

Kingborough Community Consultative Forum

General Meeting

9.30am 1st June 2019
Civic Centre, Kingston

MINUTES

Present:

Initials	Organisation	Representatives present
KCCF	Kingborough Community Consultative Forum Executive	Wayne Burgess (Chair)
		Tony Ferrier (Secretary)
BBPA	Blackmans Bay Progress Association	Wayne Burgess
BHCA	Bonnet Hill Community Association	Paul Rapley
BICA	Bruny Island Community Association	Fran Davis
CALSCA	Coningham & Lower Snug Comm Ass'n	David Bonny, Mike Jackson
HPA	Howden Progress Association	June Walker
KCA	Kettering Community Association	Sue Hoyle
KLAG	Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group	John Cox
SLACC	Snug Landcare	Rob Crosthwaite

Council: Deputy Mayor Jo Westwood, Cr Sue Bastone, Cr Amanda Midgley, Gary Arnold (General Manager), Tony Ferrier (Deputy General Manager)

Apologies: Mayor Dean Winter, Chris Ireland (KCA)

Business:

1. Welcome (Chair)

Wayne Burgess welcomed everyone in attendance and called for apologies.

2. Minutes of the General Meeting held 2nd March 2019

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

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

With reference to previously reported delays in reconnecting to the internet in Coningham, Gary Arnold reported on a recent example where Council had a similar experience with the NBN and where the response took 8 days to receive. Mike Jackson also thanked Council for the quick response in clearing roadside shrubs in Coningham.

Wayne Burgess reported on the Kingborough Chronicle being invited to the Forum meeting. The Chronicle expressed an interest in the activities of the Forum and requested a copy of the Minutes and said they may follow up some matters with local community groups.

4. Reports from Community Organisations

Fran Davis (BICA) reported on the need to construct a safe footpath through Alonnah – for a distance of about 800m alongside the Main Road. There are some serious concerns

about pedestrian safety, as people have to actually walk on the edge of the bitumen (and across a narrow bridge) on what is a relatively busy road. Many people walk from residential areas to the shop and hotel and the need for a safe walkway is now urgent. It was noted that this will not be part of DSG's proposal to seal the main road between Alonnah and Lunawanna. Fran also reported on the erosion of the beach at Alonnah that is now only a metre away from the Boat Club's boatshed. She said that this had been first reported to Council 3 years ago but there has been no action to protect the public reserve. She said that Council had allowed the building to be built at this location and the next big storm could threaten it. She said she was disappointed in Council's response from a few days ago that there was no impact on public infrastructure. Gary Arnold said that there is to be meeting next week between Council officers and the Boat Club to consider this matter.

Paul Rapley (BHCA) reported on the completion of the safety lane on the Channel Highway at Bonnet Hill and the local appreciation for this work. Local residents just uphill from the Kingston Beach Golf Club have raised concerns about their dangerous driveway accesses on to the Channel Highway. Representations have been made to DSG and an on-site inspection is to occur. There are concerns about a lack of lighting at bus stops, but DSG has said this is a low priority. Paul also raised the idea of installing (or relocating) an interpretation sign near the road junction of Sedgebrook Road and Taronga Road that would describe the history of this area. Council's engineer inspected the stormwater problem at Harpers Road a few days ago. Paul noted that Council has budgeted for the beach erosion works at Tyndall Beach and the BHCA is looking forward to some action in this regard. The adjoining carpark is still too muddy.

Sue Hoyle (KCA) reported on the problems experienced over Easter with the ferry queues extending out into the Channel Highway. The traffic management arrangements (by Sealink and DSG) were poor and there was considerable inconvenience for local residents and people driving further down the Channel. DSG has also been asked to install better road line-marking on Ferry Road. There is a rumour that Council is to close the steps leading down to the foreshore at Kettering Point and be replaced by a viewing platform. The KCA would like to see the steps be retained. Sue said that additional maintenance is required following the recent upgrade of Oxleys Road. The embankments are being eroded and the constructed drainage is not functioning correctly. There is a dangerous tree on the Kettering Walk – with a broken limb lodged high in a tree. Sue also asked whether the Kettering Public Open Space reserved funds could be used for some local projects.

In regard to the last item, it was noted that Council has recently endorsed the Kingborough Open Space Strategy 2019 and that the expenditure of POS funds will be in accordance with this strategy. However the KCA (like any other community group) is welcome to submit to Council a list of priorities local projects that it feels could be funded from the Kettering POS reserve. Fran Davis noted that Sealink is currently assessing whether there is any interest on Bruny Island for ferry trips later in the evening to enable people to return from Dark Mofo. Cr Bastone noted that Council had been applying for grants to provide a walking connection up from Trial Bay to Kettering, enabling a walking loop to be created. She also said that a handrail at the top of the Kettering Point steps is needed.

David Bonny (CALSCA) thanked the Mayor and two other councillors for attending their AGM and for the Mayor in attending their recent committee meeting. Council's engineer has met with CALSCA representatives to discuss a number of local infrastructure issues. These are mainly safety related and some action is now expected soon. CALSCA would also like to see an extension of the Margate to Snug pathway so that it extends on to Coningham. He said that a green waste kerbside collection in Coningham would be inadequate because of the larger well vegetated blocks. A number of vouchers for free access to the waste transfer station each year would be better and a proposal for this would be soon put to Council. The site of the old public toilet block at Coningham could be used

for boat racks. There are also concerns about the safe access from Davies Road out on to the Channel Highway.

Gary Arnold noted that Council will be workshopping all of the relevant green waste issues soon. Cr Midgley noted that the Kingborough Bicycle Advisory Group had been considering an extension of the bike track to further south of Snug so it would be good to combine their ideas with CALSCA. Mike Jackson (CALSCA) reiterated the green waste concerns and how the wheely bin solution would be quite inadequate as local residents take trailer loads to the transfer station.

June Walker (HPA) reported on the completion of TasWater activity along Howden Road. The edges of Howden Road in the vicinity of Villa Howden are in poor condition. June asked about the decommissioning of the Howden sewerage treatment plant within the golf course. She also asked about the floating pipe that had been constructed in NW Bay some time ago. June agree with CALSCA and said that a green waste wheely bin service would be of little use to people on acreage and other solutions will be necessary for people with larger blocks. She also asked how many fire reduction burn-offs Council conducts and whether the Villa Howden planning permit issues had been resolved. June later commented on the public consultation that DSG was conducting into a review of the road corridor between Margate and Kingston.

Howden is now connected to the new Blackmans Bay sewerage treatment plant. The “floating pipe” construction was raised about 6 months ago but Council reps could not recall what this was for. Council has overseen three fire reduction burns in recent months and takes fire management on its own small vegetated reserves seriously. The Villa Howden permit was issued by the Tribunal and Council’s role is to now enforce the conditions. Paul Rapley commented on the recent discussions with Council in regard to issues relating to fire management at Bonnet Hill – re land ownership, limited seasonal opportunities, organising the people involved and the complexities in dealing with areas like the Alum Cliffs coastal strip. Amanda Midgley commented that we should be considering what families most need and that footpaths are needed within Howden.

John Cox (KLAG) reported that Council conducted a mini-conference in May for local Landcare groups. He said there is now a phone app where people can report roadkill (particularly devils). John also reported on a “rodenticide” awareness program – where raptors are killed from eating poisoned rats and mice. He asked whether there would be any merit in Council reforming its Tracks and Trails committee and, while Council is replacing public infrastructure damaged by the big storm a year ago, why can’t we be looking after the damaged natural waterways. John later commented on the need to remove the household rubbish that had been dumped at Coffee Creek off Howden Road.

The former Tracks and Trails committee dissolved itself quite a few years ago as Council’s focus shifted more to maintaining existing trails rather than developing new ones. Any suggestions in regard to local walking cycling trails should be referred to Council’s Recreation Officer Su Sprott. Gary Arnold said that Council is only able to access funding assistance to replace like-for-like infrastructure damaged by the storm. No funding is available for natural waterways. Gross pollutant traps are installed where Council can in order to improve downstream water quality. John said that there are no such measures on the NW Bay River and the waterway does transport weeds downstream – though the old NW Bay River management plan is being reviewed and updated.

Rob Crosthwaite (SLACC) said he welcomed the fact that Council had recently approved a number of strategies in recent months. He felt that Council should provide a compost facility for its collected green waste. He said he was also concerned about cost shifting that does occur where responsibilities are shifted to local government from state and federal government. He also said that in the Minutes for the last Forum meeting, such a phrase as

“ensure it won’t happen again” covers up what can be managed in reality and the language should be more aligned to managing risks.

Composting requires significant economies of scale and Council is discussing what might be possible with Hobart and Glenorchy councils in order to initiate a more coordinated and viable downstream processing of green waste. Council also does push back where cost shifting is identified and also relies on LGAT to do this when, for example, legislative change is proposed that increases responsibilities on local government. It was suggested that one such recent example that might warrant independent analysis is the changes made to the building regulations – with some aspects being privatised, but where Council has still retained the main enforcement responsibilities.

Wayne Burgess (BBCA) commented on how informative the recent article was in the Mercury that included an interview with the LGAT CEO. At Blackmans Bay, Council is continuing the monitoring of the beach water quality and this is evidently being given a high priority. The affected southern end of the beach is popular and the area is well looked after and the new seats that have been installed are appreciated. There is one instance of bad graffiti that’s need to be removed from the concrete block that is the counter-weight to the viewing platform at this end of the beach.

5. Reports from Council

(a) Budget Update

Council will be considering the 2019/20 budget at its Special Council meeting to be held on 3rd June 2019. The budget papers are available in the public Agenda for this meeting and can be viewed on Council’s website. The attachments include a summary of the public submissions and Council’s responses, plus the 5 year capital works program and the budget details in accordance with the various program areas implemented by Council. A second report in the Agenda deals with a review of the Long Term Financial Plan.

The recommendations to Council have accommodated the result of the recent court decision that will result in a loss of rate income from independent living units owned by charitable organisations. This means that it is proposed to increase rates by 3.95% for 2019/20, plus a \$9 increase in the stormwater rate to pay for the coastal water quality investigations.

Wayne Burgess asked whether the State government had committed to a legislated solution to the rates exemption for charitable bodies. In response, it was stated that they had not done this and that the government is being lobbied by both sides of the argument, with Council waiting on a future decision.

(b) Strategic Plan Review update

Council is reviewing the existing strategic plan. Public consultation has occurred in the last few months. It consisted of a number of ‘listening posts’ (where staff attended local meetings throughout the municipality) and there were two facilitated public meetings (at Kingston and Kettering where representatives of local community groups were invited), plus input on Council’s ‘Our Say’ on-line platform. Local community groups were contacted directly. Information has been compiled on what the community expects from Council and as to what the priorities should for the future allocation of resources.

A preliminary version of the draft strategic plan is now being prepared and will be workshopped by Council (17th June) before a final public release of the proposed draft. Following the adoption of the final strategic plan, Council will prepare a strategic delivery

plan that contains another level of detail with all of the projects that staff are responsible for delivering over a five year period.

(c) Kingston Park Update

Council has been dealing with the following matters since the last Forum meeting:

- The construction of the Community Hub has been completed and the official opening was held on the 29th March. The Love Living Locally event was held at the Hub on the 7th April and rooms have been hired out for a number of other activities, including as a pre-election venue (which enabled many people to become familiar with the building). There have been other specific events held in the Hub including an official visit from the Governor on 15th May. There are still a few finishing touches to be made to the building and surrounds and the co-working room will soon be ready for that particular use. After that Council will be seeking expressions of interest for the café space.
- The Kingston Health Centre is now fully operational and was officially opened on 8th May.
- Council has partnered with the private developer, Traders in Purple, to develop the residential and commercial components of Kingston Park. The revenue that Council obtains from the sale of land is to pay for the public infrastructure, Hub, playground etc. A development application has been lodged with Council for the first stage of the residential development (primarily townhouses) in the southern precinct and this is currently being processed (not yet advertised). A planning scheme amendment is also being prepared by Council.
- Playstreet consultants are designing all of the Kingston Park parklands (including the large playground immediately west of the Hub and the pedestrian corridor that connects the precinct to the Channel Court area). Extensive public engagement has occurred, particularly in regard to the design of the proposed nature based playground design. Final designs are now being prepared for the development application and the construction specifications.
- GHD consultants have prepared a draft Traffic Plan and a draft Parking Plan for the central Kingston area. The traffic modelling will help in determining the final design for the reconstruction of the Channel Highway between Hutchins and John streets, plus the upgrade of other junctions such as on Beach Road (both Church and John street). The Parking Plan will help Council meet the longer term short and long stay parking needs of the area. This will also be linked into the need for improved park-and-ride facilities on the fringe of Kingston and the need for improved public transport and bike/pedestrian pathways. When completed, these Traffic and Parking plans will be formally considered by Council.

Rob Crosthwaite asked about the overall land management strategy for Kingston Park and it was explained that the proposed site development is still essentially consistent with the original Development Plan that was prepared and adopted by Council in 2013. Since then, further investigations and updated information has refined this original plan, plus it has been necessary to ensure that consideration is given to what the market will bear (re residential and commercial aspects).

John Cox asked about the availability of the meeting rooms in the Community Hub at a reduced rate to community groups and whether adequate lighting is provided. Community groups are dealt with similarly to any other Council managed community hall. Hiring rates at the Community Hub are generally higher reflecting the better facilities being provided. Lighting on both streets and public parkland areas is well provided for as there will be a focus on a higher level of safe evening use within central Kingston in future.

Paul Rapley asked about how well Council works with DSG in regard to the traffic studies that are being done around Kingston. The response was that Council will take the lead for those roads that are under its control and DSG will take the lead for State roads. This is why the Central Kingston Traffic Plan is being led and funded by Council (where all roads are Council owned) and the Margate to Kingston corridor study is being led and funded by DSG (where the Channel Highway is a State road). Close liaison between both Council and DSG occurs in each of these cases. John Cox asked about the situation with footpaths on State roads and it was confirmed that Council is responsible for their maintenance within townships (eg Margate or Taroona). Fran Davis sought confirmation that a footpath within Alonnah (alongside the Main Road) would be Council's responsibility – and it was stated that this would be the case.

(d) Planning Scheme Update

Council is still finalising its draft Local Provisions Schedule which will need to be submitted to the Tasmanian Planning Commission before being released for public comment. A report to Council is proposed in early July. The LPS includes the zoning maps, Specific Area Plans, Code overlays and other provisions that relate more particularly to the local area. The public exhibition period is not likely to occur until the second half of 2019 and staff will be available to assist local communities in understanding what the LPS entails. Local community meetings can take place if necessary (as was done in the past).

Public submissions are compiled by Council and a report prepared that responds to all of these and includes any necessary recommendations for changes to the advertised LPS. The Commission then conducts public hearings (at which anyone who has made a prior submission may argue their case) and compiles a final report on the LPS. This is provided to the Minister who will declare the new planning scheme (a combination of the State Planning Provisions and the LPS).

Council has reviewed the existing Kingborough Land Use Plan – the existing 2013 version is on Council's website. A report is going forward to the next Council meeting to endorse an updated version of this Land Use Strategy.

Rob Crosthwaite asked about the current relevance of the State Coastal Policy, noting that a review commenced about 15 years ago and was never completed. It was confirmed that this Policy is still in force and is essentially implemented through planning schemes that have been prepared in a manner that are deemed to be consistent with that Policy.

Wayne Burgess commented that the Minister had previously stated that there would be a limited review of the State Planning Provisions. However the Planning Commission is unlikely to have the time or resources to do this while it is processing all of the Local Provisions Schedules (which were due to be submitted by the 30 June).

(e) Council Strategies

At recent Council meetings, Council has approved the following:

- Kingborough Council Climate Change Plan 2019-2024 (12 March 2019)
- Recreational Water Quality Management Strategy – Kingston Beach and Blackmans Bay Beach (8 April 2019)
- Kingborough Open Space Strategy 2019 (29 April 2019)
- Kingborough Youth Strategy 2019-2024 (13 May 2019)
- Kingborough Arts & Culture Strategy 2019-2023 (27 May 2019)

Copies of each of these will be available on the Council website.

Paul Rapley commented on how well the Council website was being maintained and that up-to-date information is being provided for public viewing. It is important that Council is being very transparent about what it is doing. Rob Crosthwaite said it is good to have the above strategies available and their preparation does encourage local community participation. He also commented (re the Climate Change Plan) how important it was to have efficient in-house lighting systems in place.

6. Other Business

Deputy Mayor Jo Westwood suggested that the Forum provide more input into the Council's budget in future. One suggestion was that the Forum hold a special budget meeting between March and June. Another was that it hold its meetings about a month earlier and then the timing would be right for a more active consideration to be given to Council's budget preparation. For example a meeting in early May could discuss the draft budget (particularly the capital works program), whereas a meeting in early June is too late. Similarly, a meeting in February (rather than March) could canvas what might be included in the draft budget before it is prepared. David Bonny spoke in support of the rescheduling of meetings. Fran Davis said that she had been part of the abovementioned Kettering strategic planning meeting this year and that the issues that were then raised needed to be considered before the draft budget had been prepared. June Walker agreed that the Forum should participate in the early preparation of the budget.

Wayne Burgess (as Chair) summarised the mood of the meeting and said that an amended meeting schedule would be prepared for 2020. It would still be necessary to align the final Forum meeting of the year with Council's AGM.

Wayne also presented the Premier's recent State Budget report (on the DPAC website) as it is relevant to Kingborough and he felt it was necessary to bring it to the Forum's attention – including the associated Hobart City Deal and the intended \$20M to alleviate congestion in Kingborough. In regard to congestion, John Cox commented that new roundabouts won't solve congestion (eg Sandfly Road or Howden Road) and the Beach Road roundabout in Margate doesn't function very well in peak traffic periods. There are long waits if you want to turn right at Sandfly Road in peak times. Rob Crosthwaite commented that at least some congestion will encourage more people to use public transport.

7. Next KCCF Meeting

The next Forum meeting will be at 9.30am on 7th September 2019.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm.