

MEETING NOTES

MEETING WITH SOUTHERN AREA COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE BODIES

THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2008

Training Room, Administrative Centre, Deering Street, Ulladulla.

The meeting commenced at 10.10 am.

PRESENT

Russ Pigg – Chairperson

Clr Green

Clr Miller

Clr Watson

Ernie Royston – Director Strategic Planning Group

Carmel Krogh – Director Shoalhaven Water – arrived 11.05 am

Tom Phillips – Acting Director Finance and Corporate Services

Bill Paterson – Director City Services and Operations

Warwick Papworth – Ulladulla Office Manager

Lachlan Harris – Media Manager

Lisa Turner – Red Head Villages Association

Ian Barrett – Red Head Villages Association

Lea Grant – Bawley Point/Kioloa Progress Association

Geoff Elliott – Tabourie Lake Ratepayers and Residents Association – arrived 10.30

Robin Watt – Ulladulla and Districts Community Forum

Jan Shalhoub – Ulladulla and Districts Community Forum

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mr Russ Pigg welcomed all participants to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

2. GENERAL MANAGER

a) One Meeting for all CCB Executives (Staff)

Mr Pigg noted that there was general agreement from all CCBs that one meeting, early in 2009, covering the issues of major policies, strategies, draft Management Plan and Budget would be advantageous. Mr Pigg advised that the meeting is proposed for early March and that it would allow CCB's to have input on these issues at the beginning of the process rather than forwarding submissions once drafts is complete.

The meeting was advised that templates had been sent to all CCBs so that 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.

Mr Pigg also advised that there would be new Rate evaluations in the next year and there may be some relatively high percentage increases. A presentation on the Rates issues will be made at the meeting for all CCB Executives in March.

ACTION: Executive Support to schedule a meeting in March for all CCB Executives.

b) Political Donations (*Red Head Villages Association*)

Council Response

Mr Pigg explain the complicated, recent changes, made by the Department of Local Government, to the Code of Conduct in relation to political donations and Councillors Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest.

The confusion relates to declaring contributions when they are for an individual Councillor or for a Registered Party. If a single Councillor receives a contribution over \$1,000, it is considered a 'significant' contribution and if an item is presented to Council from someone related to that contribution, then that Councillor must declare a pecuniary interest and not take part in discussion or voting on the matter.

If a contribution of over \$1,000 is received by a registered party then those party members need to declare an interest, but the Code of Conduct is not clear on the need for those Councillors to not take part in discussion or voting. Independent legal advice was sought on the matter as it is such a complex issue.

If a contribution is less than \$1,000 it is considered a non-significant pecuniary interest and does not automatically disqualify the Councillor from discussion or voting. The onus is on the individual whether they declare an interest or not. An explanation of why the contribution is non-significant is then required.

Community Representatives

Questions were raised on whether a community member can assess if a declaration has been declared or not and if so how would they go about it.

Council Response

Mr Pigg explained that the onus is on the individual Councillor to declare and to make that decision. The Code asks the individual to ask themselves: "What would a reasonable person perceive of the contribution?"

If a complaint is raised in relation to declaring contributions it should come to Council where it will dealt with through the Conduct Review Committee or referred to the Department of Local Government. Neither the General Manager nor the Mayor are involved in this Committee. The General Manager has an obligation to notify the Department of Local Government if, in his view, a Councillor has not disclosed an interest but nothing in the Code of Conduct gives the General Manager the responsibility to advise a Councillor on the issue.

c) CCB Relationship with Council (*Red Head Villages Association*)

Council Response

Following a suggestion from the Red Head Villages Association that there should be one Council officer that CCBs can deal with in relation to all problems, Mr Pigg advised that this may be a little impractical as Council currently has a 24 hour reporting line and on-line

ability that fast tracks complaints to the correct section of Council. Having an intermediary would slow the process.

Community Representatives

Can CCBs be given a list of contact names and numbers for different issues? It was also advised that it was sometimes confusing as to whether to contact Council at Nowra or Ulladulla.

Council Response

Mr Pigg introduced Bill Paterson, new Director City Services and Operations, advising that Mr Paterson replaced Mr John Wells, who most CCBs were familiar with. Mr Pigg explained that Mr Paterson is responsible for the Works and Services areas of Council and that Ernie Royston, Director Strategic Planning is responsible for the longer term planning aspects. Mr Paterson advised he would put together a basic list of contacts for the CCBs.

ACTION: CS&O to supply a basic list of Council contact names and numbers and a supply of Hotline cards to CCBs.

3. FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

a) Trail Bike Squads (*Bawley Point/ Kioloa Progress Association*)

Community Representatives

The meeting was advised that trail bike riding, especially in the Murramarang National Park was causing a number of serious issues including erosion damage causing water course changes, unlicensed riding on public roads, noise pollution and underage riding. The Police are asking for support to organise a Trail Bike Squad to act as a deterrent on these issues. The Rotary Club of Milton Ulladulla are assisting by raising funds towards purchasing the bikes and it is hoped that a coordinated approach to the State Government from the Shelley Hancock MP, the Police, National Parks and Wildlife, Council and various community groups may help the chances of a two man bike squad to be formed in the region.

The CCB asked whether Council or National Parks and Wildlife were the responsible body on these issues

Council Response

The meeting was advised that Council Rangers were responsible for parks and reserves, National Parks and Wildlife were responsible for National Park land but the Police have access of all. The best solution would be a Police Trail Bike Squad.

Mr Phillips suggested that a meeting of interested parties could be organised to take a deputation to the Hon. Tony Kelly MP as the incidents occurring on public roads may be the catalyst to ensure a successful outcome.

The Mayor suggested he may be able to advise the Rotary Club of different ways to raise funds for the bikes and would follow up the matter

The General Manager advised the community to call the Council 24 hour complaint number and the complaints would be passed on to the correct areas.

4. CITY SERVICES AND OPERATIONS

a) Green Waste Bins (*BawleyPoint/Kioloa Ratepayers and Residents Association*)

Community Representatives

The meeting was advised that the CCB would like to see Council take over the Green Waste Management Contract from Soilco and asked if this was possible

The CCB explained that following a visit to one of their meetings from Fiona Schreurs, Council's Waste Minimisation Officer, they were very interested in the whole community of Bawley Point/Kioloa being involved in the next composting program. They also enquired why the program was restricted

Council Response

Mr Paterson explained that the end product from green waste needed to be marketed and Council does not have the ability to market it as well as a business like Soilco. Soilco's tender was also the cheapest.

Mr Paterson advised that the program has been restricted because, for the project to work, it needs to be done correctly so those that show they are keen and willing to learn the proper ways to compost are given priority. The next trial composting program would involve 5,000 people and that usually it consisted of those people who applied first. Mr Paterson assured the CCB that consideration would be given to involving the whole community of Bawley Point and Kioloa.

ACTION: CS&O to investigate trial composting for the whole of the Bawley Point and Kioloa area.

b) Replacement of Signs – Manyana (*Red Head Villagers Association*)

Community Representatives

The CCB advised of the damage done to the resuscitation signs at Manyana and the need for replacement as an ambulance takes over 35 minutes to get there.

Council Response

The meeting was advised that there was no on-going funding for these signs as they were a one-off item and that there is a huge amount of signs in the Shoalhaven area and only a small budget for maintenance. This item would need to be included in the priority list and that list was determined by risk analysis.

It was suggested that maybe the community groups could help with the funding for new signs with Council installing them.

ACTION: CS&O to provide costing of resuscitation signs to the Red Head Villages Association.

c) Drainage Issues (*Red Head Villages Association*)

Community Representatives

The Red Head Villages Association requested that staff meet with them on-site so that the drainage problems can be identified.

ACTION: CS&O to organise on-site meeting with Red Head Villages Association regarding drainage.

d) Tree in Beach Street (*Red Head Villages Association*)

Council response

Mr Paterson advised that the dead wood was scheduled to be removed from the trees in Beach street on 19 November 2008

e) Drainage – River Road (*Tabourie Lake Ratepayers & Residents Association*)

Council Response

The meeting was advised that Council was aware of the problems and that the cause was from driveways interfering with the flat grade causing ponding. Negotiations were on-going with adjacent owners. This area is listed 60th on Council's PAMP program and the reason that some houses had kerb and guttering and some didn't, was because of the requirement for developers to provide it when first building.

f) Civic Centre Progress (*Ulladulla & Districts Community Forum*)

Council Response

Mr Royston advised that following the Ordinary meeting of 11th October 2008 Council resolved that a report be submitted to Council on the options for the establishment of improved Library facilities at Ulladulla, including options for the Visitor Information Centre. Mr Royston advised that a consultant would be required to review the project and there is currently no funding available. The Expressions of Interest for the two carparks, Boree Street and South Street are also looking at the Library issue with site selection still required.

(Note: Since the meeting Council has resolved NOT to proceed with Expressions of Interest for the Boree or South Street Carpark sites at this stage.)

Direction was required from Council to get funding sourced as there was currently only \$400,000 in trust from Section 94 Funds from the Multi Purpose Centre.

Community Representatives

The Ulladulla & Districts Community Forum stated they would list this on the templates sent from Council

ACTION: CCB to list Ulladulla Civic Centre on Template sent by the General Manager.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING

a) Climate Change (Red Head Villages Association)

Council Response

Mr Royston explained to the meeting that the new LEP has a clause relating to coastal hazard flood liable land that will be applied in accordance with State Government. In relation to the rise of the sea level the State Government, through CSIRO is giving a definite direction that rises will be .25 to .5 of a metre and the Coastal Management Plan modelling will take that into account.

Currently there is no plan to extensively rezone coastal areas in the LEP but there will be issues relating to existing development.

The meeting was advised that in relation to Floodplain Management the Southern Councils Group were sharing all information and that there are also lots of funding opportunities available.

Community Representatives

Concerns were raised in regard to the Conjola Regional Sewerage filtration system that was installed on low lying land.

Council Response

Mr Royston advised that Council needs to be reasonable and the filtration system would never be relocated outside the floodplain. There are strong controls in place.

b) LEP Review (Red Head Villages Association)

Council Response

Mr Royston advised that the LEP is with the Department of Planning and Council is trying to get certification to exhibit the document. In line with 50 existing zones being reduced to 20 Council must be observant of the South Coast Regional Strategy.

When certification is granted the document will be extensively exhibited with letters going to all residents advising them of the ability to comment. As well as the usual points of exhibition, the document will also be exhibited in shop front type locations.

c) Council Levies (Red Head Villages Association)

Council Response

Mr Royston explained that Council's Contribution Plan Manual specifies how developer contributions are to be calculated for Caravan Parks. For permanently occupied caravans, the calculation is equivalent to the 40% levies applied to a dwelling, which is the same rate that is applied to a 2 bedroom unit in a medium density residential development. Where it is known that the development will consist of transportable homes rather than caravans, the

40% rate applies to 2 bedroom homes and 60% to 3 bedroom homes, the same as for medium density residential development. Consequently, there is already a high degree of consistency between caravan park development generally, and other residential development.

Ms Carmel Krogh advised that levies for water were being revised in line with water conservation programs and Council was awaiting feedback from the State Government. Council is currently collecting data to look at the calculation discrepancies.

d) Walkway – Caravan park – Tabourie Tuckerbox

Council Response

Mr Royston advised that the path had been constructed from the Lake Tabourie Holiday Haven Park to the Highway bridge so is about 50% complete. It was hoped that another 200 metres would be done before Christmas with completion by February 2009.

e) Sealing of Beach Street Carpark (Tabourie Lake Ratepayers & Residents Association)

The meeting was advised that sealing of the Beach Street Carpark is currently priority number 9 in Council's Coastal Carpark Priority List. There is no budget for this program and requests have to be justified against overall city demands.

6. SHOALHAVEN WATER

a) Council Levies

This item dealt with in c) above.

b) CRSS (Red Head Villages Association)

Ms Krogh advised that in relation to the Conjola Regional Sewerage Scheme Council was experiencing issues with the contractor and that Shoalhaven Water's own crews were rectifying defects following camera survey inspections. The priority was to ensure everything was ready for connection and they were fixing problems as they came up.

7. DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

a) Clean up of Demolition Sites (Ulladulla & Districts Community Forum)

Community Representatives

The Ulladulla & Districts Community Forum voiced concerns over the derelict and unsightly blocks in the Ulladulla CBD and requested that something be done to clean them up before Christmas. It was advised that children are climbing the fences and this safety issue should be passed on to the owner.

Questions were raised on whether a Policy on Development Applications existed regarding time lines to clean up following demolition.

Council Response

Mr Papworth advised there was no policy in place and unfortunately Council has limited powers to enforce a clean up. The issue would have to go to the Land and Environment Court to enforce. The CCB were assured that in this case the owners of these blocks had been contacted in regard to clean up and Council had received assurances that the work would be done before Christmas. The owners have been willing to comply so far and Council will contact them again to reinforce the issue before Christmas.

Clr Miller raised the issue of the empty sites on the highway and the possibility of grading and cleaning to allow for extra parking over Christmas

Community Representatives

The Tabourie Lake Ratepayers and Residents Association requested that Council look into cleaning up the corner of Weymouth Road and the Princes Highway as the site has been left derelict for some time.

ACTION: D&ES to contact owners of derelict blocks in Ulladulla to request they be cleaned up before Christmas and in relation to the site in Tabourie Lake that this be further investigated.

GENERAL BUSINESS

a) Traffic Issues Bawley Point

Community Representatives

The Bawley Point/Kioloa Progress Association advised that the cycleway past the shops on Murramarang Road stops abruptly and riders were entering the highway, in an 80 km zone, from the end of the cycleway causing a dangerous situation for drivers and bike riders. Suggestions were made that traffic calming devices be constructed or the 50km speed sign be moved to make the area safer.

ACTION: SPG to investigate traffic issues at the end of the cycleway on Murramarang Road, Bawley Point.

b) Road Maintenance Manyana

Community Representatives

The Red Head Villages Association advised that the shoulder of the road on Inyadda Drive were wearing away and the road was narrowing and therefore becoming dangerous.

Council Response

The CCBs were advised that in regard to any health issue/dangerous situations to use the 24 hour complaint line and not wait for a meeting to express concerns. These issues will be placed on a priority list

ACTION: CS&O to investigate the narrowing of Inyadda Drive at Manyana.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 11.48 am.

Russ Pigg
CHAIRPERSON