

MEETING NOTES

MEETING WITH CENTRAL AREA 1 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE BODIES

THURSDAY 1ST MAY 2008

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

The meeting commenced at 10.02 am.

Apologies were received from Clr Watson, Clr Kerr, Clr Green, and Daryl McLean (Get to the Point Greenwell Point)

PRESENT

Russ Pigg – Chairperson

Clr Anderson – left 11.40 am

Clr McCrudden – left 11.00 am

John Gould – Assistant General Manager

John Wells – Director City Services and Operations – arrived

Carmel Krogh – Director Shoalhaven Water – arrived 11.38 am

Robert Sutherland – Infrastructure Planning Manager – arrived 10.20 am

Greg Roberts – Executive Support Manager – left 11.40 am

Jessica Rippon – Senior Development Planner – left 11.25 am

Margaret Day - Callala Beach Progress Association – left 11.20 am

Peter Cumes – Currarong Progress Association – left 12.55 pm

Colin Jack – Currarong Progress Association

Arvan Prichard – Currarong Progress Association

David McCorkell – Get to the Point Greenwell Point

John Castellan – Orient Point Progress Association/Culburra Beach Progress Association – left 11.43 am

1. Welcome

The General Manager welcomed all participants to the meeting.

2. General Manager

a) Draft Management Plan and Budget

Mr Pigg advised that the Draft Management Plan (DMP) was currently on public exhibition and also demonstrated how to access and make submissions on the document through Council's website. Copies of the Executive Summary were tabled and the meeting was advised of the public meeting dates and venues for the DMP as follows:

- Wednesday 14th May 2008 - 7.00 pm at the Vincentia High School, Wool Road, Vincentia
- Wednesday 21st May 2008 - 7.00 pm at the Ulladulla Civic Centre, Princes Highway, Ulladulla
- Wednesday 28th May 2008 - 7.00 pm at the Nowra Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra.

Mr Pigg explained that hard copies of the document had been sent to all CCBs.

b) Council News and Ads – “Shoalhaven Mail”

The meeting was informed that Council is currently preparing to have relevant news and advertising on six pages of the “Shoalhaven Mail” publication. The first edition containing Council news will be on the 18th May 2008.

Mr Pigg advised that the publication will be delivered by letterbox drop to Greenwell Point, Culburra Beach and Currarong, 200 copies will be dropped at the Orient Point General Store and 650 will go to the IGA, Post Office and RSL at Callala.

Clr Anderson ensured the group the news items were written by Council staff and were not political items.

Community Representatives

The CCBs enquired if Council would still be advertising in the local newspapers.

Council Response

Mr Pigg advised that some advertising would still appear in local newspapers as production timing for the Shoalhaven Mail was quite lengthy and certain legislation for advertising had quite tight timeframes.

c) Councillor Communications Reimbursement

Mr Pigg spoke about the letter that was sent to all CCBs regarding the Proposed Amendment to Council Members Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy. The meeting was advised that if any groups wished to make a submission the closing date was 19th May 2008.

Community Representatives

The following questions were raised by CCBs:

- Where did the funding for this initiative come from?
- How was the figure of \$6,000 arrived at?
- As the amount cannot be used for political purposes will this be audited?
- Will all submissions be taken into consideration?
- How much support by Councillors was this initiative given?

Council Response

Mr Pigg advised that there was no specific funding for the initiative and that Clrs were previously only given a small amount for administrative support. The \$6,000 was considered a reasonable figure by Council and this funding could not be used for political purposes as it must comply with Council’s Code of Conduct. All submissions will be considered and a report on these will be forwarded to Council for consideration.

Clr McCrudden added that this was a novel idea and that his thoughts were that it could be used by Councillors to poll the community on matters of interest so that a true interpretation of community feeling could be gauged.

Mr Pigg advised the meeting that the voting on this issue was 9 to 3 as one Clr was absent from the meeting.

d) Council Elections

Mr Pigg showed the CCBs where on the internet information about the elections could be found and Greg Roberts reminded the CCBs of the change of date for the elections from 27th to 13th September 2008. The electoral roles open in early July and close on 4th August and applications are available at Council. Nominations for Councillor close on 13th August and advertising for the elections will be placed in the Shoalhaven Mail

ACTION: F&CS to arrange the advertising for the elections to be published in the Shoalhaven Mail.

e) CCB Minutes

Mr Pigg reminded the CCB, as per the Guidelines for the Conduct of Community Consultative Bodies, that all CCB needed to forward copies of their meeting minutes to Council.

f) Guidelines for the Conduct of Community Consultative Bodies

The CCBs were advised that amendments to the Guidelines regarding Special Interest Groups would be reported to Council in May.

g) Council Business Papers

Mr Pigg explained that over 150 copies of Council's Business Papers were printed for every meeting at an enormous cost to Council and asked the CCBs to reconsider accessing them through the Internet. A demonstration was given on how to find the Business Papers on Council's website and also how to search for particular items such as place names so that groups would not have to read the whole document but only what affects their area. Some groups realised that this way was probably easier than trying to wade through what is usually a very large document. Mr Pigg explained that the Business Papers are available on the Internet by the Friday afternoon before every meeting.

Community Representatives

The question was raised that if CCBS were to consider this would Council raise the amount of the annual subsidy to cover the cost of printing. CCBs questioned how far back did Council keep records of the Business Papers.

Council Response

In regard to Council considering raising the CCBs annual subsidy Mr Pigg invited the CCBs to make a submission to the Draft Management Plan. The Business Papers going back to 2001 are available on the Internet and for the years before CCBs would need to arrange to have access through Council's Information Officer.

ACTION: CCBs to reconsider receiving hard copy Business Papers and advise Council if the decision is reached not to receive them any longer.

h) Friendship Agreement – Coolamon Shire Council

Mr Pigg advised the CCBs that Shoalhaven City Council had signed a Friendship Agreement with Coolamon Shire Council. This would promote mutual assistance between the two Council's and also their communities, schools, service clubs etc.

3. CITY SERVICES & OPERATIONS GROUP

a) Refurbishment – Tennis Courts, Greenwell Point (*Greenwell Point Get to the Point*)

Community Representatives

The Greenwell Point Get to the Point Program stated they wrote to Council offering to put money together for the \$ for \$ program to assist groups in regard to community works being done in the form of the refurbishment of the tennis courts and requested an update on the quotes received by Council for the work.

Council Response

Mr Wells advised that some funds would be available early in the financial year and Council will match the \$5000 offered. Council had received two quotes and would forward these to the Greenwell Point Get to the Point program.

ACTION: CS&O to forward to the Greenwell Point get to the Point Program information on the quotes received by Council for the refurbishment of the Tennis Courts at Greenwell Point.

b) Reserve Maintenance – Otranto Avenue, Orient Point (*Orient Point Progress Association*)

Council response

Mr Wells advised the Parks Operations Team were inspecting the site and he expected the clearing of vegetation to be done sooner rather than later.

c) Re-concreting – bollards – Robert Lonesborough Reserve (*Orient Point Progress Association*)

Community Representatives

The Orient Point Progress Association advised that this work had already been carried out.

d) Vegetation Maintenance –Carparks, Pilot House and Boat ramp, Culburra (*Culburra Beach Progress Association*)

Community Representatives

The Culburra Beach Progress Association advised that the Crookhaven Heads area –Pilot House, Boat Ramp, Carpark area was a real problem site for vandals and requested the area be cleared of overgrown vegetation

ACTION: CS&O to inspect and clear the Pilot House, Boat Ramp and Carpark area at Crookhaven Heads.

e) Mowing and cleaning of open drains, Culburra Beach (*Culburra Beach Progress Association*)

Council Response

Mr Wells advised that Council crews had recently been in the Culburra Beach area clearing drains and the vegetation will be slashed in Beach Avenue soon. The Reach mower was used 4 times per year and slashers go in 2 times per year.

Community Representative

The Culburra Beach Progress Association asked if Prince Edward Avenue had been missed.

Council Response

Mr Robert Sutherland added that through 2008-09 investigations would be carried out regarding how to improve storm water levies and modelling would be done in the Culburra Beach because of the high tide water levels in the area.

Clr Anderson noted that the open drains are full of reeds and not performing as well as they should.

Community Representatives

The CCB stated there was no objection to pipes in the area and that when it rained water ran over the road and some houses were in trouble. Questions were raised in regard to whether the reeds in the drains were considered noxious.

Council Response

Mr Sutherland explained that the laying of pipes was difficult as water levels were at floor level and the water would not flow and that the reeds were not noxious.

ACTION: CS&O to inspect Prince Edward Avenue for areas of maintenance that may have been missed.

4. STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP

a) Update on Citywide Growth Management Strategy and LEP

Ms Jessica Rippon told the CCBS of the success of the CityWide Growth Management Workshops held in February and that preparation of the Strategy was in progress and would be reported to Council and placed on exhibition.

The LEP was based on the standard template as supplied by the State Government and the Nowra Bomaderry Structure Plan rezoning would be included. It was hoped the document would be completed by mid year as it was required by the State Government by 2009.

b) Swimming Pool for Callala Bay (*Callala Bay Progress Association*)

Community Representative

The CCB asked that if they could contribute some funds towards construction would the construction of a swimming pool at Callala Bay be possible as it was needed not only for recreation but for rehabilitation needs.

Council Response

The Callala Bay Progress Association was advised that as the pool would cost at least \$4M to construct and would lose \$200,000 per year the project was not feasible.

c) Retirement Village Possibilities, Callala Bay (*Callala Bay Progress Association*)

Council response

Council's current planning documents do not indicate a site identified for a retirement village in the area. Given the constraints of the locality, finding a site may be difficult. A proposal for a retirement village would have to be put forward through the private market and meet Department of Planning criteria shown in SEPP Seniors Living.

d) Lack of public transport, Callala Bay (*Callala Bay Progress Association*)

Council Response

The meeting was told that the problem of lack of transport was not specific to Callala Bay and that all the villages had the same problems. Council has lobbied the State Government (Department of Transport DoT) and will continue to do so but it is considered a matter of viability by the DoT. Currently a trial is being run with a mini-bus in the Shoalhaven heads area and it is hoped that the idea will spread. It was suggested that the CCBs negotiate with local clubs, who usually have a courtesy bus, to attempt to alleviate this problem.

e) Walton Way Pathways, Currarong (*Currarong Progress Association*)

Council Response

Mr Sutherland advised that discussions had been held with the Currarong progress Association and that an amount of \$10,000 was in the draft works budget for next year for "Urgent Minor Works". This project will be considered for funding from that source.

ACTION: SPG to send out plans for pathways to Currarong Progress Association.

Community Representative

The Currarong Progress Association explained that the section past the Arts and Crafts Centre was badly needed and would the \$10,000 cover those works? Was there anything in PAMP for Currarong? The CCB would be happy to volunteer to do the works.

Council Response

Mr Pigg advise the group to put together a volunteer offer and forward to council.

f) Kerb and Guttering Fishery Road, Currarong (*Currarong Progress Association*)

Community Representative

The Currarong Progress Association asked how to go about getting kerb and guttering on an agenda for Fishery Road as drainage is a problem.

Council Response

Mr Sutherland advised that this item is not on the list for works in the next works program and a drainage engineer would need to talk to the group on site.

ACTION: SPG to arrange on-site meeting between Currarong Progress Association and a drainage engineer.

g) Lighting – Intersection Forest Road and Princes Highway (Currarong Progress Association)

Community Representative

The Currarong Progress Association advised they felt the lack of lighting at the intersection of Princes Highway and Forest Road was a dangerous situation and should be addressed urgently. Sight distance problems approaching the intersection should be addressed with either lighting or larger street signage.

Council Response

Mr Sutherland advised that following formal representation to that effect the RTA have stated that the intersection meets the standards. Council will continue to lobby the RTA on this issue. Cllr Anderson suggested the CCB write to Trish McClure at the RTA.

Community Representative

The Callala Bay Progress Association also thanked Council for the sealing of Coonamia Road and enquired if there was an intention to seal the western end as well. They also asked about the Strategic Projects Reserve.

Council Response

Mr Sutherland explained that further works would be carried out following the completion of the RTA work. CCBs requesting any further works in their respective areas should make submissions to the Draft Management Plan and outline the priorities for the whole area. Council needs to know what issues are most important to each community. Cllr Anderson explained that the budget is balanced but priorities can change and lists for works are large but it was up to each community group to identify the most important issues so they can be prioritised.

Mr Pigg stated that the Strategic Projects Reserve was funded from transfers of land sales etc and that it was not on-going funding and within 5 years there would be no balance left. Council lobby the Federal Government constantly for more funding

h) Traffic Congestion Greenwell Point Road (Greenwell Point Get to the Point)

Community Representative

The Greenwell Point Get to the Point Program put forward their concerns on the traffic congestion on Greenwell Point in the location of the Caravan Park and Boat Ramp areas. It was suggested that the owners of the Caravan Park be approached in regard to giving consideration to a second entrance to the park. The CCB enquired if the boat ramp proposal was ready to go to Tender yet.

Council Response

The meeting was advised that the Department of Lands were considering the possibility of a Marina in the area and Council was reluctant to rush ahead with the boat ramp until confirmation, either way, was given by Dept of Lands. A boat ramp could be incorporated in designs for a Marina. It was advised that proposals for a Marina in Jervis Bay were proving to be problematic.

The tender process will commence following the finalisation of Council's Management Plan.

5. FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP

a) Alcohol Consumption – Titania Park (*Greenwell Point Get to the Point*)

Community Representatives

The Greenwell Point Get to the Point Program advised of the need for Alcohol Prohibited signs to be placed in Titania Park as drinking in the park was becoming an increasing problem.

Council Response

Mr Greg Roberts advised of the report to Council in relation to Alcohol Prohibited Signs in Reserves throughout the Shoalhaven.

b) Shoalhaven Mail – Council news

Community Representatives

Concerns were raised in regard to Council's shareholdings in the Shoalhaven Mail and also to the fact that an ex-Councillor was chairman of the Company. The CCBs asked the length of the contract with Shoalhaven Mail. The Currarong Progress Association requested if it was possible for copies of the Shoalhaven Mail to be placed in Post Office boxes in Currarong.

Council Response

Clr Anderson explained that there was no possible gain for Council in regard of holding shares and it was considered an alternative for Council news. Circulation figures proved that it was the best medium to reach the greatest number of people. The Contract is for 18 months. It was advised that the owner of the Shoalhaven mail would be advised of the request for Post Office box deliveries in Currarong.

ACTION: Media Manager to contact the Shoalhaven Mail to request Post Office box deliveries in Currarong.

GENERAL BUSINESS

a) Callala Beach Progress Association

Community Representatives

Ms Margaret Day informed the meeting that she was acting as President at the moment but the group were having difficulties filling Executive positions and it was feared the group may fold. Final decision would be made at the meeting on 12th May 2008.

Council Response

Mr Pigg spoke on behalf of Council and wished the Callala Beach Progress Association good luck at their meeting and advised that Council appreciated the efforts of the group have put in over the many years they have been together.

b) Road Works -Currarong

Community Representatives

The Currarong Progress Association advised of the need for urgent resealing to be done on the gravel carpark at Abrahams Bosom Beach and requested a list of gravel carparks to determine priorities. The CCB expressed their appreciation to staff members Glen Elliott, Robert Sutherland and Mark Buckland for the work done so far

Council Response

Mr Sutherland advised draft Strategy for Recreation Car Park Sealing was to go on exhibition and a submission should be made by the CCB.

ACTION: SPG to draft an article for the Shoalhaven Mail in regard to the expression of appreciation for work completed at Currarong.

c) Sewerage Scheme - Currarong

Council Response

Mr Pigg introduced Ms Carmel Krogh, Director – Shoalhaven Water who spoke to the meeting to update news on the Currarong Sewerage Scheme. Ms Krogh advised that tenders for construction had closed and were currently being assessed. It was hoped that a set program would be submitted to Council by June. The DA for the pumping stations had been approved and Newsletters would be circulated soon advising of where and when the work would commence

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 11.45 am.

Russ Pigg
CHAIRPERSON