

MEETING NOTES

MEETING WITH CENTRAL AREA 2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE BODIES

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2008

Committee Rooms 1, 2 & 3, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra.

The meeting commenced at 10.05 am.

PRESENT

Russ Pigg – Chairperson

Clr Green –

Clr Ward – left 10.56 am

Clr Fergusson – arrived 10.10 am

John Gould – Assistant General Manager – left 11.15 am

Bill Paterson – Director City Services and Operations – left 12.00 pm

Gordon Clark – Acting Director Strategic Planning Group

Peter Dun – Director Finance & Corporate Services Group - left 11.00 am

Tim Fletcher – Director Development and Environmental Services – left 10.40 am

Robert Sutherland – Infrastructure Planning Manager – arrived 10.15 am

Cinnamon Dunsford – Acting Strategy Planning Manager - left 12.05 pm

Greg Roberts – Executive Support Manager – left 11.00 am

Gwen Wiggins – Sussex Inlet Community Forum

David Tarbert - Sussex Inlet Community Forum

Kathy Chivers – Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association

Liz Tooley - Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association – left 11.10 am

Neville Hoskins – Hyams Beach Villagers Association

Lesley Saunders - Hyams Beach Villagers Association

1. Welcome and Introduction

The General Manager welcomed all participants to the meeting.

2. General Manager

a) One Meeting for all CCB Executives 2009 – Major Policies, Strategies, Management Plans & Budget (Staff)

Council Response

Mr Pigg related the advantages of holding one meeting for all CCB Executives, in early March that would allow CCB's to have input into issues such as the Draft Management Plan and Budget at the beginning rather than forwarding submissions once the draft is complete. There was general agreement that this would be advantageous.

Over the next few months the General Manager will send a template to all CCBs so that CCB ideas and priorities can be recorded and given to the new Councillors. This will give the Councillors an overview of the communities needs and priorities.

3. FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP

a) Enforcement of Road Signage Policy (*Basin Villages Forum*)

Community Representatives

Both the Basin Villages Forum (not present at the meeting) and Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association raised the issue of having an enforced and consistent signage policy to minimise illegal signage. Concerns were voiced on the numerous signs at the entrance to Huskisson.

Council Response

Mr Dun advised that Council has a signage strategy – DCP 82 Signage Strategy which guides Development Applications for signage on private property. However, in relation to illegal signage on private and public land, Council unfortunately does not have the resources to continually monitor the entire Shoalhaven and therefore takes a reactive approach by responding to individual complaints. Signage is low on the list of priorities for Rangers as they concentrate on bigger issues such as health, environment and water. The CCBs were encouraged to notify Council with any illegal signage complaints and Mr Dun advised that the Compliance Officer would investigate the signs at Huskisson.

ACTION: F&CS - Compliance Officer to investigate signs located at the entrance to Huskisson situated near the intersection with Woollamia Road.

b) Public Liability Insurance (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

Community Representatives

The Hyams Beach Villagers Association questioned whether CCBs were covered under Council's Public Liability Insurance if an accident occurred during a meeting. It was highlighted that the entrance to the Fire Shed at Hyams Beach, where meetings were held, was considered to be hazardous by the CCB.

The question was raised if the Insurance would cover CCB activities such as members carrying out letter box drops.

Council Response

Mr Dun advised that CCBs were covered by Council's liability insurance provided that the accident that occurred was not caused by CCB negligence.

With respect to the issue of safety at the Hyams Beach Fire Shed it was advised that the building was owned by Council and the matter would be investigated.

ACTION: F&CS - write to all CCBs clarifying CCB coverage by Public Liability Insurance.

c) Clarification Chambers of Commerce (*Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association*)

Community Representatives

Clarification was sought on whether Chambers of Commerce could be considered as CCBs under the CCB Guidelines.

Council Response

Mr Dun quoted the Guidelines for the Conduct of Community Consultative Bodies on the issue of boundaries and also advised of Council's recent resolution allowing Council to disseminate information to Special Interest Groups as well as CCBs.

It was confirmed that if no other association in an area wished to be a recognised CCB, Chambers of Commerce could be recognised however as there was another association within the same area the Huskisson Chamber of Commerce is no longer recognised as a CCB.

Mr Dun also mentioned that the Guidelines, as recently reviewed would soon be sent to all CCBs. It was noted that the only change was that the provision of Ratepayers listings had been removed as it was considered to infringe on privacy issues.

Following questions on how the CCBs would disseminate information to their communities Mr Pigg advised that community noticeboards and notices in local shops would help to advise the community.

ACTION: F&CS – Ensure newly updated Guidelines for the Conduct of Community Consultative Bodies are forwarded to all CCBs.

d) Sale of Land by Council – Heritage Estates (*Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association*)

Community Representatives

The Vincentia Residents & Ratepayers Association enquired how Council could arrange for land to be sold within the Heritage Estate and why would Council wish to purchase the land.

Council Response

Mr Dun advised that under the Local Government Act, Council can accept land in exchange for the write-off of outstanding rates if the owner wishes. In the event that an owner has a large amount of outstanding rates for more than five years and the owners prove to be un-contactable, Council can auction the land and bid up to the amount of outstanding rates to purchase it back.

Council is currently in the process of auctioning land at the Heritage Estate that is outside of the Commission of Inquiry area and which will not be rezoned. These lots cannot be built on and Council staff will be present at the auction to ensure that this is common knowledge. The Booklet provided will also identify that properties cannot be built on.

Mr Dun explained that the reasons for purchasing are to bring the land into public ownership and at the moment they are included in the rateable property levies.

Community Representatives

The CCBs enquired as to what would happen with the properties included in the Commission of Inquiry identified for possible development..

Council Response

Planning staff explained that a draft public environmental report will be submitted to the Federal Minister to make a decision on rezoning under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act but this could take some time. The Federal Government have directed how the report is to be written and the opportunity for community comment has passed.

The CCBs were advised that updates on the Heritage Estates issues are available on Council's website under Community Issues.

4. CITY SERVICES & OPERATIONS GROUP

a) Non native plant species on road shoulders (*Basin Villagers Forum*)

Council Response

Mr Pigg introduced the new Director of City Services and Operations, Mr Bill Paterson. Mr Paterson replaced John Wells.

Mr Paterson asked the CCBs where the non native plantings were.

Community Representatives

The CCBs explained that the major issue was the Pittosporum trees, which were not native to the South Coast were growing in abundance and strangling the other native species

Council Response

Mr Paterson advised he would investigate the matter and report back to the CCBs by email.

ACTION: CS&O to investigate the proliferation of Pittosporum trees in the Hyams Beach area and report back to the local CCBs by email.

b) Height of Barrier around the Hyams Beach Creek (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

Community Representatives

The Hyams Beach Villagers asked why the barrier round the creek put there and did it have to be as high as this was the entrance to the village and blocking the view. Was there a barrier to be erected on the other side?

Council Response

Mr Paterson explained that an Inspector had noticed the steep drop off and considered it a danger to pedestrians. The other side did not have the same danger and therefore did not need a barrier. Mr Paterson assured the CCB that the height would be reviewed.

ACTION: CS&O to review the height of the barrier around the creek at Hyams Beach.

c) Leisure Centre Gymnasium – Noise Policy (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

Community Representatives

Concerns were raised regarding the loud music being played at the Bay and Basin Leisure Centre before 8.00 am. The Hyams Beach Villagers Association enquired if a survey of customers could be done to ascertain the need for the music as most early users had their own type of music ie MP3 or IPOD.

Council Response

Mr Paterson advised he would investigate the matter and check on customer feedback in regard to comments made on the music.

ACTION: CS&O to investigate customer feedback and the need for loud music before 8.00 am at the Bay and Basin Leisure Centre.

d) Road Sealing – Lake Drive to Dyball Reserve (*Sussex Inlet Community Forum*)

Mr Paterson advised the meeting that these works were listed as number 37 on the program for sealing. Council's Coast and Estuaries Officer, Ray Massie, has submitted a grant application for funding to seal the steep section of Lake Drive and was hoping to have grader crews back there after the new year.

If the grant application is unsuccessful the priority list would need to be reviewed.

ACTION: CS&O to advise the Sussex Inlet Community Forum of the outcome of the grant application for funding to seal Lake Drive.

e) Free Marquee – Cancer Council (*Council Staff*)

Mr Paterson advised that the Cancer Council had provided Council with a Marquee, 4.5 mtr x 3mtr for the use of the Community. There would be no charge for the use of the marquee and bookings can be made through Council's Administrative Building Management Section. The marquee can be carried in a station wagon or hatch (where seats can be folded) and can be erected by four people in approximately 5 minutes.

ACTION: CCBs to contact Bill Little, Administrative Building Manager, on 4429 3442 or 0402 293 442 if they wish to book the use of the marquee.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP

a) Signage Required for Protection of Wildlife (*Basin Villagers Forum*)

Council Response

Mr Pigg introduced the Acting Director of Strategic Planning, Gordon Clark, and also advised the meeting of the retirement of Rob Sutherland. Mr Pigg thanked Mr Sutherland for his contributions to the CCBs both at these meetings and out in the field.

Community Representatives

All the CCBs thanked Mr Sutherland and wished him well in his retirement.

Council Response

In regard to the signage required for the protection of wildlife, it was noted that there were no attendees from the Basin Villages Forum to address the meeting on the issue and that the CCB would be contacted to follow up the issue.

The meeting was advised that generally requests for these signs are dealt with on a case by case basis based on accident history etc. and if any CCB knows of the need for a sign they should contact Council. Staff voiced concerns on the danger of “advertising” the existence of native vegetation as it can often cause wilful disturbance.

ACTION: SPG to contact Basin Villages Forum in regard to their agenda item “Signage Required for Protection of Wildlife”

b) Steps – Southern End of Chinamans Beach (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

Community Representatives

The CCB advised they wish to thank whoever constructed the new steps at Chinamans Beach and wished to know to who is responsible for the steps. They were not sure if it was Council or National Parks.

ACTION: SPG to advise the Hyams Beach Villages Association who is responsible for the steps at Chinamans Beach.

c) Lowering Speed Restrictions – Cyrus St, Hyams Beach (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

Council Response

Mr Sutherland explained to the meeting that when it came to lowering speed limits the RTA considered the infrastructure required to slow traffic ie. speed humps, kerb blisters and the funds required to provide it. The provision of this infrastructure often caused more dangerous conditions and did not slow the type of people that speed in built up areas.

d) Rezoning Queries (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

Council Response

Mr Clark explained to the meeting that Council had been given a standard template from the State Government for the LEP. Council resolved to prepare a “best fit” plan based on current zones. Across the City it is proposed that residential 2(c) would change to R1. The original 2(c) zoning listed the land uses that were prohibited. R1 will list uses that are permissible with consent, some of which are mandatory.

The new draft LEP was reported to Council in July, adopted by a panel of staff in September and has been sent to the Department of Planning for review to allow public exhibition. It is expected that the LEP would be on public exhibition by the end of the year for six to eight weeks. Every land owner will be advised in writing that the plan is able to be viewed.

Community Representatives

The CCBs enquired if it were possible to receive from Council electronic copies on disc and hard copies.

Council Response

Mr Clark assured that hard copies and disc would be forwarded to all CCBS when the draft Plan is exhibited. It was also advised that hard copies would be available in locations other than the Council administrative buildings. Staff will undertake community engagement.

Documents and maps are currently available on the Internet but are still subject to changes that may be made by the Department of Planning.

ACTION: SPG to ensure both hard copy and electronic copy (disc) of the draft LEP is sent to all CCBs when it is publicly exhibited.

e) Update – Meeting on Temporary BMX Track (*Sussex Inlet Community Forum*)

Council Response

Mr Clark advised that to date no answer had been from the Department of Lands regarding outcomes from the previous meeting and the item will be reported to Council in November 2008.

ACTION: SPG to update the Sussex Inlet Community Forum when information is received from the Lands Board.

f) Cycleway – Swan Lake to Thompson Street (*Sussex Inlet Community Forum*)

Community Representatives

The CCB advised that the recent quote received for materials for the proposed cycleway was much more than expected and this made the project impossible to achieve by the community.

ACTION: AGM to review and find a way forward.

g) Amenities Block – Ski Ramp Springs Road (*Sussex Inlet Community Forum*)

Council Response

The Sussex Inlet Community Forum were advised that staff will be liaising with the community and Shoalhaven Water to ascertain the best location for the sewer connection and the project will go ahead as the funds are available.

Porta-loos would be made available again these Christmas holidays.

h) Update LEP (*Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association*)

This item was addressed in d) above.

i) Height Restrictions – Vincentia REP (*Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association*)

Council Response

Mr Clark advised that height restrictions will be set in the new LEP. The LEP proposes that the height of buildings on any land should not exceed 11 metres.

Building heights and floor space ratios must now be controlled by the new LEP and a SEPP1 type provision will allow a variation of up to 10%.

There is to be a single LEP and citywide DCP for the whole of the Shoalhaven and the DCP cannot state a height limit over that in the LEP.

Staff are willing to attend any CCB meetings to explain the LEP.

Community Representatives

The CCBs asked if they can submit objections to the LEP.

Council Response

Mr Clark advised that the community can make submissions on Council's proposals not the State decided issues. The document will be clearly colour coded to show what is State decided and what is Council proposed controls. There will also be a 'plain English' version available at exhibition time.

ACTION: CCBs to forward questions to include in a FAQ sheet for the LEP that is to be prepared by SPG.

j) Update – Courtesy Seats (*Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association*)

Community Representatives

The Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association requested that the site for the Courtesy Advertising Seat, originally proposed for the roundabout, be changed to further along the path.

Other CCBs agreed that locating the seats at roundabouts could be dangerous and suggested that they be placed along footpaths.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Incorrect Signage (*Sussex Inlet Community Forum*)

Community Representative

Representatives from the Sussex Inlet Community Forum advised that signage for Cudmirrah Beach on Koolyn Reserve actually stated Berrara Beach and this had caused problems with an emergency call to 000 being directed to the wrong location.

ACTION: SPG to investigate the signage at Cudmirrah Beach

2. Huscorp Issues (*Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association*)

Community Representative

The CCB enquired if the negotiations with Huscorp were still under suspension.

Council Response

Mr Pigg explained that DCP 119 Hotel Site, Bridge Road Nowra was subject to proposed changes and that other negotiations with Huscorp were still under suspension until written confirmation is received from the Department of Local Government that negotiations can continue.

3. No Swimming Signs (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

The CCB advised that a 'No Swimming' sign was located on the nature strip on the corner of Bamboo Avenue and Torres Street and it was causing confusion.

ACTION: SPG to investigate the signage on the corner of Bamboo Avenue and Torres Street, Hyams Beach.

Mr Pigg thanked the CCBs and staff for the input and attendance and expressed his hope that the meeting was beneficial for all involved.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 12.20 pm.

Russ Pigg
CHAIRPERSON