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Council calls for ideas on Civic Centre redesign

Shoalhaven City Council is beginning community consultation over the redesign of the **41**-year-old Ulladulla Civic Centre.

The civic centre includes the public hall, Ulladulla Library, a Tourist Information Centre, and a space for seniors, and associated kitchen and serving areas. Built in 1969 the centre has seen better days and Council has established a fund for the redesign and investigations as well as provided \$5.6 million in funding over two financial years to go towards the redesign.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green said it's vital that Council listens to the community and works with the various citizens, community associations and user groups to ensure that the redesign can accommodate the growing southern towns of the city.

"Council has been in contact with the Ulladulla and Districts Community Forum and the Ulladulla Working Party on the civic centre upgrade," Cllr Green said. We also need to hear through a community survey, workshops, and our internet site what the good people of Ulladulla and other villages would like to see the new civic centre provide for the next 40 or 50 years."

Council has constructed a new internet site containing the history, background to the previous works on the centre and the Woodhead Report in 1999 that outlined some design ideas for the centre.

"Council also recognises that the civic centre has provided a significant place in the history of Ulladulla whether it was Ulladulla youth enjoying a Hush concert in the early 1970s, or members of the town enjoying a Blessing of The Fleet ceremony or even their own wedding. We can't forget that this place houses some fantastic memories for many people.

"We now need to ensure that we capture the best of the centre and bring it into the 21st century through innovative design and eco-friendly techniques to address some of the faults that the centre is now showing, such as the thermal comfort of the building."

Council staff will be liaising with and listening to community groups, associations, and citizens who have had an interest in seeing the centre redesigned.

"Right now it's important that Council listen to the community to see what they would like a revised centre to provide, such as café, wifi, better access, library or other amenities that we haven't heard about yet."

Council will also work with the Ulladulla and Districts Forum on a community survey on the centre. There will be workshops on the proposals to be held in coming months as well as an on line survey through Council's internet site, see www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au.

Background

Then Council President Councillor John Hatton officially opened the Milton-Ulladulla Civic Centre [as it was then called] on 14 June 1969. The centre, containing a public hall, pre-school kindergarten and library, was constructed at a cost of \$72,000. The Ulladulla Apex Club conducted the survey which proved the need for a centre. The centre saw additions in 1982 and 1991.

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