cottesloe are quite different to beach the access paths located in the southern part of Cottesloe. He indicated that beach access paths have changed since they were originally constructed.

The Committee deliberated path N5 in detail as Mr Humfrey advised that it is quite degraded and that as it is located close to North Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club it may not be required in the future. Mr Ewing commented that he had observed that foot traffic was heaviest at N6 and N5 was rarely used. Cr Angers asked if it would be possible to close N5. Mr Humfrey advised that it may be possible. Cr Pyvis mentioned that historically, a lookout was at N5

which may explain the location of the path. Cr Pyvis also commented that there is limited parking so she has observed that most people use the steps located near North Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club or N6.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr Pyvis, seconded Cr Angers

- 1. That the Town temporarily restrict access to Beach Access Path N5 and monitor feedback from the community.**
- 2. That Coastcare consider the rehabilitation or restoration of the dunes located at N5 beach access path if the path were to be closed.**

Carried

Cr Boulter queried why N5 was selected for the upgrade. Mr Humfrey advised that the path is hugely degraded. Mr Ewing suggested that it would not be that difficult to close off N5 by planting some brush at the entrance. The committee discussed installing signage to inform beach users that the path was closed. It was proposed that signs be installed temporarily as it is possible to see the entrance to N6 from N5.

Mr Ewing enquired if there is an alternate priority. Mr Humfrey suggested the next path up from N6, opposite Grant Street or a southern path where the old telegraph cable came onshore be considered but an assessment would be required.

Cr Pyvis asked Mr Kotai if Ecoscape required further information. Mr Kotai advised that his company is happy to go with the broader context and to determine where the best connections are. Cr Boulter mentioned that there may be changes between Eric Street and Forrest Street with the Foreshore Redevelopment taking place in the future.

Mr Humfrey advised that at the initial site visit, the path locations were discussed. He also stated that it would be expected that Ecoscape assess if paths need to be moved to meet existing infrastructure. Mr Kotai commented that the natural dunes would be retained in place where possible. Mr Ewing advised that dunes located at S10 and S8 are formed naturally and are stable as they are not impacted by major storms. He further advised that it would not be impossible to move the beach access paths or dunes and then restabilise with vegetation.

The Committee discussed paths S8, S10 and S12 at length. It was determined that the Council minutes would need to be checked for whether a Council Resolution existed for the upgrade of Beach Access Path S8. Mr Humfrey suggested that a letterbox drop be done; however, Cr Pyvis and Cr Boulter stated that it would not be necessary. Mr Kotai said that it would be possible to divert people to the steps. Mr Ewing agreed and stated that in his opinion, most people would be happy to walk 20 or 30 meters more.

Cr Angers enquired how the locations for the original beach access paths were selected. Mr Humfrey suggested that they were originally tracks that had formed over time from people accessing the beach and they were then fenced off by the Town.

The Committee discussed moving the S12 path to allow for kitesurfers but it was stated that users are pretty disciplined and stay to the paths and if it is more costly and the best location for local amenities such as the train station and parking. Cr Boulter added that there is a difference between summer and winter use that will need to be taken into account.

Cr Pyvis proposed that visual landscape management be included as part of the design principles. Cr Pyvis advised that she had spoken to Ms Woods who was not in attendance but wanted to ensure the Committee took minimal impact solutions into consideration. The example provided was the use of logs and chain or sand ladders as a strong built structure may not be the best option could impact visually. Cr Boulter added that infrastructure used for the beach access paths should sit into the landscape.

The Committee discussed universal access standards and Cr Boulter stated that the Committee would need to determine which paths would require access. Cr Pyvis mentioned that universal access cannot be provided at all paths. Cr Birnbrauer added that the issue had been discussed at the Disability Services Advisory Committee meeting. Mr Kotai indicated that it would be good to receive the information. Cr Boulter suggested that the Disability Services Advisory Committee minutes be provided with a Committee resolution and incorporated into the Beach Access Paths Committee.

Materials, repairs/maintenance, costs and construction were discussed at length with Mr Humfrey indicating that he expected that the costs would be, on average, \$50,000 per path. He added that some of the paths may cost less with the left over funds able to be used on paths that may be more expensive.

Cr Pyvis recommended that beach infrastructure be carefully considered. Cr Boulter mentioned that each path is used differently and that would also have to be considered. The locations should foster interaction and communication. Cr Boulter highlighted a number of items that should be considered for the Beach Access Paths. This included:

- Somewhere to put keys and lost property at the bottom of the access path;
- Ability to hang towels, similar to what is at the base of the path at Sydney Street; and
- Areas to park prams and bikes that will not impede access, the flow of foot traffic or reduce the ability for residents to meet and chat.

Mr Ewing stated that the paths need to be fenced to reduce the number of dogs leaving the paths which is of concern for the rehabilitation of the dunes. Cr Pyvis added that the paths are unique as beach users gain a sense of ownership and put their individual stamp on the location.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr Pyvis, seconded Cr Boulter

That Officers present the Committee with a list of five beach access paths with the next highest priority to be upgraded.

Carried

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Cr Pyvis commented that Dr Peter Woods wrote a submission during the advertising period for community comment and offered his expertise, it was suggested that he be invited to the next Beach Access Paths Committee Meeting.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr Pyvis, seconded Cr Boulter

That Dr Peter Woods be invited to attend the Beach Access Paths Committee.

Carried

Cr Boulter proposed that signage be concise but quirky with positive messages. She emphasised that Cottesloe has the only coastal fish habitat area and the upgrades provide an opportunity to forge a partnership with 'Take 3 for the Sea' an initiative to reduce litter.

The deliverables prior to the next meeting were determined to be:

- Locations/alignments of upgraded beach paths;
- Images of structures and materials proposed to be utilised in the concept plans.

6. NEXT MEETING

5.30PM, Tuesday 25 July 2017

7. MEETING CLOSURE

The Presiding Member announced the meeting closed at 6.45PM.