

KINGBOROUGH COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

General Meeting

9.30am 14th March 2020
Civic Centre, Kingston

MINUTES

Present:

Initials	Organisation	Representatives present
KCCF	Kingborough Community Consultative Forum Executive	Wayne Burgess (Chair)
		Tony Ferrier (Secretary)
		Mike Jackson (Deputy Chair)
BBPA	Blackmans Bay Progress Association	Wayne Burgess, Ros Pyrke, Darryl Pyrke, Kathy Holland
BHCA	Bonnet Hill Community Association	Paul Rapley
BICA	Bruny Island Community Association	Megan Weston
CALSCA	Coningham & Lower Snug Comm Ass'n	John Kelleher, Mike Jackson
FNB	Friends of North Bruny	Di Blackwood
HPA	Howden Progress Association	Deborah Chadwick
KCA	Kettering Community Association	Chris Ireland
KLGA	Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group	John Cox
MHCA	Margate Hill Community Association	Phil Long
SCRA	South Channel Ratepayers Association	John Reeves
TCA	Taroona Community Association	Jill Hickie, Roger Kellaway

Council: Cr Sue Bastone, Cr Gideon Cordover, Tony Ferrier (Deputy General Manager)

Apologies: Mayor Dean Winter, Deputy Mayor Jo Westwood, Cr Amanda Midgley, Cr Flora Fox, Cr Steve Wass, Rob Crosthwaite (SLACC), Alan Gluyas (KCA), Clare Corrigan (SLiK), David Bonny (CALSCA), Warwick Lee (WW), Luca Vanzino, (WCA), Deb Chadwick (HPA), Leslie Frost (HPA), Gary Arnold (Council GM)

Business:

1. Welcome (Chair)

Wayne Burgess welcomed everyone in attendance and called for apologies.

2. Minutes of the General Meeting held 7th December 2019

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 Organisations

BHCA – Paul Rapley requested that Council again consider in its 2020/21 budget the need to address Harpers Road stormwater problems. There is also a need to seal the verges of Taronga Road to prevent the roadside erosion that is occurring – near where it meets the Channel Highway. Council has done some recent repairs but deep gutters will be created

and a more permanent solution is necessary. It is pleasing to see the coastal protection work done by Council near the Browns River mouth, but there will need to be some follow-up work with the contractor to repair some erosion that has occurred behind the main works. It would be appreciated if Council could inspect the Spanish heath problem on vacant land between 542 and 552 Channel Highway. Council's Meg Lorang will speak at their next meeting on bushfire mitigation and the BHCA had a very successful community BBQ last week.

An update on the Local Provisions Schedule (LPS) was requested. Council has prepared the draft LPS, together with all of the zoning maps, Code overlays and supporting reports. All of this documentation has been submitted to the Tasmanian Planning Commission and Council has been informed that this material is now sufficient for the Commission to assess its legislative compliance – prior to an approval being granted for the LPS to be publicly exhibited in accordance with the legislation (which is for a 60 day period). It is not known when the Commission will notify Council when the draft LPS can be exhibited but it is likely to be in a few months' time. When it is exhibited Council will contact all of the KCCF groups and officers will be available for local public meetings as necessary (to explain the process and what is being proposed in the new planning scheme). There will be a broad communications program that tries to ensure as many people as possible within Kingborough are aware of the draft LPS and their opportunity to comment.

FoNB – Di Blackwood reported of the local interest on north Bruny about the need for bushfire hazard reduction and that there have recently been a number of local working bees focusing on weed removal. On the 28 March there is a meeting with Council and the Fire Service on planning for bushfire emergencies and in regard to the need to identify safe places in particular. A submission has been made to the Legislative Council's salmon enquiry (9 such submissions have been made from Bruny groups). Alex Matysek is pursuing a trial to be conducted that involves placing micro-plastic collection bins on coastal beaches on Bruny Island (initially at Dennes Point).

BICA – Megan Weston reported that they too made a submission to the salmon enquiry. There is a proposal for a chipper to be permanently placed on Bruny to assist with the disposal of green waste and BICA is investigating this further. The disposal of green waste on Bruny is seen as a major issue. Council has extended its Volunteer Program onto Bruny and there are now 12 trained community volunteers to assist with aged care in particular. There are ongoing concerns about the lack of an overall master plan for the ferry and associated infrastructure. Changes are occurring and the future situation is uncertain. There is an energy forum being held on Bruny today that will follow up the previous solar trial and consider the Island's electricity security following the recent damage that occurred to the only cable that services the Island. On the 24 April there will be a water supply forum and this will focus on the future of the one aquifer at Adventure Bay from which potable water is extracted to supplement domestic water supplies. There is no such source on north Bruny. The increased demand from businesses and tourist accommodation has reduced the certainty of this source and there is no requirement in place for these types of activities to provide for their own water supply.

HPA – June Walker reported on their group's recent consultation on what the local views are on priorities for local infrastructure improvements. They would like to encourage people to be more active (walking and Cycling), but the local roadsides are not very safe and there is a need to repair and widen the road verges. Signage alerting motorists of pedestrians and cyclists is needed. Existing speed limits need to be revisited. The new subdivision at Bonnie Vale does not have an internal walkway through to Howden Road. Its access for pedestrians is only via Brightwater Road and this is difficult because of the lack of safe road verges or footpath. June also commented on the lack of public open space in the area and questioned what is the latest information on Villa Howden. Brightwater Road is narrow and quite difficult for cars to pass on some bends and is not very safe for cyclists. She

suggested that a centre-line on some of the bends might help in keeping cars on their side of the road. The disposal of green waste is an ongoing concern. The HPA recently had a successful community picnic and clean-up day and is trying to communicate and provide support to local community members during the current pandemic period.

SCRA – John Reeves thanked Council for its assistance with the local Middleton Fair. He noted that the contractor that collects the rubbish from the Gordon camping grounds does an excellent job but this is made more difficult because of local residents and businesses dumping their rubbish in the public place bins, which overflow as a result. This needs policing or for a change in arrangements to collect local domestic waste. Signage is needed to indicate that the bins are for campers only and dumping of household rubbish should be prosecuted. The SCRA has petitioned the State government to improve the Channel Highway south of Kettering. There are no opportunities to overtake between Woodbridge and Middleton. Some solutions have been proposed by the SCRA (eg slow vehicle pull-overs) but they have been rejected by the government. There is a need for a sign at the Gordon camping ground's water supply that indicates that the water level is low when the light is flashing and that Council should be notified.

CALSCA – Mike Jackson requested information on the Council's green waste disposal proposals. Council currently contracts Barwicks to shred the green waste at Barretta and to take it away. A longer term proposal is that a composting solution be devised in conjunction with Hobart and Glenorchy councils – with the much larger waste volumes creating an economy of scale that makes such a composting arrangement more viable. Expressions of interest have been sought and the resultant submissions are currently being assessed – with a final decision expected in a few months. This will hopefully result in a more sustainable solution that involves lower fees being paid to cover costs. Mike commented that Council is not getting the high volumes of green waste because of the fees that are being charged. Mike also asked about the possibility of a voucher system and it was reported that Council is currently considering this following a motion that was put forward at its 13 January 2020 meeting.

John Kelleher from CALSCA reported that there is a real need for a safe shared path from Coningham through Lower Snug to Snug itself (and then connecting on to the existing trail to Margate). A survey was distributed to local residents and everyone was in favour of this proposal. It would need to provide a safe route for school children to the Snug Primary School. Funds are needed now for the feasibility study to support a future grant application – as it accepted that the final construction will be expensive and that it may ultimately be a 5-10 year project. The siting and design of the new public toilet block at the Coningham beach is locally contentious. It needs to avoid a large eucalypt and its root zone. The neighbour needs to be consulted, particularly in regard to the proposed design. CALSCA is organizing a major local clean-up at the end of March, including the repainting of picnic tables, plus there will be 4 or 5 working bees at the beach in the coming months. Council is thanked for the recent road repairs, but a particular project that should be considered is to seal the verges along the landward side of the narrow section of Old Station Road. An extension of about 0.5M into the bank would assist the longevity of the existing bitumen and prevent the existing erosion. This section of road is unsafe for pedestrians and is one of the reasons for the abovementioned shared trail proposal.

KCA – Chris Ireland reported on a message from Council about a possible National Tree Day event at the old Kettering oval on Saddle Road. This is a popular walking and off-lead dog area and feedback is being sought from locals on the tree planting proposal. The KCA is not being kept informed about proposed ferry infrastructure changes and they are concerned about the lack of an overall plan for the area. They would like to see the footpath proposal from Trial Bay to Ferry Road (alongside the Channel Highway) in the next Council budget. The children's playground at the Kettering reserve is very poor and an improvement is well overdue. This is a popular area for families and the general area is

well frequented (eg when cricket is being played). The public toilets under the hall are well used but are in a dreadful condition and in drastic need of an upgrade. The disabled parking space at the hall is too narrow and this could be resolved by converting the three spaces into two disabled spaces. The new cricket club extension on the hall is being opened on 28 March.

BBPA – Ros Pyrke reported that at a recent general meeting of 40 local residents it was decided to reinvigorate this local association and it will be changing its name to the Blackmans Bay Community Association. The four main areas that will be focused on are to be planning matters, climate change, environment and livability and the Council's budget.

In regard to environment and livability, they are interested in addressing the local infrastructure needs of Blackmans Bay, including improved public toilets, cycleways etc (see previous submission to Council). A question was asked as to how the community groups could find out how all of the matters that are raised with Council are progressing. Council's response to this was that there is no one place where all of this information can be found as the many requests are being dealt with by the various relevant parts of Council and in many cases individual officers. Upon enquiry, Council can report on the progress of individual matters, but there is no reporting process that covers everything. In regard to the marine water quality, the seagulls have returned to the beach in great numbers. No conclusions have yet been drawn from how effective the low flow diversions have been.

In regard to climate change, Council has produced excellent documentation but the BBPA would like to know how the recommended actions are to be implemented and how further public consultation will be conducted. Council responded by saying that this is part of the upcoming budget process and public consultation will occur as part of the implementation of various components or with the particularly affected local communities. In regard to communications and consultation, the BBPA felt that Council's local consultation has been less than ideal in regard to such matters as Mary Knoll, Talone streetscaping and the Blowhole reserve. They would like to improve the communications between Council staff and the community in order to achieve better overall outcomes for everyone.

TCA – Roger Kellaway said that he was very impressed with the Council information reports that had been circulated prior to this meeting. The TCA had responded to Council's earlier request for information on what local minor works are needed. Within Taroom there are concerns about the impact of salmon farming. People have noticed increased water turbidity over summer and enquiries have been made to the Derwent Estuary Program as there are concerns about the impact of the water quality at the local beaches. Roger suggested that Council develop closer ties with UTAS as honours students could be used on local projects as they may represent better value for money than consultants and will often come up with more innovative ideas. He asked about the local recycling of plastic waste and as to whether the hard plastic used in milk containers for example was still being recycled – with Council's response being that yes, it is.

Jill Hickie said that there a master plan is needed for the Taroom Community Hall to guide its future upgrade. She understood that Council had engaged an architect to look at this and it could be made much more energy efficient and more suitable for community use. Jill also spoke about the need for local community resilience, particularly in the face of such emergencies as a bushfire. A similar exercise could be conducted at Taroom as Hobart Council had done at Ferntree and Mt Nelson in surveying community attitudes and preparedness. She will be talking to Council about this. There is a new local group formed called 'Transition Streets Taroom' that is looking to promote urban food production and community gardens. The TCA is now represented on the Taroom High School Association as there are some concerns about a potential expansion of the school in regard to the capacity of the highway and the impact on the existing grounds.

KLAG – John Cox reported on his longstanding concerns about the weeds that occur alongside the Huon and Channel Highways within land managed by the State government. He asked as to whether the Council’s authorised weed officers could serve notices (as per the Weed Management Act) on the State road authority – as these highways are not being looked after and weeds are spreading on to adjoining properties. Council’s response was that this would be investigated though Council’s authorisation is provided by the State government so it is doubtful that Council could then prosecute that same government. John also said that there were few pull-over opportunities or wide verges alongside the highway and some upgrades in this regard would be helpful in emergency situations. John Reeves (SCRA) recounted how he had been threatened with prosecution by the State road authority after having picked up some substantial amounts of roadside litter in the Gordon area.

MHCG – Phil Long reported on the recent establishment of this new community group called the Margate Hills Community Group. Their main area of interest is the condition of the gravel roads up behind Margate (eg up Van Morey Road). They are also concerned about the amount of understorey fuel that exists within the road reserves and the fact that there is only one road in (Van Morey Road) with no other exit and that a fairly large area could be potentially very isolated during a major bushfire. They are also talking to Council about the further development of some local reserve land. His first impression was that this Forum represents a very valuable opportunity for local community groups to raise important local issues with Council.

5. Reports from Council

(a) Council’s draft 2020/21 Budget

Council is currently preparing its draft 2020/21 budget. A councillor workshop is to be held all afternoon on 16 March – and it will consider the operational budget, capital works and the fees and charges. A draft budget will then be prepared for public comment and this will be released in a few week’s time. There are at this stage no details of the draft budget available.

There are some challenges in that there has been a loss of revenue as a result of the decision that rates are not payable for independent living units owned by charitable organisations. As well as this, Council does experience increased costs in keeping up with the ongoing development of the municipality – both in terms of new community facilities and infrastructure that must be provided and the ever increasing asset depreciation costs.

Tony Ferrier noted that Council has received information from a number of Forum members following a request for projects that Council could consider while forming the 2020/21 budget. Submissions were received from:

- Bonnet Hill Community Association
- Clare Corrigan
- Taroona Community Hall Management Committee
- Taroona Neighbourhood Garden
- Woodbridge Community Association
- Coningham & Lower Snug Community Association
- Taroona Community Association
- Blackmans Bay Progress Association
- Howden Progress Association

All of this information was compiled into a single document and circulated to both Councillors and relevant staff.

(b) Communications & Engagement Policy, Framework and Strategy

Council adopted these at its meeting on 11 February 2020.

A new Communications and Engagement Policy now includes stronger community engagement objectives, principles and procedures. The Policy and associated documents have been influenced by the principles and practices shared by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).

The Community Engagement Framework has been revised to facilitate more consistent communications and engagement across all parts of Council and to support the new Strategic Plan's priorities. It is underpinned by a core set of values and principles that establish the standard and tone of Council's communications and engagement projects. It has been applied to a number of recent projects – such as the Strategic Plan consultation, North West Bay River Catchment, 2018 Storm Survey, Kingston Town Centre Place Strategy and the Silverwater Park consultation. In order to ensure effective community engagement is achieved and that genuine community participation is actively encouraged, templates have been created to assist staff in the development of engagement strategies for specific projects. These templates also seek to ensure that Council improves the evaluation and reporting mechanisms for each project.

The new Communications and Engagement Strategy provides an overview of the communications and engagement activities being delivered by Council. Council needs to plan and resource these activities throughout the year in order to avoid situations of engagement fatigue, inadequate and/or inappropriate timeframes and staff availability. The reporting arrangements within the Strategy help to mitigate these situations and make sure activities are well planned and resourced. The Strategy has a key role in keeping Kingborough's ratepayers, residents and service users well informed and aware of the services Council provides, along with new projects and programs. It aims to make sure information is presented in a range of formats to successfully reach the community.

The threat of natural disasters such as bushfire continues to be a high risk in Kingborough. As an action identified in the previous Communications Strategy and following the Huon Valley bushfires, a specific Crisis Communications Strategy was developed to support staff during a natural disaster event. This Strategy has been included as an appendix to the Communications and Engagement Strategy.

Kathy Holland (BBPA) asked as to how local community groups could better engage with the Council in future. The response to this was that the above Framework and Strategy provides a structured approach to this future engagement and that if groups would like to understand this better then it may be best to initially contact Sarah Wilcox who is Council's Communications and Engagement Advisor.

Mike Jackson (CALSCA) said that there was no mention of the Forum in the above documents and that maybe the Framework or Strategy should include a list of community based forums that Council could use as a way of both keeping the community informed and in receiving feedback.

Ros Pyrke (BBPA) said that it is quite difficult for the community associations (as represented on the Forum) to keep their own local communities informed. It would be good to have a digital community notice board that could be centrally accessed – where local residents could contribute comments back to Council via the respective community groups.

Kathy Holland (BBPA) asked about the Council directory and how new residents could be encouraged to become actively involved in the local community groups in their area. This would be a positive way for Council to develop good working relationships between itself

and these local community groups. Paul Rapley (BHCA) commented on how the respective community associations are only directly communicating with their members and the rest of the local community is not being kept so informed. June Walker (HPA) and Wayne Burgess (BBPA) noted that Council does update a list of community group contacts on its website each year.

(c) Kingborough Sports Precinct Future Directions Plan

Council endorsed this Plan at its meeting on 11 February 2020. The previous master plan for the sports precinct dated from 2010 and set a blue print for the major development that subsequently occurred (new stadium, gymnastics, twin ovals etc). This Future Directions Plan is quite different and is more aspirational. It tries to imagine what the precinct could look like in the future. Rather than focusing on the needs of individual sporting organisations, it explores opportunities to bring people, sports and activities together. It will be used to facilitate positive and cooperative relationships.

The types of projects that have been identified include an aquatic leisure facility (a feasibility study is currently underway), the creation of a sports college within the high school, expanding the indoor sporting opportunities, upgrading Gormley Park as a multi-use sportsground, providing a synthetic multi-use sportsground at Lightwood Park, installing a second turf wicket at the Twin Ovals, improving road, parking and pedestrian capacity and developing an integrated marketing/business strategy for the whole precinct.

Endorsement of the plan does not commit Council to any expenditure. The Plan provides a direction for further negotiation and investigations. External funding will be critical in implementing any of the components and a longer term approach will be required as well. The Plan is now being discussed with the many potential stakeholders and the various projects are expected to evolve and develop further as a result of this further consultation.

(d) Kingston Town Centre Place Strategy

Council has commissioned PlaceScore consultants to develop a Kingston Town Centre Place Strategy. This work is now nearing completion and a draft Strategy has been circulated for public comment. The final document will be provided in the next few weeks.

The Vision is for the town centre to be a green, walkable and engaging place to stay – not to drive through. It expands on this by saying that *Our vision for the Kingston Town Centre sees it transition from a series of disconnected and isolated commercial blocks into a unified and legible regional Town Centre where everything is a short walk away. Uniquely walkable with lush green and engaging streets attractive to a range of retail, commercial and residential land uses – Kingston Town Centre will achieve what others have failed to do.*

Its recommendations fall under four main categories:

Infrastructure investment priorities, including:

- Transform Channel Highway into Kingston's main street (relocate bus stops, reduce carriageway width, slow vehicles, replace Freeman street roundabout, improve pedestrian amenity and crossings, and designate drop-off zones, disabled parking etc.
- Develop a town centre "civic spine" from Church Street through to Skipper Lane in Kingston Park (acquire land to create a pedestrian link from Channel Highway to John Street, remove traffic from Skipper Lane and create a new laneway experience, replace the roundabout on Church Street, remove driveways and improve pedestrian amenity on Hutchins Street, and other general landscaping improvements within this corridor.

- Improve walking links to public transport nodes (replace roundabouts to allow dedicated pedestrian crossings, create safe crossings at bus stops and elsewhere, widen footpaths, improve standard of bus stops, and join up disconnected on-street bike lanes).

Governance and planning recommendations, including:

- Create Kingston government steering group
- Create Kingston stakeholder working group
- Develop a Specific Area Plan (for inclusion in the planning scheme)
- Initiate a local entrepreneurs' program
- Invest in improving regional employment attraction

Public realm recommendations, including:

- Bring nature into the town centre (more vegetation)
- Create a network of diverse open spaces
- Trial short term road transformations
- Activate the Community Hub

Communication recommendations, including:

- Transform Kingston web pages (regular updates on Place Strategy implementation).
- Rename Channel Highway
- Develop a marketing and branding strategy for Kingston

Council will be considering the final report upon its receipt in the near future.

(e) Kingston Park playground update

Since the last Forum meeting, the construction of the playground has commenced and is now well underway. The site has been completely reshaped to provide for future easy access (by removing the previous steep bank with a balance between cut and fill). The playground itself will consist of a wide variety of play elements and other activity spaces that cater for children of all ages and abilities. Plans of the playground are available on Council's website (as below) and a large copy was viewed at the meeting.



Construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2020, with the playground ready for next summer. This will coincide with increased activation of the Community Hub and the surrounding areas. In the next few years Council plans to extend the landscaping, shared pathways and recreational activities on to other parts of the site down towards Whitewater Creek.

6. Other Business

Darryl Pyrke (BBPA) asked about the trees that are proposed to be removed as part of the Kingston Park residential development. The approved permit for this development does allow this to occur.

Cr Gideon Cordover informed the meeting that he is to put forward a motion to Council that seeks to limit the number of poker machines within the municipality. He has requested that the groups within the Forum also consider this matter as well in order to confirm that this is something that is not wanted in Kingborough.

June Walker (HPA) said how the growth of street trees in central Kingston (after they were planted about 15 years ago) is really appreciated and she was hoping that the Kingston Town Centre Place Strategy would be proposing much more of this – and it was confirmed that this would be case with more streetscape planting proposed in future. June also asked about the fuel reduction burns that are proposed on Council owned properties and her worry that fuel reduction on private land is not occurring. Information was provided on what Council is doing in this regard, with fuel reduction burns scheduled in the near future. The Forum felt that it would like to invite Council's Meg Lorang to its next meeting to provide further information in this regard.

John Cox (KLAG) asked as to whether Council knew anything about the works proposed on the Huon Highway bridge over the North West Bay River. Council is not aware of this proposal. He also reminded Council of his request to find out whether Council could serve weed notices on the State government.

Wayne Burgess (BBPA) asked about the upcoming LPS public exhibition period and as to who local community groups could contact if they felt a public meeting should be held. Council is about to appoint a new Strategic Planning Officer (Adriaan Stander commences duty on 30 March) and he will be mainly responsible for the LPS process within Council, though Tony Ferrier can also be contacted.

Mike Jackson (CALSCA) asked about the bushfire threat caused by the vegetation within the Council road reserves and how this can be managed. The response was that some slashing is done, but that fuel reduction burns on such narrow strips of land is rarely possible. The roads are regularly inspected and risks identified, particularly in regard to overhanging trees. John Cox (KLAG) said that such risks are present at Krauses Road.

7. Next KCCF Meeting

The next Forum meeting will be held at 9.30am on 13th June 2020 at the Civic Centre.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm.