



MINUTES

ENGAGING AND COMMUNICATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

**Long Flat
9 March 2016**

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Besseling
Deputy Mayor Justin Levido
Councillor Robert Turner
Councillor Lisa Intemann
Councillor Geoffrey Hawkins
Councillor Trevor Sargeant
Councillor Michael Cusato

Craig Swift-McNair (General Manager)
Rebecca Olsen (Director Corporate and Organisational Services)
Jeffery Sharp (Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management)
Matt Rogers (Director of Development and Environment Services)
Lucilla Marshall (Group Manager Community Place)

14 community members

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Adam Roberts
Councillor Sharon Griffiths
Tricia Bulic (Director of Community and Economic Growth)
Brian and Kerry Wehlburg
June Rowlandson

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

The Mayor also provided the Acknowledgement of Country.

Applicant	Ms Donna Lloyd
Question 1 Submitted	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given that the 'sewerage treatment plants, pumping stations, and sewer pipes will be fully funded by Council with \$6.48 million already committed to the project from the 2014/2015 capital works budget (Small Town Sewerage Scheme – PMQHC website 29/2/16)' when will the Long Flat sewerage treatment plant construction begin? 2. When is completion of the plant to be expected? 3. As an effected resident downstream from the proposed 'river discharge point' - what steps will be undertaken to ensure the treated effluent will not be discharged when not required for irrigation purposes (not just during prolonged wet weather events). 4. That is, what water security measures including frequency of water testing, will be in place at that 'river discharge point' to maintain the River's high water quality?
Comments	<p>Determination of the delivery strategy for the village sewer schemes which includes Long Flat has been delayed due to a funding opportunity from the State Government of which Council was advised at the end of 2015. This opportunity could involve a significant financial contribution which would be of great benefit to both Council and the community. Until such time as the outcome of this funding opportunity is known, Council is unable to provide a commencement date. Advice will be provided to the community as soon as this matter is resolved.</p> <p>An expected completion date cannot be provided until we have a commencement date.</p> <p>An approval for river discharge will be included as part of the treatment works operation. This approval is required as Council will not have the capacity to store reclaimed water indefinitely. Council will look at maximising reclaimed water reuse where possible.</p> <p>Any discharge to the river will in accordance with strict requirements imposed by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and will require regular monitoring. Council is currently undertaking an impact assessment on the river in view of this discharge (via University of New England). Any quality requirements resulting from this assessment will be strictly adhered to within the treatment process, and any discharge operation.</p> <p>In accordance with the standard process applied with our other river discharges, river water quality testing (NATA Accredited) would likely be weekly and normal testing processes within the sewerage treatment plant would be conducted twice per week. This will ultimately be determined based on EPA requirements which will be clarified prior to the commencement of the treatment operations.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	The Director Infrastructure & Asset Management addressed the responses above, stressing that funding is the key issue still to be resolved. For clarification, the funding in the current budget of \$6.48

million is for all three remaining villages hence why we need to source more funding.

Councillor Levido spoke as the Chair of the Small Village Sewer Steering Group and explained further that the entire costs of this project for the remaining three villages is over \$22 million, hence why we need funding from the State. It is anticipated that there will be another report to Council in the coming 4 to 5 months or so to take these projects forward again, once there is confirmation of funding from the State.

The DIAM explained that design of the network is still taking place and investigations into sites where the treatment plant will be located are still being worked on. There will be a discharge required for the river.

The Mayor spoke of Council's intention to still deliver this work dependent on funding, noting that Council has already delivered sewer to three small villages, including to the North Shore which is now nearing completion. These are very expensive operations to put in place especially with smaller populations that cover large areas.

There was an enquiry as to whether the effluent from the system could be used on agriculture as is done in Tamworth, however due to our significantly different rainfall patterns and topography; this would not necessarily be viable.

Ellenborough is not included in the small village sewer scheme as it comes down to cost effectiveness when there are more remote villages.

Applicant	Mr Darren Hollis
Question 2 Submitted	Better signage for Ellenborough Reserve turnoff. Not to promote people going there but to reduce the amount of people missing the turn with caravans attached an turning around on the Oxley Highway, either turns across highway (double lines - safety issues) or gong down Ellenborough Road and can't turn.
Comments	This request would need to be considered by RMS as the Oxley Highway is a State Road and only they can approve and install signage. Council will forward this request to the RMS and ask them to contact Mr Hollis directly.
Meeting Notes / Proposed Action	<p>The Mayor addressed the above response, noting that Council will bring this issue to the attention of the RMS. This is around the intersection of Toms Creek Road, Main St Ellenborough & the Oxley Highway.</p> <p>A local resident of the area, Mrs Potts has made a submission to the NSW government to reduce the speed limit to 80klm in this area.</p> <p>Action - the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management will raise this issue with the RMS.</p> <p>Action - the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management to provide relevant RMS contacts and the Member for Oxley, Melinda Pavey's contact details so people can write regarding this issue.</p>
Completed Action	<p>Customer Reference CRM 6334/2016. Council has communicated this issue to Roads and Maritime Services on 21 March 2016 and requested that a representative make contact with Mr Darren Hollis on this matter.</p> <p>Contact details for RMS and MP Melinda Pavey are as follows:</p> <p>RMS Transport Management Centre Phone: 131 700 Port Macquarie Service Centre Cnr Central and Barton Crescents, Port Macquarie NSW 2444</p> <p>Melinda Pavey State Member for Oxley PO Box 3120 West Kempsey NSW 2440 Phone: (02) 6562 6190 Email: oxley@parliament.nsw.gov.au</p>

Applicant	Mr Darren Hollis
Question 3 Submitted	What areas are Council's responsibility for keeping mowed / tidy eg rodeo ring, community centre, tennis courts, gullies along the highway fronting houses, either end of the township to keep it looking tidy and not an eyesore for community and passing travellers.
Comments	<p>Vegetation management responsibilities for the Long Flat Recreation Grounds are identified within the lease document between council and the Upper Hastings Sporting & Community Group Incorporated.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements within the lease, Council's Parks section mow all areas at the showground except the football field and inside the fencing of the rodeo ring. All other vegetation management is the responsibility of the lessee.</p> <p>Council also has responsibility for maintenance of the park and amenities adjacent to the hotel.</p> <p>It should be noted that vegetation management on the approaches into town along the Oxley Highway are the responsibility of the RMS.</p>
Meeting Notes / Proposed Action	<p>The Group Manager Community Place (GMCP) addressed the response above.</p> <p>In order to move this issue forward and to provide clarification, Council's Group Manager Recreation and Buildings (GMRB) will meet with concerned locals to map a path forward.</p> <p>This maintenance work used to be done as contract work around 4 to 5 years ago, so perhaps that could be looked at again.</p> <p>There was discussion around the inefficiency of Council staff in coming to Long Flat and doing minimal work.</p> <p>Action - the Group Manager Community Place and Group Manager Recreation and Buildings will be in contact with either Janice Oliver or Michelle Partridge to arrange the on-site meeting.</p>
Completed Action	Customer Reference CRM6340/2016. A Council representative has been in touch with Janice Oliver and meeting will be held on Friday 6 May, at 12.30pm.

Applicant	Mr Darren Hollis
Question 4 Submitted	Are the work for the dole schemes available in this area e.g. to keep our township tidy.
Comments	<p>The federal government has implemented a national Work for the Dole program. Council has entered into three 6-month Work for the Dole programs associated with improvement works within council's parks network. These agreements have identified worksites and scope of works and Long Flat is not included within these existing agreements.</p> <p>There is potential for community groups to make application to host Work for the Dole projects. More information regarding this opportunity is available through:</p> <p>https://www.employment.gov.au/information-work-dole-host-organisations</p> <p>The lease for Long Flat Recreation Grounds includes a clause allowing Upper Hastings Sporting & Community Group Incorporated to utilise Work for the Dole or similar programs to assist in undertaking their maintenance obligations at this facility.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	<p>The GMCP addressed the response above and stated that there may well be opportunities for Work for the Dole projects in the Long Flat area.</p> <p>Action - the Group Management Community Place and Group Manager Recreation and Buildings will address this issue when they meet with residents as per the response to Question 3 above.</p>
Completed Actions	Customer Reference CRM6338/2016. This matter will be discussed at the upcoming meeting being held on Friday, 6 May at 12.30pm

Applicant	Ms Donna Lloyd
Question 5 Submitted	<p>At the most recent Annual General Meeting of Anchor Resources on 18 September 2015 (accessible via internet) , shareholders were informed of the intention to test for copper, supported by a reimbursable grant from the State Government of up to approx. \$100,000. The test drilling is expected to be up to 1000m in depth. Note, access issues are yet to be resolved (grant expires September 2016) but previous information suggests NSW State Forests were supportive in the company's access requirements.</p> <p>As a concerned resident, I have both emailed the company and accessed the MinView site. I appreciate earlier correspondence initiated by Council to local State Members since the August 2014 meeting with us. Can Council or the Director Development & Environment please advise as to any response from the State Government, Ministers, DPI and others with respect to this exploration licence?</p>
Comments	A reply from the Minister, via the local member, was received in October 2104 and forwarded to Donna at the time. There has been no other correspondence on the matter. A copy is attached.
Meeting Notes / Action	The Mayor addressed the response above and committed to provide Donna Lloyd with any information he discovers into the future about Anchor Resources movements in the local area.

Applicant	Ms Donna Lloyd
Question 6 Submitted	<p>Notwithstanding lease arrangements with the Upper Hastings Sporting & Community Group and the works undertaken by the groups within the UHS&CG to maintain their grounds, the overall appearance of the facilities and grounds located in Henry Street is disgraceful. Roadsides, gutters, grounds and surrounds of the facilities in Henry Street are poorly and haphazardly maintained. Until a week or two ago, these fields, roadsides and surrounds were overrun with grass and weeds. This is a health risk to park attendees, residents and visitors alike, not to mention an eyesore to all.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council's Towards 2030 Community Strategic Plan highlights the following focus areas to achieve its goals: 'A healthy and active community that is supported by recreational infrastructure (Focus Area 2)' and 'Infrastructure provision and maintenance that respects community expectations and needs (Focus Area 5)'. How does Council reconcile this strategic goal with the reality in Long Flat? 2. What maintenance plan for our shared and communal areas does Council have to ensure our community is not forgotten or left out?
Comments	<p>Council undertakes maintenance & responsibility within the Recreation Grounds and park adjacent to the Travellers Rest hotel as part of the cyclic maintenance regime. With current extreme growing conditions, the grass height within most parks and reserves across the area has exceeded regular growth between mowing visitations.</p> <p>In regard to the Long Flat Recreation Grounds, the lease was established at the request of the Long Flat community, with the inclusions associated with maintenance responsibility being agreed to by UHS&CG.</p> <p>Staff will arrange an inspection of the facilities with UHS&CG representatives to review maintenance performance against the obligations within the lease for the Long Flat Recreation Grounds.</p> <p>This will give both parties an opportunity to understand whether a higher level of maintenance services is required, and if so, to discuss opportunities for implementation. One such option for improved maintenance levels of service is for UHS&CG to utilise Work for the Dole and Community Service Orders as identified within the facility lease.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	Please refer to the response to Question 3 above that deals with this same issue.

Applicant	Mr Darren Hollis
Question 7 Submitted	Start date for sewerage works. What work is to happen on my property. Where will easement run and when will we be notified for commencement of works on our property / purchase of easement land before commencement of works.
Comments	<p>Determination of the delivery strategy for the village sewer schemes which includes Long Flat has been delayed due to a funding opportunity from the State Government of which Council was advised at the end of 2015. This opportunity could involve a significant financial contribution which would be of great benefit to both Council and the community. Until such time as the outcome of this funding opportunity is known, Council is unable to provide a commencement date. Advice will be provided to the community as soon as this matter is resolved.</p> <p>A draft easement survey has been prepared and is currently under review by Council staff. Residents will be notified when this is complete.</p> <p>Pending agreement on the terms of acquisition, this process will be undertaken once Council has received confirmation on the funding opportunity and a final determination can be made on the overall sewerage strategy.</p>
Meeting Notes / Action	Please refer to the response to Question 1 above that deals with this same issue.

<p>Question Raised from the Floor</p> <p>1.</p>	<p>Les Keane & Eric Delaforce raised the issue of the speed of the traffic on Main Street as well as the management of Ellenborough Reserve.</p> <p>There are also enormous pot holes on Main St that need work.</p> <p>Management of the Reserve is a big issue and something needs to be done to manage the crows that camp at what is classified as a primitive reserve. Local residents want the Reserve kept open, but just managed i.e. have someone up there at holiday times managing the site. It needs to be someone with authority. There are what is known as Camp Hosts in some other locations - perhaps that is something Council could look into.</p> <p>The toilets are also in a disgusting condition and have a small capacity only.</p>
<p>Meeting Notes / Action</p>	<p>Council has previously raised the issue of speed with the Police; however there has been no noticeable action around this to date from the Police.</p> <p>Action - the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management will raise the issue of speed again with the Police.</p> <p>Action - the Director Community & Economic Growth will discuss the future management of the reserve further with the Mayor and the General Manager to determine what can be done.</p>
<p>Completed Action</p>	<p>Customer Reference CRM 6335/2016. Council made representations to the NSW Police Force on 16 March 2016 via email providing a brief summary of the concerns and requested a representative make contact with Les Keane or Eric Delaforce.</p> <p>Internal discussions are ongoing regarding the future management of the reserve.</p>

<p>Question Raised from the Floor</p> <p>2.</p>	<p>Ralph Clissold raised the issue of Crown access roads. Is there anything Council can do for the residents regarding the maintenance of these roads since residents have been paying rates to the Crown for years but with little maintenance undertaken. The Mayor suggested the residents contact the Member for Oxley in relation to this issue to push for grading works etc.</p>
<p>Meeting Notes / Action</p>	<p>The Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management and the Mayor highlighted that as these are Crown roads, they are not the responsibility of Council.</p>

<p>Question Raised from the Floor</p> <p>3.</p>	<p>Ralph Clissold enquired if Council is planning on paving Plomer Road to Corilla Estate?</p>
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Meeting Notes / Action	The Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management talked about the fact that Council is currently looking at this as a possibility for this section of Plomer Road, noting that this will not be done as part of the North Shore sewer works currently being undertaken.
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Question Raised from the Floor 4.	Ralph Clissold enquired if Council can assist in any way with getting a telecommunications tower at Mount Yarras? The community needs help from Council in lobbying the Federal member in relation to this issue.
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Meeting Notes / Action	Action - the Mayor to write to the Federal Member, Dr David Gillespie regarding support for the telecommunications tower.
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Completed Actions	Customer Reference CRM 6341/2016. Mayor Besseling has written to David Gillespie on 7 April 2016 on this matter.
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Question Raised from the Floor 5.	Ralph Clissold raised the issue of garbage collection to Mt Seaview - currently it stops at Ellenborough. Is there any chance of this happening further up the mountain? There is also a Remondis truck that goes up Tom Creek Road for what appears to be one resident only - how is this cost effective?
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Meeting Notes / Action	The Director Development & Environment stated that this might be able to occur for domestic services, but not commercial services. There are currently no plans to extend this route and it needs 75% of the local residents to agree and support it, otherwise it will not happen.
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Question Raised from the Floor 6.	Janice Oliver raised the issue of stormwater and water tank storage.
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Meeting Notes / Action	The Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management stated that there was nothing planned in Long Flat from a stormwater perspective. There are also no plans for a second water tank as there will not be able to be much further development of the town. If a situation ever occurred where water ran out, then Council would truck in the water required as that is far more cost effective than building a secondary water tank.
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Question Raised from the Floor 7.	Janice Oliver enquired where the upgrade of the playground up to on the Oxley Highway near the Pub?
Meeting Notes / Action	The Group Manager Community Place responded noting that there is no funding for a playground upgrade at this stage, however when the Group Manager Recreation & Buildings comes for the meeting detailed in earlier responses, discussions can be had on what improvements the community would like to see. It should be noted that the amenities block is being upgraded and those works are due to start shortly, noting that the site has already been fenced off for this. This work will also include a pathway from the road to the toilet block.

Question Raised from the Floor 8.	Donna Lloyd (on behalf of Melissa Brockbank) raised the issue of parking on the Oxley Highway around the shop and the Pub and how it can be dangerous with no formalised parking marked.
Meeting Notes / Action	Action - the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management will raise this issue with the RMS to encourage them to look at this issue from a safety perspective.
Completed Actions	Customer Reference CRM 6342/2016. Council has communicated this issue to Roads and Maritime Services on 21 March 2016 and requested that a representative make contact with Donna Lloyd.