



MINUTES

ENGAGING AND COMMUNICATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

**North Shore
11 June 2014**

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Besseling
Councillor Robert Turner
Deputy Mayor Adam Roberts
Councillor Lisa Intemann
Councillor Justin Levido
Councillor Geoffrey Hawkins
Councillor Trevor Sargeant
Councillor Sharon Griffiths

Craig Swift-McNair (Acting General Manager)
Rebecca Olsen (Acting Director Commercial Services & Industry Engagement)
Jeffery Sharp (Director of Infrastructure & Asset Management)
Lesley Atkinson (Director of Community & Organisational Development)
Matt Rogers (Director of Development & Environment)

24 community members

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Michael Cusato

The Mayor welcomed those in attendance and introduced the Councillors and Council staff members present.

The Mayor also provided the Acknowledgement of Country.

Applicant	Stella Hughes
Question Submitted	Something definite must be done to stop drivers access North Shore Beach by the route from Settlement Point Ferry, also, to a lesser extent via Hibbard.
Comments	There is no other road access available to North Shore beach. These are public roads which we cannot stop motorists using.
Meeting Notes / Action	<p>The Mayor requested more information on what the real issue is with this question.</p> <p>The issue really is access to the southern end of the beach where people are only allowed access for 2 months of the year.</p> <p>There is only a small sign at present that does not do the job of telling people there is no access etc. Need a larger sign and some random Ranger patrols. According to the residents, Kempsey Shire Council have the signage right in relation to beach access.</p> <p>Request that there be increased Ranger patrols during the peak tourist season of Jan / Feb.</p>

Applicant	Stella Hughes
Question Submitted	Flaps on Hibbard Ferry need to be made movable at edges so that off-loading vehicles do not hit tyres and car aprons, especially at Boundary Street exit, which causes damage.
Comments	At certain tides the ferry access can be more difficult and this is a very complex matter to address. Council is looking at potential ways to improve this, however, this will be a costly adjustment.
Meeting Notes / Action	Jeffery Sharp spoke to this item as per the details above.

Applicant	Stella Hughes
Question Submitted	<p>As no major road repairs are now effected along Riverside Drive, all potholes should be resurfaced when weather not at its hottest, as happened last week. My car now heavy on tiny stones on back wheel and being disabled I'm unable to remove as I've done in the past. My tyre now subject to punctures because of insertion into tyre rubber with their pointed structure.</p> <p>Incident reported by phone, promise to ring me not kept, as a 30 year resident I hoped for help.</p>
Comments	<p>Jetpatch road repairs are necessary to be undertaken at all times of the year. Tyre pickup is a usual side effect of this procedure, the aggregate used in the jetpacher is a small stone of approximately 7-10mm in size and is not prone to causing any tyre damage. Any aggregate retained on the tyres is the same as the product on the road and would cause no more damage than driving over the patched area. Stone that has been picked up will generally be dislodged in a very short period of driving.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	<p>Lesley Atkinson provided information relating to the customer service process in relation to customers wanting to make a request for action i.e. the CRM system was briefly explained.</p>

Applicant	Northside Progress Association
Question Submitted	<p>At the recommendation of the SES we believe it will be a positive educational process if some flood markers can be attached to power poles at North Shore and Hibbard ferry locations (1.72m and 2.55m). Will Council proceed with this asap?</p>
Comments	<p>Council would be happy to install flood markers at these locations as soon as is practical.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	<p>Northside Progress Association happy with this response and that action is being taken.</p>

Applicant	Northside Progress Association
Question Submitted	<p>Large amounts of road base are dumped on North Beach car park, thereby restricting car parking. This beach is featured in the latest Tourist Guide for the Hastings. This is also an everyday parking area in flood time.</p> <p>When will Council find alternative sites?</p>
Comments	<p>The stockpile is used for Council's unsealed roads located on the North Shore. It is intended to continue to use this site as a temporary stockpile site to store materials that become available in preparation for six monthly unsealed road maintenance in this area.</p> <p>Unfortunately there are very limited alternative sites in this location to suit this specific requirement.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	<p>Jeffery Sharp spoke to this item as per the details above.</p> <p>Request that we find another stock pile or expand the car park where the stock pile is as there is no room for parking now.</p> <p>When cars do try to park there, the Council staff cannot get access to the stock piles.</p> <p>Is there a possibility Council could ask Crown Lands if we could keep our stock pile at the quarry.</p> <p>Jeffery Sharp will investigate this further, noting that we have not previously been able to gain permission to do this.</p>

Applicant	Northside Progress Association
Question Submitted	What concrete steps has Council taken to improve communications between it, the ferry operator and residents in times of breakdown and in particular in times of flood? Ferrymen have cut off their twitter account which was linked to two websites.
Comments	There is no requirement for a twitter account to be utilised. A more detailed communication plan, specifically outlining performance responsibilities will now be in place under the new operating contract, this includes Council, the Operator and SES working together to develop plans relating to ferry operations, including communications during floods and adverse conditions. The details of this are currently being finalised with the Ferry Operator and will be available in due course.
Meeting Notes / Action	<p>When the ferries are being serviced, whilst there is signage that the ferry is out of service, it does not tell people where to go for the other ferry service...this is OK for locals, but not for tourists.</p> <p>Jeffery Sharp detailed changes in ferry ticketing to take place shortly as a result of the new tender that was recently awarded.</p> <p>The RFS asked if Council could make a contribution to the RFS for the use of their rooms when tickets are being sold. Council had no objection to this request....Jeffery Sharp to confirm details. It should be noted that ticket sales will need to cease on Wed 25 June at 6:00pm due to the AGM taking place on the premises.</p> <p>There were comments by residents that the name and number of appropriate ferry operators is supposed to be displayed on the ferries, but is not currently.</p> <p>Jeffery Sharp will investigate this issue further.</p>

Applicant	Northside Progress Association
Question Submitted	<p>What long term strategy does the Council have for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Widening road to Hibbard Ferry landing on North Shore side. 2. Replacing Hibbard Ferry; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Due to population increase b. Increased tourism. 3. What plans do Council have to beautify both approaches to Hibbard Ferry? Recent roadworks clean up has been minimal. Maritime Museum is visited by tourists.
Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are no proposals to widen this section of road. Investigations have been made into potential widening of the approach ramps for the Hibbard Ferry, however no designs/approvals or cost estimates have been made and no programming undertaken. 2. There is very limited potential for population growth due to current planning provisions restricting development in the North Shore Area. The current average patronage of Hibbard Ferry is less than 5 cars per trip - with higher numbers in peak periods. The current level of all usage growth for all ferry trips (Hibbard & Settlement Point) over the past 5 years is only 2.5%. Therefore replacement due to growth is not justified. 3. There are currently no plans for any additional works to these areas.
Meeting Notes / Action	<p>Jeffery Sharp spoke to the issue of the ramps at Hibbard ferry as per the comments above.</p> <p>Questions were asked as to what Riverside Drive near the Hibbard ferry end were not being widened.</p> <p>Jeffery Sharp responded in relation to issues with private land ownership and the river bank as being contributing factors to this road issue, noting it is not currently on Council's agenda to widen this road.</p> <p>Line marking on the new Boundary St works was raised in that it forces people to queue more or less in the middle of the road.</p> <p>Jeffery Sharp will look into this.</p> <p>Need to investigate how and where traffic will queue on Boundary St when there is a lot of traffic for the ferry i.e. with traffic lights now, you cannot just queue around the corner.</p> <p>Jeffery Sharp will look into this.</p> <p>Request made to see if the Hibbard ferry operating hours could be extended to 7:00pm on Friday and Saturdays at least during summer. Jeffery Sharp responded that this does come at a cost but could be looked at, noting we have not previously had that request.</p>

Applicant	Northside Progress Association
Question Submitted	<p>When will Council arrange regular ranger trips to North Shore beach, coal wharf and surrounds?</p> <p>NSPA were informed that extra funds were available but little evidence of rangers.</p> <p>Illegal camping with rubbish left, branches broken down for firewood etc.</p>
Comments	<p>Council Rangers are making regular trips to the North Shore and surrounds. The extent of the Rangers presence on the North Shore is dictated by the resources available and the extent of areas required to be covered across the whole local government area.</p> <p>There has been no additional funding allocated to Ranger resources. However, there has recently been a change in the rostering of Rangers to increase the spread of normal work hours to include Saturdays. It is expected that this will provide an increase opportunity for proactive patrols on the North Shore.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	<p>Matt Rogers spoke to the issue as per the above notes.</p> <p>Matt reinforced that there was no additional Ranger funding and that we had 5 x Rangers for the entire local government area.</p> <p>The issue of Ranger visits only being reactive was raised. Matt spoke about a Proactive Enforcement Program that the Rangers have where certain areas can be targeted at certain times. Matt will address placing the North Shore on this list for peak times.</p> <p>Matt will follow up issues relating to access to Coal Wharf where the bollards are down etc.</p>

Applicant	Northside Progress Association
Question Submitted	<p>What plans does Council have to demolish the old toilet block at Coal Wharf reserve?</p> <p>Still used although no facilities.</p>
Comments	<p>The Coal Wharf Reserve toilet block was closed several years ago following ongoing, significant vandalism of this site. Council adopted to build a new facility at Ferry Reserve and had planned to demolish the facility at Coal Wharf Reserve. Crown Lands requested that Council not demolish this asset as they have plans to develop Coal Wharf Reserve as a primitive camp site in coming years (they indicated 5 years approx 2 years ago). On this basis, the building was retained.</p> <p>Council Staff will be bricking up the doorways to the old amenities and a bobcat will be removing the pump house behind the amenities in the next couple of weeks until such time as Crown Lands are ready to assume responsibility for the Reserve.</p> <p>Council is also aware of the recent vandalism to the chained gate and metal pipe gate into the Reserve to allow access with Council currently discussing accessibility to the Reserve with NSPA.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	<p>Jeffery Sharp spoke to this item as per the details above.</p> <p>It was agreed that Council would write to the Crown to clarify their intent for this reserve considering earlier commitments from the Crown that it would become a nature reserve.</p> <p>Matt Rogers to action this.</p>

Applicant	Northside Progress Association
Question Submitted	What plans do Council have for Kangaroo Park?
Comments	Kangaroo Park is operational land that was purchased by Council many years ago as a possible site for future bridge abutment when plans to link Settlement Point with North Shore by bridge existed. Council slash this site a couple of times each year, however there are no current plans being considered by Council on this holding.
Meeting Notes / Action	Jeffery Sharp spoke to this item as per the details above. Question was asked about signage for the park, however as it is not officially a park, there will be no signage placed there at this stage.

Applicant	Northside Progress Association
Question Submitted	Ferry - please advise whose responsibility it is when damage is done to vehicles on the ferry - the Council or the operator?
Comments	As noted on the signage prior to boarding the ferries, motorists or pedestrians who utilise the ferries accept that neither Council nor the operator of the ferries are liable for any damage, loss or injury to persons or property utilising the ferry.
Meeting Notes / Action	Jeffery Sharp spoke to this item as per the details above. Vehicle accidents on the ferry are treated as per any other accident on a roadway - residents are encouraged to contact the Police.

Applicant	Northside Progress Association
Question Submitted	Please advise the schedule to replace / repaint the Maria River Road sign and as discussed with Malin Toft, when will the sign with the Council Shire Clerk's name be removed and the fishing sign moved to the east of the ferry?
Comments	<p>The fisheries sign (legal catch limit) is currently located in a prominent location for motorists. Moving the sign to the suggested location, adjacent to the boat shed, will free up space and be more visually appealing, however, it will lessen the intent of the sign and will likely distract motorists as they are driving onto the ferry, in addition, relocation of this sign would need to be undertaken in conjunction with the Dept of Fisheries.</p> <p>Council staff are currently investigating the replacement of the Tourist Route and Road Condition sign next to the fisheries sign.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	Jeffery Sharp spoke to this item as per the details above.

Applicant	Northside Progress Association
Question Submitted	Due to incidents, Maritime have advised Ferrymen to install cameras to record boat registrations of offenders. Will Council ensure this is done?
Comments	<p>Council has received no request or advice from Maritime or the Operator in relation to installing cameras to identify boat registrations for incidents. In addition, Council is only aware of very few boat related incidents being recorded.</p> <p>The ability for fixed CCTV cameras to record boats travelling at differing locations from the ferry at differing speeds and directions is highly limited. In addition, cameras would be limited to periods of daylight hours, with night time or low light hours requiring significant lighting of the river or infra-red cameras, neither of which are practical. Currently expenditure on this type of equipment cannot be justified.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	Jeffery Sharp spoke to this item as per the details above, noting that there has been no request from the RMS for CCTV, nor is it feasible.

Applicant	Mr Richards Collins
Question Submitted	Why are residents on the north side of Port Macquarie discriminated against by having to pay for ferry charges? Other ferries in NSW are free, eg Wiseman's Ferry.
Comments	<p>There is a significant cost in the running of the ferries, well in excess of \$900,000p.a. and Council runs the ferries on a partial cost recovery basis only. As such, less than half the running cost is actually covered by the fees collected from all ferry users, the remainder is covered by General Revenue. Currently residents who purchase a concessional sticker receive a 75% reduction in ticket fees. Fees collected from concessional holders covers about 20% of the overall running costs only.</p> <p>Ferries operated by the Roads and Maritime Services are free as these are State assets provided to link road networks across the State. The RMS has an annual budget in excess of \$5 billion p.a.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	<p>The Mayor addressed this issue and encouraged the community to write to the Roads Minister in relation to the RMS taking over the operations of the ferries.</p> <p>The Mayor also spoke to the fact that Local Government receives just 3.5% of the overall tax revenue that all three levels of government receive...hence the financial constraints on Councils.</p>

Applicant	Mr Richards Collins
Question Submitted	When the highway upgrade works start, drivers will use Maria River Road as an alternative to travelling through the road works. What plans do Council have in place to keep Maria River Road maintained to a safe standard with the influx of traffic?
Comments	The duplication of the Highway requires new roads and bridges to be completed on new alignments, and whilst speed reductions will be in place (as they currently are since the commencement of the Sancrox Overpass) and some traffic restrictions will occur, the level of disruption should not be significant enough to push people on to Maria River Road. In the event that traffic were to increase on Maria River Road on a regular basis due to the highway works, Council would seek and expect the RMS (or their contractor) to put measures in place to mitigate the effects directly attributable to the highway upgrade.
Meeting Notes / Action	The Mayor addressed this issue and agreed that Council would write to the RMS proactively about this prior to works commencing. Jeffery Sharp to raise this with the RMS.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS / QUESTIONS RAISED FROM THE FLOOR:

1. Boat Ramp Near Settlement Point Ferry:

Boat ramp near the Settlement Point ferry is breaking up. Are there any community grants available for this sort of work etc. Question was asked who residents could contact within Council about this.

Meeting Notes / Action	Jeffery Sharp will be the first point of contact for these issues.
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2. Village Sewerage Scheme:

Village Sewerage Scheme - is it on track and on budget. The Mayor addressed this stating that the plan was well on track and on budget.

Meeting Notes / Action	Jeffery Sharp stated that there were several tenders coming to Council shortly that relate to the sewer works on the north shore.
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3. Ferry Ticketing Issues:

Who is the contact person at Council for ferry ticketing issues?

Meeting Notes / Action	Duncan Clarke will be the key contact.
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4. Plans to Raise Shoreline Drive:

Where is Council at with plans to raise Shoreline Drive?

Meeting Notes / Action	Matt Rogers responded in relation to the recently Council adopted flood plan, noting that no decisions have been made or are planned for in the short term in relation to the raising of the road. Any such plans would be subject to full feasibility studies etc and community consultation prior to putting this forward.
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5. Illegal Dumping of Rubbish:

Illegal dumping of rubbish is becoming a bigger problem. Could Council consider offering tickets to Cairncross for residents.

**Meeting Notes /
Action**

Matt Rogers addressed this and stated that under the new waste contract, residents will receive 2 x such tickets, to be distributed with the July rates notices.

Meeting Closed 7:35pm.