

MINUTES OF THE DUNEDOO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL ON TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM

PRESENT: Cr Todd (Mayor), Cr Iannuzzi, Cr Capel, Cr Hill, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Kim Parker (Director Corporate and Community Services), Kira Alexander (Minutes), John Ross, Mary Ross, Barb Smith, David Smith, Warren Bull, Karleeta Ryan, Evelyn Finch, Anne Chapman, Barry Nott, Patricia Upston, Linden Ewin, Stephen Yeo, Margaret Yeo, Anne Bowman, Ian Johnston, Jann Stuart, John Stuart, John Horne, Peter Colley, Amy Large, Carmel Yeo, Kylie Brougham, David Bowman, Ann Humphrey, Jolie Rowbotham, Ken Milling, Mark Gallagher, Brian Bowman, Cathy Bowman, Gawain Bowman, Murray Coe.

APOLOGIES: Cr Todd (Mayor), Cr Doolan, Cr Brady, Cr Shinton, Cr Clancy, Cr Lewis, Sharon Nott

INTRODUCTION

Cr Todd welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the General Manager (GM), the Director Technical Services (DTS), the Director Environment and Development Services (DEDS), Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS) and minute taker. GM outlined how the meeting will be run.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Coonabarabran on Tuesday, 9 April 2019 were discussed. Minutes were tabled at the May 2019 Council meeting and were sent out to attendees of the April meeting as well as being available on Council's website.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Swimming Pool Heating

Kylie Rose acting on behalf of Sharon Nott stated that Council had received funding for a pool blanket. The existing blanket does not stretch over the pool edge. Kylie asked for an update.

DTS advised that a solar heating and blanket is now in place and an induction will be needed on how to operate and move the blanket which operates on a motorized winch system that can also switch to manual operation. The blankets now work and responsible community members will need to be determined to operate the blanket system. Induction to operate the winch will occur in the next few weeks.

2. Pool Keys

Kylie Rose asked if there was any regulation surrounding key holders accessing the pool out of operating hours?

DTS advised that Council has never had any serious issues with out of hours access, however, funding had been received to trial an electronic swipe card system in Coolah and operating hours will be programmed into the system for card holders.

3. Surveillance Cameras

Kylie Rose stated that cameras have been put up in some towns in the LGA. Will council be installing more cameras?

GM advised that in coming months, cameras will be installed in Coolah and Coonabarabran and some funding may become available to install more.

4. Park grounds

Kylie Rose expressed concern with the towns water issues and asked if the town parks will be kept green and user friendly?

DTS advised that current manual irrigation operates once a week for 4 hours in each part of the park. Shortly it will move to automated irrigation in the evening.

A community member asked if this was in line with other Shire towns?

GM advised that currently Coonabarabran was on level 4 restrictions which includes no outside watering on Wednesday and Friday.

Baradine has no water restrictions.

All other towns in the shire are on level 1 restrictions.

As of Monday, Dunedoo will move to level 2 water restrictions. This is based on the statistics and readings being below 19 metres.

Community member asked if it matters what time the level is read?

GM advised that readings are done consistently each time.

Community member stated that the park is more important to keep green than Roberston Oval which looks very green at the moment.

DTS advised that there is a substantial difference in soil types and condition between the two sites. The soil at the park is clay and at the oval there are less trees to soak up moisture.

Another community member agreed that the park needs more water than the oval and stated that the kikuyu is dead and looks disgraceful. At the oval, the grass is very green.

GM advised that in the next few weeks we should see a difference in the colour of lawns at the oval as the winter grasses die off.

Community member asked why is the water level in the well so important when there are 2 bores?

GM advised that they come from the same source.

DTS advised that the well depth is used to measure level in the bores. Records date back to 2001 and correspond.

Community member asked if local irrigators age have an effect on town water levels and can the town do anything about the irrigators using the ground water?

GM advised community to write to Water NSW Dubbo office.

5. Digital Sign

Kylie Rose stated that the digital sign is out of action and would like an update.

GM advised the technicians have been called out to fix internal issues with the sign. It has been getting checked regularly.

Kylie asked if the sign can be programmed locally?

GM advised that it can only be remotely programmed

6. Visitors Information Centre

Kylie Rose asked for an update

GM advised that the matter will go to the November Council meeting.

7. Heritage Sign Project

Kylie Rose stated that signs are progressing.

Action: DEDS will look for funding to assist

8. Lewis Road

Peter Colley stated that there is damage to the bridge and asked why is it not a through road?

DTS advised that on paper it is a through road and Council maintain the southern end.

Peter stated that he lives on the northern end and he has seen trucks on the bridge and much needs doing to 150 meters of the road.

DTS advised that the bridge was built primarily for farm and small vehicle access not truck access. The bridge capacity is limited to 20 ton and is not suitable for a semi full of cattle.

GM advised that the decision to maintain does not lie with DTS and at this point, it is a road that Council does not maintain. Council will need to decide and approve for maintenance to start and the matter is a decision of Council. There are many roads in the LGA that Council does not maintain.

Community member stated that if there is a bushfire, the road needs to be open and maintained. Can a grader be put over the road and a sign to state it is closed in wet weather?

DTS advised that it is not that simple and money for roads has been spent on Digilah and more suitable roads.

Jan Stuart stated that when the hospital crossing goes under water, the traffic goes to all weather road which is in poor condition an impassable when there is a big flood like 2016 and trucks create a lot of dust on the all weather road.

9. Waste Management

Peter Colley asked why we send containers of aluminum cans away?

DEDS advised that it is part of the container deposit scheme run through the state government. We have to abide by the rules of the scheme.

10. Noxious Weeds

David Bowman stated that on Fairfield Road there are a variety of weeds that exist and nothing gets address by Castlereagh County Council. David asked why Council is still funding them because it is a waste of money.

GM advised that he would have to refer this to the County Council and we can't make sure they are doing their job. They are a separate organization and we are obligated to pay.

Cr Capel stated that she complained directly and at the moment they are focusing on eradicating Hudson Pear and Parthinium.

A community member stated that Fairfield Road is good when dry but floods in 3 places when there is rain and that water cannot get off the road.

Action: DTS will investigate flooding on Fairfield Road

11. Use of Jubilee Hall

Jan Stuart asked how much Council charged to use Jubilee Hall as community fitness classes have nowhere to go. Why is Council charging so much to community to use the hall? It should be available for the community to use freely/

DCCS advised that costs per day are:

- whole hall - \$170
- main hall - \$108
- kitchen - \$68
- Community groups and not for profit organisations - \$24

GM advised that submissions for fees and charges come in each year when reviewing the budget and advertisements will be in local newspapers. Please contact DTS for a discussion.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND 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
- Sports person 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

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.

2. Free WIFI

Free WIFI in all town centres was funded by the Federal Governments' Drought Communities Program and put together quickly. All Shire towns have the WIFI setup (barring Baradine) with test phase going well. The system is currently in test phase and will need a local person to reboot on demand.

Action: DCCS to coordinate a local response

Community member stated that the library has strong Wi-Fi and she cannot access it from her house or the western side of town.

GM advised that the service is available only in the CBD to encourage people to stop and locals to connect in the main street.

Community member stated that the internet has been down lately

GM advised that this has also affected the digital sign.

3. 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.

Community member asked for more benches around town

4. 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. In mid January to mid February, Council consult with Community for external budget submissions like benches.

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, including 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
End of June, Council determines the final Budget.

Community member asked if Council will be asking for any special rate increases?

GM advised that it is not on the books at the moment. Council is still making a loss on water but an increase in rates has helped to break even.

5. 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Bullinda St

Ronald Bowman stated that a section of the street between Wargundy street over the ramp end of the showground has a big dust problem and as there is a new pavilion there, people are showing cakes and many other items that are getting affected by the dust. We need to have the road sealed.

DTS The road is a good candidate for consideration in next years budget and will be put on the list.

GM advised that the show society can also make a submission in the budget.

Action: DTS to put sealing of Wargundy St on the list for budget consideration

2. Three Rivers Retirement Village

Community member asked for an update on the retirement village.

GM advised that legal action is in process and no court dates have been set as yet. There will be no action until after the court case.

Community member asked if shade cloth can be put up to cover the fence?

Action: DEDS to investigate into putting shade cloth on the fence

DEDS advised that Council will investigate whether the sarking will also be put back on to protect structures.

Community member asked what civil works and infrastructure means in reference to the media statement?

DEDS advised that site infrastructure includes roads, power, water etc; A Development Application is still standing and if funding is retained, this would make ready for future re-build if funding was available.

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GM advised that he has made representations to both local members to retain funding and attract new funding.

Community member asked if there was insurance in place?

GM advised that Council is defending and trying to recover monies but is not confident of recovering all. The insurance covered many things but not poor workmanship.

Ronald Bowman asked what the point was in suing the builder in terms of cash?

GM advised that dollars are actually going to defend the case.

Community member asked why faults were not picked up?

GM advised that they were and the contract was terminated due to the defective workmanship.

Community member asked how much money was left of the grant?

DEDS advised \$3million was left.

Warren Bull stated that Council was out of its depth on the project and the former GM mismanaged the project. Council should be self reporting on their role within this. The project manager was also out of his depth to let it get so out of hand and it all goes back to the start of the project. Someone should be made accountable and a judicial inquiry should occur.

GM advised that many people are concerned and the Office of Local Government are aware of the situation in terms of reporting. Once problems were identified, contractual processes were put in place. All Councils get audited by the NSW audit office who are part of the Auditor General. Council has appointed an internal audit committee including one Councillor and 2 external parties.

Community member asked what costs are still being incurred?

DEDS advised there were costs for fencing, security and expert witnesses. Legal advice has been provided advising Council to protect the buildings.

GM advised that all works have been closed now.

Community member asked if the builder provided a 7 year guarantee on work?

GM advised that this is not done for commercial building and Council did not request it.

Community member asked what State and Federal Government has said about this?

GM advised that we are expecting updates. They want to terminate the contract and for Council to hand back the money but Council is refusing and trying to retain those funds.

Community member stated that \$3million is a lot of money.

GM stated that the minister is our local member so may have influence.

Community Member asked when the matter will go to court and if it can be pushed forward for a result?

GM advised that possible court date would be next year and it is in the legal process now and needs to take its course.

Community member asked if the deeds for the project can be changed and can faults be corrected?

DEDS advised that a variation to the current funding deed is possible but experts advise that it is not feasible to correct faults

3. Drainage of Wallaroo and Bullinda St

Community member asked what size pipe will be used to correct the drainage?

DTS advised that the pipe will be box culvert 1200x600 and 1 meter in diameter. This will make a big change to the drainage and Council is aiming to get all the way to the intersection at this stage.

4. Front page of the Herald

Community member asked GM to comment on the front page of the Herald

GM stated that two issues it refers to were:

- Water infrastructure
- Contractual issues

The report will be put to Council to put forward a submission stating that we disagree with the findings. Council should not bear the brunt of all the issues. The fluoride system was designed by the NSW Department of Health and has failed in many Council areas including ours. Part of this includes the LGA not being able to get approvals because the certifier was delaying approvals due to expecting unreasonable outcomes. There have been problems within the last 2 years but they go back to 2012.

170 out of the 340 recommendations have been addressed.

5. Walking tracks

A Community member wanted to know about proposed walking tracks in Dunedoo and other towns.

DTS stated that a few years ago, a pedestrian access mobility plan was looked at to upgrade and extend pathways and one of the priorities was a shared pathway going out to the retirement village but it predominantly focused on the CBD

6. Cemetery Weeds

Community member stated that cemetery weeds are in a bad state.

Action: DTS to address

7. Dust in Wallaroo and Wargundy St

Cr Hill stated that there have been complaints about the dust and can we bitumen the laneway and consult Caltex to do their area as the dust in the turning area is terrible. How did it through a DA?

Action: DTS to investigate

Mayor Denis Todd declared the meeting closed.

MEETING CLOSED: 7:25PM