

PRESENT: Cr Kodi Brady (Chair), Mr Sam Bragg, Mrs Rhonda Jewiss, Mrs Aileen Bell, Mr Terry Tighe, Mrs Margaret Bennell, Mr Mervyn Starr, Mrs Mary Milsom, Mrs Sandra Spackman, Ms Kay Fredericks and Mrs Judy Clancy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services) and Mr Peter Cormican (Manager Urban Services).

APOLOGIES: Nil.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6/2021 RECOMMENDED that minutes of the Coonabarabran Town Beautification Advisory Committee meeting held on 7 December 2020 be confirmed.

Bell/Milsom

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Letter to Crown Lands
- Appreciation for the erection of 'Illegal Dumping' signs.
- Appreciation for fixing pole at Bakery.
- Appreciation for strip of rubber on footbridge.
- Bamboo – end of Chappell Avenue. The best method for treatment is to cut off and poison each stalk.
- Robertson Street footpath – extend concrete path to edge of bitumen.
- Streets as Shared Spaces Little Timor Street Project – update on project provided.
- Garbage bins cleaned out but, they need to be treated for spiders.
- Footpath uneven in front of IGA Supermarket.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) Final Report on 2020 Coonabarabran Beautification Workshops

7/2021 RECOMMENDED that report by the working group on landscape features and tree species is accepted as a basis for development of a master plan for town gardens, town streets and entrances roads into town.

Clancy/Bell

GENERAL BUSINESS

General discussion on the next steps for the Committee on the task of developing a Master Plan.

The following matters were discussed without resolution:

- Weeds growing out of pavers in John Street
- Cleaning down footpath in John Street.
- Shopping Trolley – on river bank upstream.
- Mowing – unfinished look – whipper snipper should be used. More attention to mowing.
- Workshop to be held at 5.00pm on Tuesday, 9 March 2021 in the Gallery Meeting Room, Coonabarabran.
- Dead Gum Tree in Cowper Street near footbridge.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.37pm.

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CHAIRPERSON

Agenda Item 4a) – Final Report on 2020 Coonabarabran Beautification Workshops

COONABARABRAN TOWN BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2020-2021

The committee is established under section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW):

A function of a council may, subject to this Chapter, be exercised: (b) by a committee of the council.

The purpose of the committee is to make recommendations on specific projects and or development of strategies for the beautification of Coonabarabran.

Core responsibilities and duties of the committee are to:

- Input into the development of a beautification Master Plan with a strategic focus on improving the appearance of street landscapes.
- Assistance with determining current issues with town landscapes, including identification of issues that need to be rectified.
- Investigation into, and assistance in obtaining, external sources of funding.
- Making of recommendations to Council on matters relating to specific town beautification projects or strategies.

Term: The committee will dissolve at the Council election in September 2021.

Overall Intention:

The Warrumbungle Shire is committed to the enhancement of the town of Coonabarabran to reflect the rich flora and fauna of the local environment developing a focus on art, culture and heritage.

Enhancing John Street/Newell Highway/Town Centre:

Working with all of the retail sector, the wider community and the Little Timor Street project we are advising:

- That the current central boxes have central hedges of Japanese box, with a border planting of lavender. It is felt that this consistent planting along the two blocks would tie with the plantings around the Memorial Clock roundabout, present a solid block of inviting colour, with species that are drought tolerant and eye catching and encourage the traveling public to stop and explore the town.
- That rusted steel boxes (1mx1mx1m), with star and flora cut-outs would sit on the ends of the central boxes, be solar light and have the capability of having changing floral colour. These would also be placed at the entrance to Little Timor Street, both the support the road closure and to tie the two schemes together. These are to be sourced locally.
- Along the central boxes between Cassilis Street and the information centre, there is to be consistent drought tolerant planting.

Enhancing residential street plantings and verge planting:

It is recognised that historically there has been a strong choice to maintain green belts of native vegetation as well as street tree planting over the past fifty years in support of the observatory 'dark sky' needs. The side benefit of this policy is that it has given Coonabarabran a reputation of being greener and cooler. Many of these plantings have died through the recent drought and are aged.

Agenda Item 4a) – Final Report on 2020 Coonabarabran Beautification Workshops

The former reputation of the town as an inviting, inviting and green, well planted place to stop and visit can be restored.

It is recommended that:

- There be a campaign of public education regarding the benefit of street and verge trees on the micro-climate of the streets (reduction in temperature, elevated oxygen levels, quiet and a sense of ownership and town care) to encourage householders to actively engage in the care of trees in their street.
- That Warrumbungle Shire adopt a policy used by other rural Councils where, upon a written request, a resident may have a semi-mature tree planted on their verge with the undertaking that they would water and care for the plant. This would encourage ownership of the plant and consideration of the street as a whole.
- Where possible existing central plantings be restored with the planting of similar trees.
- The Committee has developed a recommended list of trees for planting and a preferred 'no-plant' tree list – those that are considered an environmental risk. The full list is attached at the end of this report.
- Where possible grants are to be sought to allow the regular maintenance of the native vegetation belts which are largely Crown Land under the management of Warrumbungle Shire.
- Areas of concern, such as the bamboo spreading have been brought to the attention of the responsible officer.

Developing engaging Town entrances and exits:

The Committee recommend that:

- New signage would happen within the next six months to aid the profile of the town prior to the by-pass being built to assist the community and business sector to be by-pass ready.
- That each entrance would have signage and words – north and south on the current John Street/Newell Highway, Timor Road, and Baradine Road.
- Signage would initially be at the speed change into the town with the ability to relocate when the by-pass is completed.
- Signage would feature a steel cut-out of the Warrumbungle mountain profile including the Siding Springs observatory, and have the town name, establishment date and population. The steel cut-out signs are to be placed on sandstone blocks. The whole to be solar lit.
- That sculptures be sited along the broad southern entrance leading from the 70km signage to the information centre. These would showcase local artists and tie the welcome experience to the sculpture trail in the Pilliga.
- That grant monies would be sought for this initiative.

