



## MINUTES

### ENGAGING AND COMMUNICATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

#### BEECHWOOD 8 June 2016

---

#### **PRESENT:**

Mayor Peter Besseling  
Deputy Mayor Justin Levido  
Councillor Robert Turner  
Councillor Lisa Intemann  
Councillor Trevor Sargeant  
Councillor Michael Cusato  
Councillor Sharon Griffiths

Rebecca Olsen (Director Corporate and Organisational Services)  
Jeffery Sharp (Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management)  
Tricia Bulic (Director of Community and Economic Growth)  
Matt Rogers (Director of Development and Environment Services)

6 community members

#### **APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Geoffrey Hawkins, Councillor Adam Roberts, Craig Swift-McNair (General Manager)

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

The Mayor noted that no questions had been submitted and invited questions to be raised from the floor.

<p><b>Question Raised from the Floor</b></p> <p>1.</p>	<p>Jeff Rogers: Can Council install a sewage dump point in Beechwood to attract 'grey nomads' to generate additional activity and revenue in the village?</p>
<p><b>Meeting Notes / Action</b></p>	<p>The Mayor suggested funding through the community grants program may be appropriate.</p> <p>The Mayor also suggested that Council can assists with local promotions and events that generate activity in the village.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Director of Infrastructure Services to look at feasibility of a sewage dump point and advise.</b></li> <li>• <b>Director Community &amp; Economic Growth to liaise with community members about opportunities for local event promotion.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Completed Action</b></p>	<p>Council Reference CRM14471/2016.</p> <p>The Beechwood community could consider becoming an <i>RV friendly destination</i>. This would require an application to the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA). Council has had informal discussions with the CMCA and indications are that they would be very supportive of an application from Beechwood.</p> <p>To be an <i>RV Friendly Destination</i> there is no requirement for a dump point and RV users could be referred to the free dump point at the Wauchope Showground.</p> <p>The criteria to become an <i>RV Friendly Destination</i> is as follows:</p> <p><b>Essential</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of short term, low cost overnight parking (24/48 hours) for self-contained RVs.</li> <li>• The parking area needs to be on a solid, level surface.</li> <li>• There must be enough room for large vehicles to manoeuvre.</li> </ul> <p><b>Desirable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A waste water dump point.</li> <li>• Potable water.</li> <li>• Longer term parking.</li> </ul> <p>The benefits of being an <i>RV Friendly Destination</i> include signage and promotion to the 66,000 CMCA members. Council would be happy to work with the Beechwood community to support their application to the CMCA. Ross Smith from Councils Economic Development team would be the person to contact.</p> <p>The CMCA also runs an <i>RV Friendly Town</i> program (similar to the <i>RV Friendly Destination</i> program mentioned above), which has a different set of criteria. Where this criteria is met, CMCA offer a free dump point unit. Beechwood would be excluded from this program, due to the fact that</p>

	<p>there is already a dump point in Wauchope, as well as several other criteria that would not be met at this point in time.</p> <p>Should the Beechwood community still wish to pursue a dump point, it should be noted that while they are not difficult to install, the general expectation from users is that a water service be supplied to aid cleaning.</p> <p>Other dump points within our LGA are in locations where water can be supplied through a metered service and the use of the dumping unit can be monitored for correct use and to avoid vandalism. Council's preference is not to install these facilities at remote or unattended sites as there is no control over what gets dumped to sewer and the notion of the availability of free water could lead to rampant abuse.</p> <p>With these concerns considered, Council would support the instillation of a dump point in Beechwood, on the condition that a suitability monitored and metered site is sourced and subsequently approved by Council. The old quarry or the Wade Tennis Courts are a feasible option.</p> <p>The cost to purchase a dump point unit is approximately \$1600.00 plus installation costs.</p> <p>For further discussion regarding installing a dump point, please contact Ken Strong, Councils Water and Sewer Planning Manager.</p>
--	---

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  2.	<p>Bruce Byron: Has there been any consideration to providing sewer to the Beechwood Football Ground?</p>
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	<p>The Beechwood Football Ground was not included in the original scheme. However, options to service the football ground can be looked at.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Director of Infrastructure Services to investigate and advise.</b></p>
<b>Completed Action</b>	<p>Council Reference CRM14472/2016. The football ground, although nearby to the Beechwood sewerage pump station (SPS) - (approx 175 metres from pump station to existing amenities shed), cannot be serviced by conventional gravity pipeline due to a creek adjacent to the SPS. For this reason, an additional pump station would need to be constructed at the sports ground, with a rising (pressure) main to a manhole adjacent to the SPS.</p> <p>There would be considerable cost in that case, a standard pump station built to Council specification would cost in the order of \$200,000 for a small installation, noting that the facility would need to cater for a range of flows. There are currently no plans to install an SPS at this site. Small pressure units (e.g. Eone) would not cater for large crowds and therefore are not be appropriate to install.</p>

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  <b>3.</b>	Bruce Byron: What is Council's position on the use of the proceeds from the site of Timbertown?
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	The Mayor advised that the proceeds were hypothecated to Wauchope Pool by the Administrator of the Council at the time of sale. The Mayor confirmed that hypothecation of funds is not favoured because it hinders a flexible approach to project funding across the local government area.

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  <b>4.</b>	Bruce Byron: Where is the upgrade of Beechwood Road up to?
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	<p>The Mayor confirmed that the next stage is funded in the draft 2016-2017 operational plan and includes that stretch of road between Rosewood Rd and Riverbreeze Drive.</p> <p>The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that a minor upgrade of the Bridge over Yippin Creek will commence soon. Designs have not yet commenced for its replacement but will be part of a future staged upgrade.</p>

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  <b>5.</b>	Bruce Byron: Enquired about \$44M in funding for Council identified in the Federal Member's newsletter.
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	The Mayor advised Council is not aware of any such funding. Discussion about local government funding took place. It was noted that councils look after 30% of assets and but receive only 3% of public revenue. This presents significant challenges for local government.

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  <b>6.</b>	Des Egan: Enquired about Beechwood Road.
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	The Mayor confirmed that funding for the next stage is in the draft 2016-2017 budget. The Mayor advised that funding has also been allocated for local roads resealing in Wauchope.

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  7.	Jeff Rogers: Have the big roads projects over the last decade shifted the funding focus from new roads to primarily maintenance?
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	The Mayor advised that there are still a large backlog of works and new works associated with growth and this means there remains a large capital works requirement.

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  8.	Jim Hutcheon: What plans do Council have to differentiate our local areas, local character?
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	<p>The Director of Development and Environment provided an overview of land use planning for the Port Macquarie-Hastings. Council has limited ability to control the quality of development through the planning system other than land zoning and development guidelines.</p> <p>The Director of Development and Environment noted that community led initiatives are the most effective way to promote local character.</p> <p>The Director of Community and Economic Growth advised that Council can assist through its community place programs.</p>

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  9.	Jim Hutcheon: What are Council's plans for footpaths in Beechwood? A footpath is needed between shop and post office / hotel.
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	<p>The Mayor advised that Council has prioritised funding for footpaths in recent budgets and that this can be looked at in light of available funding.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b>  <b>The Director of Infrastructure Services to take on board for consideration in next year's program.</b></p>
<b>Completed Actions</b>	Customer Reference CRM 14473/2016. Council was successful in receiving grant money from the RMS to develop a Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan for Beechwood this financial year. This plan will help identify the priority pedestrian works for Beechwood and will be a key document for receiving additional grant money for design and construction. Council will also consider and priorities sections of missing path in Beechwood for inclusion in the footpath program.

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  <b>10.</b>	Bruce Byron: What is the current level of Council debt and Glasshouse debt specifically?
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	<p>The Director of Corporate and Organisational Services advised that Council has a current debt of about \$90M. This level of debt is low compared to some regional councils, is in line with government policy in relation to revenue options and is quite affordable. Loan costs are offset by interest received through Council's investment strategy.</p> <p>The Glasshouse debt is being paid down. It is costing the community about the same as our libraries to run the Glasshouse.</p>

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  <b>11.</b>	Bruce Byron: How is Council planning for water supply given development happening currently?
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that Council is developing an Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan to direct future water supply planning.

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  <b>12.</b>	John Hollis: Commented on the importance of strategy informing contributions plans.
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	The Mayor and the Director of Development advised that Council contributions plans are directed by higher order infrastructure strategies. A review of the Open Space plan based on a revised recreational needs study is underway and Council is currently developing a new traffic model to support a review of its roads contributions plans.

The meeting closed at 7:20pm.