

## **MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT MEMORIAL HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Denis Todd, Cllr Kodi Brady, Cllr Ambrose Doolan, Irene Worrell, Nik Stafford, Patrick Lever, Nea Worrell, Phillip West, Kay Jordan, Toby Bacon, Leonie Bacon, Bruce Evans, Gisela Froehlich, Sandy Rees, Lorraine Condon, Ray Matthews, Greg Doolan, Liz Cutts, Janet Fitzgerald, Ted Hayman, Nicole Nielson, Tommy Nielson, James Brown, Peter Munns, Lauren Harris, Mark Rogers, Troy Carey, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Leeanne Ryan (Director Development Services), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Kim Parker ( Director Corporate and Community Services), Martin Gordon ( Supervisor Warrumbungle Water North), Kira Alexander (Minutes)

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Fred Clancy, Cllr Wendy Hill, Cllr Ray Lewis Cllr Anne-Louise Capel, Roslyn Kildey, Danny Hawkins, Jenny Hodgekiss, Ian McNaught.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Mayor Denis Todd welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the General Manager (GM), the Director Technical Services (DTS), the Director Environment and Development Services (DEDS), the Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS), Supervisor Warrumbungle Water North (SWWN).

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Baradine on Tuesday, 26 March 2019 were discussed. Minutes were tabled at the May 2019 Council meeting and were sent out to attendees of the March meeting as well as being available on Council's website.

### **Business Arising**

#### **1. Grading of Ashby Road**

Community member referred to Ashby Road not being graded and the table drains needing attention.

**Action:** DTS to action grading of Ashby Road and attend to maintenance of table drains

#### **2. Bogan Street**

Community is concerned that even though Bogan St has had patch work done, it is now even worse than before the work was done.

DTS advised that more patching had been done this week and the road does indeed need resealing but is being patched at the moment.

### **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

#### **1. Community Car**

Liz Cutts referred to the Baradine community car being removed and taken to Coonabarabran around a year ago and community members are asking about the car being returned. The current service from Coonabarabran is satisfactory but we were advised by Council that the car would be returned if secure garaging was found in Baradine for it and Forests NSW offered space but the car was not returned. We were then told that Coonabarabran was short of a car and would be using the Baradine car until they had another one.

Community member said that Council did not advise the greater Community that the car had been moved.

DCCS advised that the Mayor had offered to garage the vehicle.

GM apologized and advised that there were two reasons the car was moved and they are:

- Garaging

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- **Driver availability**

Liz Cutts stated that she has had no information and there has been a time delay but she will work with community to get more drivers.

**Action:** DCCS to work with Liz Cutts to coordinate more drivers and look to return car to Baradine and revitalize program

**2. Cameras at the Waste Facility**

Irene Worrell stated that in past meetings, it has been noted that rubbish had been dumped at the tip as the bins are unsatisfactory. Installing cameras could ensure that the tip remains open 24 hours a day. Currently the tip is closed on Sunday and for many residents, this is the only day they want to use it.

**Action:** DEDS take on notice and investigate

**3. Disability Parking in the Main Street**

Irene Worrell stated that last year it was requested that the disability parking sign be moved closer to the IGA and this has not happened. It is harder for seniors and disabled community members to access IGA.

DTS advised that there is not a lot of merit in moving the sign as it will take two and a half parking spaces to meet current standards and it is better to leave it where it is.

Irene Worrell said that community seniors are asking for the sign to be moved and the distance may not be great for mobile people but it makes a big difference to less mobile.

DTS advised that a plan can be done and advertised however, he is expecting opposition to it as it would result in lost parking spaces.

**Action:** DTS to formulate plan to move disabled parking space closer to IGA

Community member asked if it was possible to have a pedestrian curb outside the Post Office as currently, the curb is high toward the Southern end.

Irene Worrell stated that this was the next project when budget becomes available.

DTS advised that if a ramp goes in at that location then we are encouraging j Walking and people not to use the pedestrian crossing.

**Action:** DTS to investigate and prepare plan to install a ramp

**4. Communication with Council**

Liz Cutts stated that the response to email is terrible and asked where is the automated system?

GM advised that there were some issues in the past but it is working now. The auto response works when sending emails to [info@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au) but is not set up for staffs individual emails.

Irene Worrell stated that she never got a response to a letter sent after the last meeting asking for a review of disabled parking.

**Action:** Irene to contact GM to follow up on letter

**5. Swimming Pools**

Irene Worrell stated that she has been contacted by several parents that cannot afford to go

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to the pool or afford a season ticket. Considering the drought and tough times, nobody has money. Instead of increasing the entry fee to \$3.50, if \$2 was charged, more people would go through the gate.

GM advised that lifeguards are not doing less hours and research shows that our facilities are cheaper than most facilities in the North West region. If the community wants removal of lifeguards, please let us know.

Community member asked if Council could do a monthly ticket?

GM advised that we can look at it in next years budget.

Nea Worrell suggested a payment plan of \$20 per week.

GM advised that a current payment plan was available and previously there have been defaulters.

### 6. Leak at the Pool

Irene Worrell asked if the leak at the pool had been fixed?

DTS advised that work the work that has been done so far has been successful with the expansion cracks re-corked however, there is more work to be done even though there is a big reduction in water leakage. The recent painting looks good.

Lauren Harris asked if there was a safety audit done of the pool grounds last season as the gate didn't shut properly?

The play equipment at the top of the stairs is starting to come apart with sharps protruding that are dangerous to children.

**Action:** DTS to investigate gate mechanism and playground equipment

### 7. Lights at Pool

Irene Worrell asked about the lights at the pool as there is not enough light once it gets dark?

DTS advised that he thought they were working and there are no plans to put more up. There may be an issue with wiring.

**Action:** DTS to investigate pool light wiring

### 8. Skate Park Update

Liz Cutts asked for an update on the Skate park

DTS advised that Council have engaged CONVIC to do a modification to the original desin and once finished, will be advertised.

GM advised that Council must meet requirements and complete the project by April 2020.

Nik Stafford stated that:

- Communication has not been good with Council and there were 4 emails sent to Council that were unanswered and was not advised or included in the tender process. Emails were sent on 4, 13, 18 and 22 October with no reply received. Another email was sent on 28 October with a reply received on the 31 October.
- At the meeting she had with Council, the tender winner was already on Councils website and a decision had already been made before the meeting. Community was not included in the decision
- Original designers , United Skate Parks were booked and were willing to value add to

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engage community and run clinics which would be beneficial as 20% of the towns population is under 14. It is unreasonable that the DA dragged out and the tenders were rushed through. She wrote the grant application as a Youth worker and disability advocate and the original design was completely accessible. So why rush and end up with a substandard product when the town agreed on a design and doesn't want a redesign due to safety and usability. You can't chop 5 metres off a pathway. Why Council did not have to consult with Community before changing the design? This is not the design that the Community chose and CONVIC does not have a good name in the industry and the original designer was not impressed with the altered design. If the Community says no to the variation then no skate park?

- Why can we not get an extension on time as it is a different department in Government? There needs to be flexibility and consideration.
- Come and Play will meet Council dollar for Dollar to keep the design we paid and there is funding available for the \$40,000 short fall. Currently in the DIAP, areas are not being met.

DTS stated that more than one response was provided to emails

GM advised that Council had to follow process which was particular and time consuming, especially the DA and tendering. At the end, we were short of dollars so made a decision. Future additions and items were not off the table. Funding authorities make the rules and if Council does not accept the Tender as written then staff negotiate.

DTS advised that CONVICS proposal was given at that meeting and the disability access component will be in the final design however, instead of being 20 metres long, it could be 5 metres less but not sure as yet but it will be a smaller structure with the same features as the original design.

Community member asked why can't Council do what is requested and why did Council cut back the original amount in the grant application?

GM advised that Council have already asked for an extension and cut back the amount to accommodate other projects due to the restriction in the funding pool. The fund was finite and Council earmarked \$168,000 for the project in the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

Lauren Harris asked if the build could be done in two stages with the second stage adding the inclusive component and being funded by another grant?

DTS advised that he didn't believe it could be done in sections as the access ramp is integral to the design and must be built in with it. The structure will be 20metres long, 10 metres wide, bowl shape and access ramp with protrusions in the wall of the bowl shape. In the design change, the protrusion in the middle has been taken out.

Community member asked why actually have meetings and get Community involved if Council can change what has been requested?

Why cut \$40,000 off funding and have half a project when this is not what Community requested?

GM advised that Council must work within the existing budget. Council is happy to support a new grant application but the project must be completed by April 2020.

**Action:** DTS to Liaise with Nik Stafford to discuss design

**9. Solar Lighting At The Showground Not Working**

Liz Cutts asked about the lighting

DTS advised that 3 electricians had looked at lights, they cannot be fixed and will need replacing. The original company has gone out of business.

**Action:** DTS to put replacement of lights at Showground into next years budget

**10. Playground Equipment at the Park**

Irene Worrell stated that this is becoming dangerous.

DTS advised that the ping on a spring was repaired and then broke again so has been removed but the rest of the equipment is in good condition

**11. Financial Assistance Donation Forms**

Liz Cutts stated that the questions are over the top and not relevant to this type of funding and many Community groups did not understand the language.

DCCS advised that the forms were in line with Council guidelines and the change attempted to make it clearer.

**Action:** DCCS to take on board and make alterations to forms to make questions simpler

**12. Councils Website**

Liz Cutts stated that the website is user unfriendly, the search option is hopeless with many forms not findable.

GM advised that it was not a priority at this time to change it.

**13. External Waste Bins**

Liz Cutts asked if it was possible to change the labels and have 2 general waste and 1 recycle?

**Action:** DEDS to look into changing labels

**14. Baradine Creek Bushfire Hazard**

Liz Cutts stated that there has not been a hazard reduction burn for many years and they have now been told it can't be done. Who owns the land and is responsible for clearing the rubbish?

DTS advised that it was last done about 7 or 8 years ago and Council have lodged a complaint with RFS to have the hazard reduced. Two years ago, some mitigation work was done. It is back in the system and in process of getting mitigation plan up and running. Experts need to assess the hazard and processes need to be followed.

**15. Baradine Tip**

Irene Worrell asked if an extra window and bin can be put into the tip for general rubbish?

**Action:** DEDS to investigate

**16. Health Council**

Nik Stafford spoke on behalf of Danny Hawkins and Ian McNaught.

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She stated that they were both in wheelchairs and Baradine has an ageing population with a lot of wheelchairs.

- Currently there is no loop to get disabled Community member around the town and wheelchairs have to get off the crossing to get onto the curb.
- Danny makes daily trips to the hospital and has had three near misses with trucks and one with a car because he has to go onto the road. This is not a safe option.
- There was a proposal to improve footpaths from Wellington to Macquarie St to link all amenities by adding to pre-existing footpaths. Focus is 3-5 years for access and inclusion.
- Older residents are getting socially isolated due to unsafe paths as there is only one shop accessible by wheelchair in town
- Council should seek funding for adequate accessibility in town or what do we need from Council before seeking out funding ourselves?

DEDS advised that ramps will need a DA with a grade of 1 in 14 however, you can't enforce a ramp on a shop owner.

**Action:** DTS to discuss matter with Community and look at access options for amenities

**Action:** DCCS to liaise with Community for local inclusion in the DIAP

### **17. Youth Activities**

Nik Stafford referred to Community Directories listing being out of date with entries dating back to 2014 and the Youth page on the website have activities that are 3 years out of date. Twenty percent of Baradine's population is under 14.

- What is available for Youth activities?
- Are Council Willing to source funding?
- What is the role of the current Youth engagement officer?
- There is no mention of Youth in the current Strategic Plan

DCCS advised that the current Youth development program's funding coming from the Department of Justice and Communities changed focus to target early intervention for vulnerable families and children. Part of this funding is a roll out of the Community Hub which has occurred in Dunedoo and coming up in Coonabarabran and Baradine. There is no other funding in the current budget.

Nik Stafford replied stating that she was scared about the lack of designated funding and ideas relating to Youth and Council has a responsibility to young people in the shire. Is Council willing to seek funding and create a role to help Youth in the Community? At the moment, she is self funding a Youth space for community, providing a garden space and breakfast but paying commercial rates. Asking "Will Council work with me to service the Community?"

GM advised that Council had limited resources and will be reviewing the Strategic Plan by the end of next year.

**Action:** DCCS to investigate potential savings to assist Nik Stafford to keep assisting Youth in Baradine

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**18. Baradine Sewer Pump Station**

Lorraine Condon complained of the smell that often lingers for over an hour and comes inside the house if all doors and windows are not closed. There has been no advice or action on the matter and this has been going on for 7 years and is a potential health risk. Can Council move the facility?

GM advised that since the last meeting, there have been two complaints reported and work has been done to fix it by installing and redirecting piping and change of filtration. The facility may possibly be moved if funding becomes available to do so

SWWN advised that the vent was plumbed in over the filter and a consultant has been engaged to do a study on options to fix the smell. The filters get changed every 12 months and are supposed to remove the smell, this is why we are getting a consultant in.

**Action:** DEDS to refer matter to NSW Health

**Action:** SWWN to advise community of consultant's findings

**19. Road Trains**

Phillip West is concerned about the road trains that will be coming through Baradine now that they are allowed to go through Coonabarabran. At low speed, road trains carve up the road and present a danger especially at the dip on the Southern side of town.

DTS advised that road trains coming through Coonabarabran are not related to Baradine as they have not been approved to travel on the linking road and there is no proposal to do so at this time however, the section from the Silo to Gwabegar and the road between Baradine and Coonamble is in fact open to road trains.

**20. Locality - Teridgeri**

Concern raised around Teridgeri locality still being used as the postcode has not changed from Coonamble postcode.

DTS advised that it has been changed to Baradine and the Geographical names board meeting activated the change of localities. The Department of Lands has been advised but Council cannot influence the Post Office or Electoral Commission

**Action:** DTS will look into contacting with other agencies regarding the locality change.

**COUNCIL UPDATE INFORMATION**

**1. Australia Day Nominations**

Director Corporate and Community Services stated that Council had accepted recommendations for the 2020 Australia Day Awards. Nominations are now being taken in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Environmental Citizen of the Year
- Australia Day Award – Senior Citizen of the Year
- Australia Day Award – Cultural Achievement Award
- Australia Day Award – Community Event of the Year

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Forms are available at this meeting, at Council offices and on the Council website.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 13 December 2019 and no late emails/ applications will be accepted due to a tight timeline.

### **1. Free Wi-Fi**

Free WIFI in all town centers was funded by the Federal Governments' Drought Communities Program and put together quickly. All Shire towns have the WI-FI setup with issues in Mendooran and Dunedoo now fixed. The system is currently in test phase and is available in the CBD over a short range.

### **2. Potential Projects for Funding**

GM advised that sometimes a short application time is given to apply for funding and asked for any ideas for project funding to be forwarded to Council.

### **3. Budget Process**

DCCS advised that each year, by the end of June, Council adopts an operational plan , followed by a 4 year delivery program and 10 year plan where Council work with Community to meet goals.

The first phase sees financial results from previous years including unspent funds from incomplete projects, investment and asset plans and grants from Government.

We are giving notice now that from December to January, Council will be accepting budget submissions from Community.

In mid March, a draft is for a 1 year plan is formed and presented to Council.

In mid April, submissions are sought on the advertised draft budget and fine tuning occurs with a Council budget workshop which includes sourcing grants from Government and additional funding. This is where Community can comment on the fees and charges for services Council supplies in the Revenue Policy with a final adoption in May.

GM advised if there are any suggestions, to please let us know.

Liz Cutts suggested that Community groups want a notice sent out.

DCCS advised that notices would be available through Community Coordinators and Libraries

**Action:** DCCS to send notices through Community Coordinators and Libraries

### **4. Warrumbungle Community Services Expo**

DCCS advised that the Warrumbungle Community Care will again be holding a community Services Expo at the Coonabarabran Town Hall on Wednesday 13 November from 10am-2:30pm. The previous Expo held in Dunedoo was a great success. The Expo gives service providers the opportunity to network and also provides an opportunity for Community members to know which services are accessible locally.

**Action:** DCCS to update Community Services Directory

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **1. Aerodrome Runway**

Community is keen for the air strip to be tarred, stating the design work had been done but there have been no funding opportunities since. Benefits of tarring would include:



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- Attracting aeroclubs for events
- Attracting business like crop dusters
- Keeping existing services like Royal Flying Doctors and Ambulance going

DTS advised that Council were trying to get funding for the design and a basic feasibility study needs to be done. Opportunity exists for construction funding but needs feasibility, business plan and design. Currently we have just put gravel onto it but it will eventually need re-sheeting and resurfacing.

**2. Canteen at Sports Oval**

Nea Worrell referred to the canteen being too small, tiles are coming off the wall, benches need maintaining and more benches are needed in the storeroom. Community members are often finding the kitchen in a filthy state and food left to rot in the fridge.

DTS advised that many community groups use the canteen and there needs to be some agreement made. The facility is Council owned but groups will need to work together to maintain.

**Action:** DTS to look into maintenance of canteen and advise

**3. Weeds**

Nea Worrell stated that the prickly pear weeds are out of hand.

Patrick Lever advised that the County Council knows about it and have introduced a mite to control which has been slow to start working.

GM advised that it is an issue for the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

Mayor Todd declared the meeting closed

**Meeting closed 7:50pm**