

**MINUTES OF THE BLAND SHIRE COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP MEETING
HELD IN THE BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 9 MAY 2017
COMMENCING AT 6.30PM**

Present:

Jill Funnell, Amanda Stitt, Barry Cooper, Allan Schirmer, Sarah Gillett, Wendy Bowles, Pam Clarke, Fran Jackson, Therese MacFarlane, Anne Bolton, Martin Lane (entered at 6.58), Cr Tony Lord, Cr Jan Wyse, Cr Penny English, Cr Kerry Keatley, Cr Murray Thomas, Cr Bruce Baker, Cr Rodney Crowe, Cr Brian Monaghan (entered at 6:52pm), Ray Smith (General Manager), Will Marsh (Director Assets and Engineering Services), Adele Casey (Director Corporate, Community and Development Services), Lesley Duncan (Manager Development Services), Craig Sutton (Community Relations Officer), Rebecca McDonell (Community Development Officer).

Apologies: Dot Smith, Cr Liz McGlynn

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mayor Tony Lord welcomed everyone to the meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING

1. RV Friendly/Motorcycle Friendly Town

The Mayor advised that the Community Relations Officer (CRO) has been in recent discussions with Ulysses motorcycle group and their Sydney Odyssey will be held in West Wyalong on 12-14 October 2017.

The CRO has also been in recent contact with the Camping and Motor Home Club of Australia regarding RV friendly town.

2. Free Camping – Coinda Park

Funds have been placed in draft 2017/18 budget to tidy and beautify area. If budget adopted, determination on works to be completed can occur. There has been no decision or discussions regarding the future plans for the area.

3. Car/Caravan Parking

Funds have been identified in the Draft 2017/18 budget to reline and for minor fixes to Water Street Car Park. Awaiting adoption of budget.

4. Street Art

The Mayor advised:

Town entrance signage - no funds allocated in draft budget. Grants will be monitored.

Murals/Silos – Community Development Officer is sourcing funding for future works.

Fran Jackson advised that the art group are interested in creating an art trail as they are popular in other areas and create interest for visitors. Funding would be required to be sourced to assist with the project with various ideas raised by those present including private/public partnerships, crowd funding and grants.

5. Heritage Plaques

The Mayor advised a small allocation has been placed in draft 2017/18 budget for some additional main street plaques. On adoption of the budget a determination of the plaques to be installed will be made.

6. Future Projects

An allocation of \$200,000 has been made in the draft 2017/18 budget to prepare future projects to the shovel ready stage. The projects have not yet been determined and will need to be presented to Council for approval prior to any funds being spent.

NEW BUSINESS

7. 125 Year Celebrations

Various ideas for the celebrations relating to the 125 years were put forward and included:

- Street art
- Steam train (Cowra or Cootamundra)
- Pavement plaques along the lines of Circular Quay or Queanbeyan
- Ball with a 'Back to West Wyalong' theme.

It was suggested a subcommittee be formed and Cr English expressed her interest in being part of the committee.

8. Disability Inclusion Access Plan (DIAP)

The Mayor advised the DIAP will be presented to the May Council Meeting to be approved for public exhibition. He also thanked Rebecca McDonnell for writing the DIAP and commended her for her efforts. Those present were encouraged to provide feedback.

9. IZI - Travel App

Lesley Duncan and Craig Sutton provided a demonstration of the App. They informed the meeting that the Museum Advisor had provided the initial advise about the App and was currently working with the Village Museums to create their own tours. Both Craig and Lesley have been instrumental in developing the material and recordings for the App and a launch will occur when complete.

Following the presentation it was highlighted that free wifi in the main street would make the app more accessible.

10. Wetlands

Discussion was held regarding extending the wetlands to the area adjacent to Cooinda Park where the natural waterway exists. It was thought that tidying the area and providing access would open the area up, be visually pleasing, allow more recreational pursuits such as kayak access rather than in the passive area across the road.

The mayor indicated staff would investigate.

11. Wyalong Wattle

Discussion was held around the Wyalong Wattle and the possibility of planting within Cooinda Park along the Newell Hwy. It was also suggested that if seedlings were available, Council could give as gifts.

Alan Schirmer indicated he had seeds that could be propagated.

The mayor indicated staff would investigate.

12. Engraved Pavers

It was raised that pavers could be an alternative to the 'grey strip' currently bordering the main street. Examples can be found at West Wyalong Public School, Burcher and Tallimba.

The pavers could be sponsored to reduce costs to Council. It was suggested this could also be linked to the 125 Years celebrations and may encourage families/previous residents to return.

The mayor indicated staff would investigate.

13. General Business

Barry Cooper questioned why the media box had not been erected at Ron Crowe Oval as was indicated in the original planning. The Mayor and General Manager advised that the media box was in the long term plan and there were insufficient funds to complete the project. The mayor advised that staff would continue to look for funding and use the available funds as leverage.

The general manager was questioned as to whether the exclusion of a media box was holding back the opportunity for accessing big games. The general manager indicated that it was not the lack of a media box, that could be brought in for one off events, rather capacity and additional requirements that cannot be met. He then went on to explain that high level junior games were the best chance of success.

It was brought to the attention of those present that Wagga Heat and Dubbo Rams would be playing their Div 1 Waratah League (State) game in West Wyalong on 24 June.

Barry Cooper advised the meeting that Craig Sutton and Rebecca McDonell are regular Community Radio DJ's and provide a wealth of information relating to the community and what is happening.

Sarah Gillett provided an update on the West Wyalong Riding for the Disabled facility. Sarah advised that she has successfully gained accreditation to teach and the facility passed with flying colours. Ms Gillett also advised that she has had enquiries from Lake Cargelligo, Condobolin, Temora and the Bland Shire and all prospective students were currently working through the enrolment process.

MS Gillett commended the High School staff and students for their assistance throughout the process and the support received from Craig Sutton, Rebecca McDonell and Council.

The Mayor thanked Ms Gillett and commended her and her team for such a great addition to the community.

Martin Lane suggested the In the West art prize won by local sculpture Ralph Tikerpae be located at McAlister oval. Mr Lane was advised the sculpture has been installed at Coinda Park.

Pam Clarke expressed concerns relating to the impact free camping may have on other business in town and questioned if a decision had been made. The general manager advised no decision had been made and would be considered following adoption of the draft budget.

An update on the cinema was provided stating that the decision relating to the grant application was still pending.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Community Reference Group meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 July at the Bland Shire Council Chambers at 6.30pm.

15. CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.26 pm.