

MEETING NOTES

MEETING WITH CENTRAL AREA 2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE BODIES

FRIDAY 9TH MAY 2008

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

The meeting commenced at 10.03 am.

PRESENT

Russ Pigg – Chairperson

Clr Watson

Clr Willmott

John Gould – Assistant General Manager

John Wells – Director City Services and Operations

Ernie Royston – Director Strategic Planning Group – arrived 10.30 am

Carmel Krogh – Director Shoalhaven Water

Peter Dun – Director Finance & Corporate Services Group – arrived 11.05 am

Tim Fletcher – Development Building Manager

Robert Sutherland – Infrastructure Planning Manager

Lachlan Harris – Media Manager

Greg Roberts – Executive Support Manager

Gwen Wiggins – Sussex Inlet Community Forum

David Tarbert - Sussex Inlet Community Forum

Stephen Murphy – Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice

Meshelle Knapp – Huskisson Chamber of Tourism and Commerce – arrived 10.16 am

David Remenick - Huskisson Chamber of Tourism and Commerce – arrived 10.16 am

Liz Tooley – Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association

Brian Sanders - Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association

Pamela Wells – Basin Villagers Forum

Jenny Smith – Callala Bay Progress Association (missed Central Area 1 meeting)

Jennifer Barnes – Callala Bay Progress Association (missed Central Area 1 meeting)

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Carmel Krogh

1. Welcome and Introduction

The General Manager welcomed all participants to the meeting.

2. General Manager

a) Draft Management Plan and Budget

Mr Pigg advised the meeting of the three public meetings for the Draft Management Plan (DMP) on 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 and

gave a demonstration on how to access the DMP on Council's website and also, as the document is so large, how to use the "find" tool to find items pertinent to each group

Community Representatives

The Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association suggested that Council send out both a hard copy and a CD to CCBs

ACTION: F&CS to investigate the feasibility of sending the draft Management Plan by CD to CCBs.

b) Council News and Ads in the "Shoalhaven Mail"

Council Response

Mr Pigg advised that Council news stories were to appear for the first time in the edition of the Shoalhaven Mail due to appear on 18 May 2008. Fortnightly distribution would be by letterbox drop in the major centres and available at drop off points in other areas. During discussions it was discovered that there was no drop off point at Old Erowal Bay and Mr Pigg noted that letterbox drop may be better in that area.

Mr Pigg encouraged the CCBs to provide feedback in regard to the publication.

ACTION: Media Manager to investigate the possibility of letterbox drops of the Shoalhaven Mail for Old Erowal Bay.

Community Representatives

Concerns were raised over the issue of "No Junk Mail" stickers on letterboxes and whether this impact on delivery of the Shoalhaven Mail

Council Response

The CCBs were advised that the Shoalhaven mail would not be delivered to letterboxes that had "No Junk Mail" stickers on them. (during discussion on this item Cllr Watson contacted the Shoalhaven Mail and advised that 20 orange and black "Shoalhaven Mail" stickers would be supplied to each CCB so that letterboxes displaying "Shoalhaven Mail" as well as "No Junk Mail" would receive the Shoalhaven Mail.

ACTION: F&CS to follow up receipt of Shoalhaven Mail stickers.

c) Councillor "Communications" Reimbursement

Mr Pigg mentioned the proposed amendment to Council Members Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy and that all submissions would be considered and a report would be submitted to Council in late May 2008.

d) Minutes from CCBs

Mr Pigg reminded the CCBs of their responsibility to send the minutes from their meetings to Council. It was recognised that most of the groups present were complying and that Council

appreciated the CCBs sending their minutes by email. Electronic documents are easier to circulate to all Councillors and Group Directors.

e) Amendments to the Guidelines for the Conduct of Community Consultative Bodies

The meeting was advised that the amendments to the Guidelines were based on the acceptance of Special Interest Groups, such as Chambers of Tourism/Commerce and would be reported to Council soon. The guidelines for Special Interest Groups are significantly different to those for Community based groups. If the changes are adopted the document will be placed on public exhibition and will be available on the Internet. Submissions are welcome.

f) Council's Business Papers

The CCBs were advised of the review being undertaken on the number of hard copy business papers currently being printed and the cost involved. Mr Pigg stated that 150 copies were currently being printed and in an attempt to reduce this number encouraged the CCB to rethink their need for the hard copy. A demonstration of the simplicity of searching the business paper on Council's website was given showing the groups that if certain keys words were typed into the "Find" function there was no need to have to read the whole document. Mr Pigg asked the CCBs to consider the option of accessing the business paper through the web and to advise Council of their decision.

Community Representatives

Suggestions were forwarded from some CCBs that a copy of the business paper on Disc would be acceptable or that if they were to access the website would Council consider raising the yearly CCB subsidy

ACTION: F&CS to investigate circulating the Business papers by electronic disc.

3. CITY SERVICES & OPERATIONS GROUP

a) Vandalism and Graffiti – public amenities (*Basin Villagers Forum*)

Mr Wells advised the meeting that because of budget limitations the priority was given to repairing damage caused by vandalism so that infrastructure remained functional and often the removal of graffiti was a second priority because of this.

Community Representatives

The meeting was advised that the Perspex covers on noticeboards were being vandalised and having to be replaced on a regular basis.

b) Booderee Avenue, Hymas Beach – Linemarking time frame (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

Mr Wells advised there was a crew at Hyams Beach in their third week of linemarking.

c) Estimation of Use of the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

The meeting was advised that preliminary bookings indicated that there is 137 nights booked in the main auditorium and 53 nights booked in the smaller auditorium where there are 190 retractable seats. (During later discussions Mr Wells distributed booklets on the Entertainment Centre)

d) Budget Shortfall – Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

Mr Wells told the CCBs that the Entertainment Centre was a cost to the community but then so were the aquatic centres, pools and libraries and these were all considered good value for money. The Entertainment Centre itself will generate revenue for the whole area and also provide employment positions. It was considered to be a win, win situation and Mr Wells hoped that the community concurred.

e) Thanks To Council (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

Mr Wells told the CCBs that positive feed back was always fed back through to staff and was always appreciated.

f) Progress Update – Library at Stockland, Vincentia (*Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association*)

Mr Wells advised that Council was negotiating with Stockland in regard to the necessity of providing a Library at least 1000m² in size within the Crossroads facility requiring a staff of six, at an approximate cost of \$4M. Mr Wells explained that the Sanctuary Point Library was of minimum size requiring two full time staff and one librarian

Funding for the Library would be made up from grants, developer contributions and the balance by Council.

Mr Pigg advised that the consent authority for the Crossroads project was be the Department of Planning.

4. STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP

a) Update on Citywide Growth Management Strategy and LEP

Mr Royston advised of the success of the CityWide Growth Management Workshops held in February and that preparation of the Strategy was in progress and the consultation outcomes would be reported to Council soon 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. Staff shortages have caused some delays in the procedure but Council has nominated the project as a high priority and it was hoped that reports would go to Council by late June or early July and then on to State Government .

The document will be sent to Government authorities during exhibition, Public Meetings will be held and submissions will be invited. All submissions will be considered and reported to Council, then to State Government and the Minister.

b) Progress update – Skatepark for Central Shoalhaven (*Basin Villages Forum*)

The meeting was advised that Council was still looking at the site options available. Ideally the skatepark would be situated within the Bay and Basin Leisure Centre precinct but there are

environmental issues regarding the site. Mr Royston requested the CCB to forward any suggestions the Community may have in regard to where the skatepark should go.

c) Infrastructure Plan – DCP 54 (*Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice*)

Mr Royston advised that preliminary work had been completed on the Infrastructure Plan for Huskisson DCP 54. The State Government has recently proposed changes limiting the ability of Council to charge S94 Contributions for certain facilities and this uncertainty has slowed the progress of this work. Council has been assured that the issue will soon be sorted out and work will then progress.

d) Parking (*Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice*)

The meeting was advised that 90 car parking spaces will be provided in the initial plan period and Council will look at future options for more parking within the Huskisson CBD area.

e) Pedestrian Crossing (*Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice*)

Mr Royston explained to the meeting that kerb blisters and pedestrian refuges were the preferred options for pedestrian safety within Huskisson rather than traditional pedestrian crossings.

Community Representatives

The Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice enquired if a raised roadway for the pedestrian safety areas or a bypass were possible options.

Council Response

It was advised that the main street would be a shared (pedestrian/traffic) zone and raised walkways would be considered. This may depend on traffic volumes in the area. A bypass would be difficult to achieve if it traverses the National Park.

f) Form Letters – Need for Reference to further information

The CCBs were advised that in some cases over 100 submissions can be received and to individually respond to each one would be nearly impossible with the current resources. Council would review the possibility of including more information in regard to reporting to Council but only 1% of DAs were reported to Council as most were dealt with under delegated authority.

It was advised that once technical issues had been sorted 79C assessments were to be placed on Council's DA Tracking program to provide more information regarding DAs.

Community Representatives

The Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association brought to the meeting a suggested concept that could be developed/refined for inclusion on Council's DA Tracking. The document tabled was a simple form titled Development Application - Check List - Residential Building.

Council Response

Mr Fletcher thanked the CCBs for the feedback and explained that he would have to approach Infomaster, the company that owns the DA Tracking software, and negotiate any changes with them. Mr Fletcher agreed that the concept was workable.

g) New LEP – various issues and 3(g) zones (*Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice*)

The meeting was advised that all codes and all DCPs will be compiled into one format and the public will only have to look in one site for information.

Mr Fletcher informed the CCBs that Council resolved to engage urban design consultants and a workshop for the community on the Beach Street, Huskisson 3 (g) zone was scheduled for 4th June at 7.00 pm in Council's Reception Room.. This is the first of the 3 (g) precincts in Huskisson and Council is looking at developing guidelines.

h) Council's Monetary Return on Advertising Seats (*Hyams Beach Villagers Association*)

Community Representatives

The CCBs asked why the Claude Neon Seats had been placed all over the Shoalhaven and what was Council's estimated money return/profit on the seats. Are they bus seats or just for relaxing? Concerns were raised on the lack of consultation and the Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association requested that the seat constructed in Vincentia be removed as it is unsightly and also sited at an intersection and possibly dangerous.

Council Response

The meeting was advised that there is a 50% net profit on the seats for Council and that they are basically a structure for advertising only. Mr Gould asked if there was a site that would be more preferable for the seat.

Clr Willmott stated that because of the aging demographic he considered them to be resting points.

The CCB stated there was no preference for relocation of the seat in Vincentia.

ACTION: SPG to investigate the removal of the Claude Neon Seat at Vincentia.

i) Cycleway – Update on Changes (*Sussex Inlet Community Forum*)

Mr Royston advised that a report would be submitted to Council to reinforce the 1.8m approach as being preferable and advised the Sussex Inlet Community Forum to speak to him following the meeting.

j) Progress Update – Overtaking lane Springs Rd & Hoffman Dr (*Sussex Inlet Community Forum*)

Mr Royston advised that a report went to Council the previous evening and that additional grant funding of \$54,500 had been received. Work would commence today on the works.

k) Update – Footpath South Side of Jacobs Drive (*Sussex Inlet Community Forum*)

The meeting was advised that the construction of the footpath is included in the Works Program 2008/09 in the Draft Management Plan and will go ahead if resolved by Council.

l) Removal of Claude Neon Concrete Seats (*Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association*)

This item was dealt with in 4 h) above.

m) Update – Pathway/cycleway Burton St to Plantation Pt (*Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association*)

The meeting was advised that Stage 1 of the pathway/cycleway was due to commence in June 2008 with Stage 2 scheduled for 2010/11. This would complete the residue through to Plantation Point.

Community Representatives

The Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association were concerned with the risk of accidents and requested that the pathway/cycleway be completed to Burton Street this year.

The Basin Villages Forum requested information on what's happening with Basin Road and Dean Street as the danger possibility in this area has been talked about for the last four years?

Council Response

Mr Royston explained to the CCB the difficulty with competing interests for priority to construct the pathway/cycleways and invited the CCBs to make submissions to the Draft Management Plan so that priority listing can take place.

With regard to Basin Road and Dean Street the project is expected to be funded in 2008/09.

Issues from Central Area 1 Meeting (*Callala Bay Progress Association*)

Mr Pigg raised at this point the Callala Bay Progress Association's issues from the Central Area 1 CCB meeting with Council. Unfortunately the representatives from Callala Bay missed the previous meeting and requested their items be discussed today.

i. Swimming Pool for Callala Bay

The Callala Bay Progress Association had requested that Council consider the construction of a swimming pool at Callala Bay as it was needed not only for recreation but for rehabilitation needs.

This was not a policy of Council and it was advised that this was a difficult issue as the pool would cost at least \$4M to construct and would lose \$200,000 per year, the project was not feasible.

ii. Retirement Villages – Possibilities for Callala Bay

Council is aware of the large elderly population in the Callala Bay area but thus far most of the main public services were available in the main towns. 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.

iii. Lack of Public Transport

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.

5. SHOALHAVEN WATER GROUP

a) Sewerage (*Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice*)

Mr John Gould spoke on behalf of Carmel Krogh, Director of Shoalhaven Water, and explained that 5 – 6 years ago Council, in conjunction with the State Government, increased the design of the sewerage treatment plan with the future population growth in the Huskisson area in mind.

Mr Gould advised that Council was not aware of any major spills in the Moona Moona Creek and that any potential spills were caught in storage tanks until the pump station is repaired. The CCBs were asked whether there were any instances of sewerage spills into Moona Moona Creek as none had been recorded.

6. FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP

a) Council Elections

Mr Greg Roberts advised the CCBs that the elections were to be held on 13th September with the nominations for Councillors closing on 13th August. Sessions for those intending to run as Councillors were being held in Kiama. Applications for non residential rolls and residential rolls, booklets and other publications are available through Mr Roberts until 4th August.

b) Revision of CCB Guidelines

This item dealt with in 2 e) above

c) Council's Achievements

The Shoalhaven Mail addresses this issue as Council news and Council ads are now published there.

d) Proliferation of Unauthorised Signage on Public Lands, Council Fines (*Basin Villages Forum*)

Community Representatives

The CCB advised Council of the large amount of unattractive signs located on Island Point Road that advertised cafes, land sales etc. The Basin Villages Community Forum and the Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association had both written to Council on the issue and had not received a reply. It was advised that the tree in Paul Bland Reserve was bleeding because of all the nail holes from signs.

Council Response

Mr Dun noted the lack of reply to letters and advised he would look into the matter. Mr Dun explained that Council did have a Compliance Policy and Signage Strategy but with a lack of resources issues such as foreshore vandalism and tree cutting took precedence where the Rangers duties were concerned. On weekends only two Rangers were employed and their time was usually taken with more important issues.

If the CCBs wrote to Council with specific information this would trigger a response and if there was enough community response to this issue Council would reevaluate the priorities.

If Council is successful in prosecution of any of these offences it will be published in the Shoalhaven Mail

ACTION: F&CS to look into non-reply to letters from CCBs regarding illegal signage on Jervis Bay Road and Island Pt Road. Ensure any successful prosecutions are published in the Shoalhaven Mail

e) Geographic Area – Huskisson Chamber of Tourism and Commerce (*Hyams Beach Villages Association*)

Mr Pigg explained that the Guidelines for the Conduct of Community Consultative Bodies were currently being amended to distinguish between community based CCBs and Special Interest CCBs such as the Huskisson Chamber of Tourism and Commerce. Those Special Interest CCBs are not treated the same and only consulted on Special Interest Issues. It was advised that the more groups there were the broader the range of feedback for Council.

Mr Pigg invited the CCBs to make comment through submissions to the Guidelines for CCBs while they were on exhibition.

f) Explanation – Council’s Freedom of Information (FOI) Policy

It was explained to the meeting that in regard to the FOI policy Council looks at whether the information is in the public’s interest or not. Everything is open but exemptions apply such as “contrary to the Public Interest” or if it would reveal personal information etc.

Community Representatives

The CCBs asked what is the position if Council says no to release of information. What recourse is available? If confidential information is leaked what is Council’s position then?

Council Response

It was advised that anyone can appeal a decision and have the request for information considered by someone else. You can also appeal to the NSW Ombudsman’s Office. In regard to the leaking of confidential information Council’s position is that the information is confidential so it can not be talked about. However, if the information is released, it is then unable to control its use.

7. DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

a) Proliferation of unauthorised Signage on Public Lands – Council Fines (*Basin Villages Forum*)

This item was dealt with in 6 d) above.

b) Village Image – Completion date of Cerulli Building (*Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice*)

Mr Fletcher advised that he has contacted the developers on a number of occasions and will continue to put pressure on them to complete the venture. It looks like it has progressed recently.

c) DA Tracking – More User Friendly – Working Group to Review (*Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association*)

This item dealt with in 4 f) above.

d) Real Estate Signage (*Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association*)

This item dealt with in 6 d) above.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Community Representative

The Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice congratulated Council and the Coastal Planners for the progress on Coastline Management and also for the excellent brochures of Foreshores.

Mr Pigg thanked everyone for time in attending the meeting

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

Russ Pigg
CHAIRPERSON