

Kingborough Community Consultative Forum General Meeting

9.50am 2nd September 2017
Civic Centre, Kingston

MINUTES

Present:

Initials	Organisation	Representatives present
KCCF	Kingborough Community Consultative Forum Executive	Wayne Burgess (Chair)
		Mike Jackson (Vice Chair)
		Tony Ferrier (Secretary)
BBPA	Blackmans Bay Progress Association	Wayne Burgess
CALSCA	Coningham & Lower Snug Community Ass.	Mike Jackson
HPA	Howden Progress Association	June Walker
KCA	Kettering Community Association	Chris Ireland, Peter Laud
KLGA	Kingborough Land Care Advisory Group	John Cox
TCA	Taroona Community Association	Roger Kellaway
	Unaligned	Rob Crosthwaite

Council: Mayor Steve Wass, Cr Mike Percey, Gary Arnold (General Manager), Tony Ferrier (Deputy General Manager)

Apologies: Deborah Chadwick (HPA), Di Blackwood and Gerry McAfee (FNB)

Business:

1. Welcome (Chair)

Wayne Burgess welcomed everyone in attendance and called for apologies.

2. Minutes of the General Meeting held 3 June 2017

It was agreed that the Minutes were an accurate account of the previous meeting.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

4. Reports from Community Associations

Chris Ireland (KCA) reported on the Kettering community's attempts to relocate the Metro bus stop from its current location opposite the post office to one that is alongside the entrance to the community hall parking area. The existing location is dangerous (poor sight distances) and is where locals would normally park when needing to go to the post office. Meetings have been held with Council and Metro officers and assistance from DSG has been sought, all without much progress being made over the last 12 months. Nic Street, as the Local Member for Franklin, has been very helpful during the last month or so. A community meeting was held in regard to this issue and 41 people attended – all of whom wanted to relocate the bus stop. Nic Street has subsequently supported this and requested

DSG instruct Metro to move the bus stop. Metro has subsequently reported that such a relocation would cost \$130K and that these funds are not currently available. At that cost, the local community is now concerned that the bus stop will now not be moved – plus it is thought that the work can be done more cheaply. While this matter is not necessarily a Council issue, Chris said he would appreciate any suggestions on how the current impasse could be resolved.

The suggestions from Forum members included the involvement of the Police if the current bus stop location is that dangerous; provide evidence that the current location does not comply with the appropriate standards for safe sites for bus stops; go to the media and generate more publicity; pursue a commitment in the upcoming State government election; seek the assistance of the RACT; take photographs that show how the current situation is dangerous; and refer the matter to the State Road Safety Committee (and the local Kingborough committee).

Peter Laud (KCA) reported on the fact that a kerbside waste collection service could be introduced at Kettering had become a very divisive issue within the local community. A petition has been submitted to Council and a meeting with Council staff is to occur this week. Council would not introduce such a service unless there was majority support, following a survey of the affected land owners.

June Walker (HPA) reported on a number of matters raised at the most recent meeting of the HPA. There is a wish to reduce the existing 60km/hr speed limit for Howden Road within the built-up area of Howden down to 50km/hr. Road signage could also stress the mixed use of the road and blind corners. There have been a number of local incidents of vandalism (a public telephone box has had to be replaced) and hooning. There are concerns about water quality in North West Bay due to salmon farming. There is a desire for a local family park within Howden and questions have been raised about Council's policy for retaining land for public open space within private subdivisions. It was explained that legislation allows Council to retain 5% of land for public open space but this is usually only done for larger subdivisions when sufficient useful land can be provided. A monetary equivalent is taken for smaller subdivisions so that accumulated funds can be used to either purchase more suitable land or to construct improved facilities such as a new playground.

June described the current confusing situation with TasWater employing separate contractors for local water and sewerage pipelines and what seems to be poorly coordinated on-ground outcomes in the vicinity of Coffee Creek and the golf course. Council reported on the current hold up for the sewerage pipeline in that it is being blocked by a stand of white gums that comprise 40 Spotted Pardolate habitat. TasWater is trying to determine a new alignment that avoids this.

Mike Jackson (CALSCA) thanked Council for the completion and quality of the road upgrade between the Channel Highway and Coningham Road. He also reported on the fact that a discussion paper had been circulated by Council on the new public toilet facility at Coningham Beach. There are a number of different options and the results of the public survey will inform the final decision. It is apparent that Council is doing the necessary research in this regard.

Rob Crosthwaite noted that the Mayor had been "lured" into making statements about Council's financial situation. Rob commented that Council needs to be able to communicate the real story that Council is not in any financial difficulty. There is a need for the wide range of community services that Council provides and they should not be threatened by incorrect statements about Council's finances. Wayne Burgess referred to a newspaper article from a few months ago that reported how favourably Kingborough compares with other councils. Council needs to provide much more than "roads, rates and

rubbish” as is evident from the quarterly departmental reports provided in the Forum’s agenda for this meeting.

Rob stated that Council needs to find ways to better promote these many community services that are being provided. He suggested public meetings similar to those that the Forum facilitated back in 2007. Council could be more positive in going out and meeting with the public in this way. The Mayor provided information to the Forum on Council’s sound financial situation and that the Council is on the right track to remove the existing deficit without having to cut services. Rob responded by saying that Council should retain assets and be adopting a long term approach. Reducing services and downsizing is contrary to what Council should be doing in meeting the needs of a growing community.

Roger Kellaway (TCA) said that the TCA’s most recent meeting focused on local issues weren’t relevant for the Forum. There are still some concerns about the potential subdivision of the school property but nothing to report at this stage.

John Cox (KLAG) stated that he still had ongoing concerns about weed management alongside the main roads in the municipality. He also asked as to whether there were increased incidents of rubbish dumping as he knew of tyres being dumped more often than usual. He thought the increased fees at Barretta may have led to this.

Cr Mike Percey commented on the successful nature of the Council’s Volunteer Program. He also mentioned how successful grants (such as for the Twin Ovals and the Community Hub) result in important public facilities, but increased ongoing maintenance and operational costs. They add to the Council’s budget in every subsequent year. A growing community like Kingborough’s needs these types of high quality facilities but they come at a cost. It is important that as many people as possible get to use these facilities and they not just available to a few.

June Walker (HPA) commented that the most recent Council financial annual report was very obscure and difficult to understand. She asked for layman’s version of the information to be provided in future. Gary Arnold said that the reports must be provided in a particular way according to legislation. The State government sets the rules which can be frustrating as Council must fully fund its depreciation and report the underlying deficit (unlike the State government). Council has a revenue problem with it being one of the lowest rating councils in the state and yet still provides more services than most councils. Council does need to find ways to better engage with its community and explain the situation. Wayne Burgess and John Cox both commented on the need to provide simple summaries for public information. Cr Percey said that the annual Federal Assistance Grants that Kingborough receives are the third lowest in Tasmania. If we got the same amount as the average council then there would be no financial deficit.

Mayor Wass reported that elected representatives from Grootegast, Kingborough’s sister city, may be visiting at the end of this year in recognition of Abel Tasman’s 375th anniversary of sighting Tasmania.

5. Report from Council

(a) Update on new Kingborough Planning Scheme

Council staff are now preparing the Local Provisions Schedule which primarily consists of the new zoning maps. Most of the initial attention has been on developing criteria to convert the existing zoned in the Kingborough Interim Planning Scheme 2015 – noting that there are significant differences (as previously listed at the last Forum meeting):

- a reduced Low Density Residential minimum lot size and that units will now be allowed in this Zone;
- the part removal of where Codes (Natural Assets and Scenic Protection) will apply to urban areas;
- additional Rural Living Zone categories (minimum lot sizes of 1, 2, 5 and 10ha);
- the Environmental Living Zone is effectively being replaced by a new Landscape Conservation Zone (and the Rural Living Zone 10ha category);
- increased emphasis on the allocation of a new Agriculture Zone (based on mapping provided by government); and
- the loss of Stormwater and Wastewater Codes.

In order to assist this task, local councils have combined to organise some improved agricultural and natural assets mapping. As well as this Council, is reviewing the overlays that apply to the various Codes (eg inundation, scenic protection, heritage and bushfire prone areas). Justification for these zoning and overlay changes will be contained within an updated version of the Kingborough Land Use Strategy. As well as this, the Specific Area plans are being reviewed (particularly the Kingston Park SAP), plus consideration is being given to the preparation of new SAPs for Blackmans Bay Bluff and Kingston Beach.

It is expected that most of the rest of the year will be taken up by work being done in completing this draft Local Provisions Schedule. The subsequent process is as follows:

- Report to Council on proposed LPS and LPS submitted to Commission
- Council instructed to advertise LPS and LPS advertised
- Submissions reviewed and report to Council
- LPS submissions forwarded to Commission and Commission holds public hearings
- Commission recommends any changes to LPS and Minister declares new scheme

A question was asked about the different completion times for different councils. It is likely that the first council will have their new planning scheme approved by about mid-2018. From then on, all of the other councils will have their schemes approved over time as the Commission completes its hearing processes. This is likely to extend through to mid-2019. Kingborough's scheme should be somewhere in the middle of this process.

June Walker (HPA) asked about the replacement of the Environmental Living Zone. This will be either replaced by the Landscape Conservation Zone or the Rural Living Zone, depending on the particular character of the land or area in question. June was concerned about the loss of environmental values through understorey removal and the capacity of the Council to adequately respond to such issues as this. Council's NRM staff have an ongoing role in this regard.

(b) Update on Kingston Park developments

Progress has been made in relation to:

- Infrastructure projects – the engineering designs for the Boulevard road and the provision of services to the site have been completed and tender specifications for construction prepared. To this must be added the design of the link road through to John Street as this is intended to be included in this first stage of construction (which will include the southern half of the Boulevard). Construction is planned to commence at the beginning of 2018.
- Community Hub – the detailed design for this new facility has been determined, a planning permit has been approved and Council is confirming future operational issues. Council has been successful in obtaining a \$2.8M grant from the Commonwealth Government's Building Better Regions Fund. Further expenditure

on this project needs to await the execution of the funding agreement. Construction is proposed to commence at the beginning of 2018.

- Promenade – this consists of two separate components. An in-house design has just commenced and will be completed by the end of this year. Following the approval process and calling for tenders, it is proposed that the first stage will commence in June 2018.
- Public Open Space – the design of this component will be initiated soon and it will follow a similar process to the Promenade with construction also anticipated to commence in June 2018.
- Land Release Strategy – consultants have prepared comprehensive financial modelling for the project as well as a draft strategy for Council's consideration. A workshop was held with the Councillors in July. The strategy aims to optimise the economic return and minimise costs (particularly in regard to loan repayments).
- Kingston Health Centre – an initial design has been completed for the first stage only and a development application has just been received by Council. This first stage only includes the transfer of the existing staff and services from the Community Health Centre on John Street.

A Kingston Park Implementation Report has been prepared and is now being placed on the Council's website for public perusal. This provides an updated report on the current situation for the project including the financial status. Up until the end of the last financial year, there has been a total expenditure on the project of about \$2M and it is expected that Council expend a further \$8M in the current financial year (noting the abovementioned programmed construction work).

Council has also endorsed a Communications and Community Engagement Strategy and has commissioned consultants to prepare a new website to provide for improved public information. These consultants are also assisting Council in the development of a branding strategy that will underpin the project's design principles, naming and future public communications.

Mike Jackson asked whether Council had considered moving the Civic Centre across to Kingston Park – possibly developing new Council offices that would be used in conjunction with the Community Hub. This is not the current intention of Council.

(c) Tracks and Trails Strategic Plan

Council approved the Kingborough Tracks and Trails Strategic Action Plan (2017-2022) at its meeting on 10 July. A copy of the Action Plan is on Council's website. A draft had been previously advertised and Council received submissions from 15 individuals and 9 community groups, many of which were quite comprehensive and detailed.

Community feedback indicated a strong desire for an improved tracks and trails network, including the completion of 'missing links' to create loops and a commitment from Council to implement the plan. It will now provide the basis for Council's future priorities in developing new tracks and trails, upgrading existing infrastructure by Council's track maintenance crew, assisting the preparation of external grant applications and in determining future annual budgets.

Wayne Burgess commented on the comprehensive nature of the Action Plan and a number of members commented on the need to have a reprint of the small tracks and trails booklet that has been so popular.

(d) Draft Kingborough Waste Management Strategy

MRA Consultants were commissioned by Council to prepare a draft Kingborough Waste Management Strategy. This was placed on public exhibition for 6 weeks up until 7th August 2017.

Some of the key actions within the draft strategy were:

- *Extend kerbside services to more townships where viable and provide access to waste and recycling drop off services to smaller communities;*
- *Provide larger recycling bins;*
- *Provide options for public place recycling;*
- *Implementation of a green waste collection service;*
- *Investigate a food organics collection service;*
- *Improvements to the operations of the transfer stations;*
- *Improved regional cooperation; and*
- *Increased community involvement and education in waste minimisation.*

The submissions are now being collated and forwarded to the consultant for review. Many of the submissions called for a stronger emphasis or priority on waste minimisation than is evident in the draft Strategy. It is expected that such changes will be made. There were also many submissions in regard to the possible extension of the kerbside collection service into such areas as Kettering or Woodbridge. This would not be considered unless there was majority support following a survey of the affected landowners. Following the review by the consultant, another Councillor workshop will be held and a final version of the strategy prepared for Council's consideration.

Wayne Burgess commented on a recent media release from Council that provided interesting information about the eventual destination of recyclable material from Kingborough. Chris Ireland said the most interesting part of the draft strategy related to recycling. Costs to transport material to the mainland would likely exceed any benefits from the actual recycling. Gary Arnold reported on the decision made at the last Council meeting to request LGAT to facilitate a state-wide forum to improve waste management.

Rob Crosthwaite commented on the importance to educate the public on the true costs of waste management. The market cannot determine the best waste management solutions and government needs to intervene. Leadership is needed as solutions cannot rely on personal responsibility. Controls need to be imposed rather than expecting individuals or organisations to just change their behaviour. June Walker commented on the excessive packaging that generates excessive waste.

(e) Update on Environmental Services and Community Services programs

Copies of reports were provided to the Forum of those which were previously provided to Council recently. They detailed the activities of those two departments in the last three months. This information was provided to the Forum and included details with respect to:

Environmental Services:

- Recreational beaches monitoring program
- Boronia Hill Reserve
- North West Bay Catchment Plan
- Rainbow Lorikeet control
- National Tree Day

- Sourcing Suitable Firewood Program
- Weed management program
- Bruny Island Cat Management Project
- Bushfire management program
- Climate change activities
- Coastal management program

Community Services:

- Kingborough Community Grants
- Refugee Week
- Positive Ageing Strategy Review
- Access Advisory Committee
- Mental Health Week
- Learning for Life
- LINC mural
- Salvaged Art from Waste
- Kingborough Makerspace
- Kingborough Local Links
- Kingborough Volunteer Program
- Arts based workshops
- Reconciliation Week
- Kingston Beach Arts Hub Courtyard
- Dark Mofo @Bruny Island
- Antarctic Experience
- Yspace workshops
- Youth Strategy
- Bruny Island Art Project
- School Holiday program
- Snug Park design
- Kingborough Sports Centre programs
- Family Day Care
- Manor Gardens

June Walker asked about the transfer of Council's Family Day Care Service to Blackmans Bay Children's Service. Gary Arnold reported that the transfer agreement has now been signed by both parties and it will take effect at the end of this month.

Wayne Burgess said that he appreciated Council providing this information about the activities of these two departments to the Forum. It is important that Council fulfill's its legislated responsibilities in regard to the health, welfare and safety of the community. Mike Jackson said that Council requires a coordinated communications strategy that is more effective in changing the impressions that people have of Council.

6. Other Business

Nil.

7. Next KCCF Meeting

The next Forum meeting will be at 9.30am on Saturday 2nd December 2017 and it was noted that this may be a shortened meeting if it is followed by the Council's AGM.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm.