



AGENDA

Meeting: Community Consultation Meeting

Date: Wednesday 1 February 2017

Location: Georgetown Shire Hall

Commencing: 9:00am

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING
2. WELCOME TO COUNTRY
3. APPOLOGIES
4. CHARLESTON DAM
5. GILBERT RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME
6. RESERVOIR UPGRADE
7. W4Q – FUNDS PROGRAM/PROJECT
8. ROAD UPDATES
 - *GEORGETOWN TO FORSAYTH ROAD*
 - *HANN HIGHWAY*
 - *GREGORY DEVELOPMENT ROAD*
 - *GULF DEVELOPMENT ROAD*
9. GEORGETOWN TO FORSAYTH ROAD
10. RESIGNATION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
11. AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD WINNERS
12. GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY



MINUTES: Community Consultation Meeting Minutes
DATE: 1 February 2017
COMMENCING 9:00am
LOCATION: Georgetown Community Hall

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9:05am.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Ewamian People - the traditional custodians of this land where we meet for the Etheridge Learning Facility Management Committee meeting. We pay our respects to the Ewamian People, especially the Elders, past and present and acknowledge their traditional customs and laws and recognize their continuing connection to this Country.

We look forward to a long and continuing relationship with the Ewamian People and value any opportunities in strengthening relationships and partnerships through collaboration by respecting their Country.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Warren Devlin
Deputy Mayor Tony Gallagher
Cr Will Attwood
Cr Warren Bethel
Acting Chief Executive Officer David Munro
Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer Anna Christensen

Community Members: Total of 6 people attended from the Community

APOLOGIES

Cr Troy Barnes

CHARLESTON DAM

The Mayor updated attendees of the meeting on the progression of the Charleston Dam Project. Mayor Devlin informed the committee that Council received \$10 Million Dollars in funding from the Federal Government to fund the Charleston Dam. Council is in the process of going through designs with engineers and are currently designing a fish ladder to be installed in the dam. Council is also hoping to install a pipeline from the dam to Georgetown which will see an opportunity to turn off the electric pumps and furthermore save money being spent on electricity. Once the design of the fish ladder is finalised, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will have to approve the design.

Council will then approve its development application before construction begins. Council hopes to have the construction of the dam complete prior to next wet season.

GILBERT RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME

The Mayor gave an update on the movements of the Gilbert River project and specifically mentioned how positive the project is looking. Mayor Devlin highlighted the fact that the Federal Government has got no other projects on their list in the North. Once the project is approved for development and given funding it will mean a large amount of growth for the Shire.

RESERVOIR UPGRADE

Mayor Devlin informed attendees that Council received \$500'000 in funding for the Georgetown water reservoir.

David Munro gave an update on the status of the project. David stated that the tank should be finished by the end of May and it is being constructed off site. The tank will be 1.8 mega litres and will meet requirements for water storage for Georgetown. Council is hoping to do upgrades at Forsayth with the existing funding also.

W4Q – FUNDS PROGRAM/PROJECT

The Mayor discussed the Work for Queensland grant with attendees and shared ideas for spending the grant money. He explained that the grant has been designed to employ persons while also improving townships through promotion of liveability. The Mayor shared the following ideas that himself and other community members have discussed with him;

Mt Surprise:

- Fencing of the town common
- Work to the drainage areas in town
- Installing a speed camera near the State School
- Adding to the playground that Council received some funds to install.

Forsayth:

- Enlarging and improving the Caeshfor Park
- Fixing the existing drainage problems around town
- Levelling the ground at the Forsayth Turnout Showground.

Einasleigh:

- Creating better access to Copperfield Gorge and installing a viewing platform.

Gilbert Rest Area:

- Constructing a Rural Fire Shed.

The Lynd:

- Constructing a Rural Fire Shed.

Georgetown:

- Beautification of each entrance into Georgetown
- Creating a safer Riverwalk and also design and construct gardens for the Riverwalk
- Earthwork each side of town to be able to slash near entrances.

RM: I believe there is not enough to do for young people in the town. I would like to see a bike/skate park installed.

JH: Yes or a water park be installed.

Cr Bethel: Another option that myself and others have think would be an option is to install shaded sitting areas in the main street.

Cr Gallagher: There have been some suggestions that a memorial for the man who was killed last year be constructed on Newcastle Range.

Mayor Devlin: Another thought I had is that cement tables be made and installed around the Shire. Casual work could be given to do this.

ROAD UPDATES

Forsyth to Georgetown Road

The Mayor updated attendees on the progress of works to begin on the Forsyth to Georgetown Road. He was pleased to announce that there would be a total of 6 and a half kilometres of bitumen added to the road which will enable more passing opportunities. The Mayor explained that there is no start date yet but he is hoping that there will be a start date announced soon.

Hann Highway

The Mayor announced that there will be 3km of widening to be conducted on the Hann Highway and that Etheridge Shire Council would be the sole invitees on 99A. The Mayor continued on to explain that there have been some issues surrounding the \$20 million dollars in funding that Council was to receive has the total amount has currently been brought down to \$9 million. The Mayor is hoping and very positive that this will go back to the original amount.

Gregory Development Road

Mr Mayor advised attendees that discussions to use TIDS funding on the Oasis to Einasleigh road will be discussed in a Councillor Workshop to be held today (1-2-17). This road is on a priority list due to the heavy amounts of traffic that will be travelling to Kidston to work at the GENEX site.

David Munro commented saying that GENEX have agreed to pay for maintenance to the road into Kidston.

Gulf Development Road

The Mayor informed attendees that he had been in discussions with Neil Scales from Transport and Main Roads (TMR) trying to retrieve \$5 million dollars in funding each year for the Gulf Development Road. Unfortunately Neil has been moved to another area; the Mayor will continue to lobby to get this funding on an annual basis with TMR.

RESIGNATION OF THE CEO

Mr Mayor informed those who attended that Michael Kitzelmann had resigned and taken a job as Chief Executive Officer of Mt Isa City Council. The Mayor commented that he wishes the Kitzelmann's all the best and that they are working towards finding a replacement for Michael.

The Mayor also briefed attendees on the movements towards filling the Director of Engineering Services and the status of the Works Manager position. Applicants have been shortlisted for the DES position and with assistance from the recruitment agency hired to assist in filling the position, the shortlist is down to three applicants. The Works Manager position is still in an 'Acting' status and will be until the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Engineering Services roles have been filled.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD WINNERS

The Mayor commented that it was a great turnout at the Australia Day Awards in Mt Surprise.

David Munro went through each award winner as below;

- Citizen of the Year, Cherie Tansey
- Junior Citizen of the Year, Brodee Ryan
- Senior Sports Person, Logan Bethel
- Junior Sports Person, Maria Wilson
- Organisation of the Year/Event of the Year, Georgetown Golf Club and Georgetown All Sports
- Mayoral Award, Eric Tan.

RM commented that it would be good to include a summary of why each award winner received their awards in the next INFORM edition.

GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Mayor invited community members to discuss any issues, concerns or ideas that they may have.

RM – What is happening with the wash down bay in Mt Surprise?

WA – It was decommissioned due to the money being spent to maintain it, it was being used for the wrong reasons rather than what it was put there for which was for vehicles to wash any weeds off their wheels.

WD – We have been discussing the wash down bay and options for recommissioning it. If it was to be recommissioned I think that the appropriate signage would have to be displayed informing people of its purpose.

TG – Ideally the best place for it would be at the 40 mile scrub.

WA – Mt Surprise was chosen as it is in a more public place although I agree that the 40 mile would be a better place in terms of effectiveness.

WD - What is everyone's thoughts on upgrading the river walk?

TG – Well, the only thing to think about if gardens etc. are put on the Riverwalk is the flood rubbish when the river runs high. This needs to be taken into consideration and a clean-up needs to occur.

WA – This could be a good job for work for the dole.

RM – What is happening with 4KZ radio?

WD – Council have engaged 4KZ radio and it is now a matter of getting the transponder as an asset to Council. David is working through some land title issues.

DM – Michael was looking into this and we are just waiting on documentation. I believe that we will have to pay for the land.

WD – It will continue to work as AM radio.

RM – What can be done for the community in terms of aged care facilities?

WD – Well, we need to really band together to work out a solution to this problem.

JZ – A lot would be happy to have a carer come to their home to assist rather than be put into facilities/homes built for them.

WA – If you look at a lot of seniors in the Shire they would much prefer to stay at their current home rather than move to a new home.

WD – If we were to facilitate something being built, there has been a suggestion for this to be in between Heritage Park and the Hospital.

WA – Just to let the public know, I have applied for the Board of Directors on the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital Board. If I am successful these are the types of things I will be advocating for.

WD – I will also highlight that it is not Council's job to pay for aged care services it is Queensland Health's.

WD – I would like to put something out for discussion. We have been discussing the possibility of going back to a standard work scenario for shift workers on Council. This will hopefully boost the local economy by trying to keep things local.

RZ – Straight away if that is done fatigue management is not something that would have to be worried about.

JH – Community events could be easier to organise and happen more often as they wouldn't have to cater for the breaks.

WD – The aim is to encourage people to stay in town on weekends rather than head away on breaks.

JZ – It is noticeable for everyone that the community is shrinking.

RM – Can Council do a live local scheme for employees?

WD – Employees already receive an allowance if they live locally.

JH – Does Council have an EB, is this a discussion that maybe needs to go to the EB committee?

DM – We do have one but we cannot have a meeting until the new award comes in.

WA – I agree that if the shift is changed that it would be easier for community events and should boost the locally economy and give local contractors more of a chance. It gives an opportunity for families to move to town.

TG – I think that the mowing of vacant blocks needs to happen more regularly. I know that it isn't really our problem but it is untidy.

WD – I think the boys have done a good job considering how much mowing they have been responsible and how fast the grass is growing at the moment.

TG – I have also had a request for rubbish runs. If maybe Council could arrange 1 day a month for green waste to be picked up.

WD – We use to have big industrial bins, we might need to see if we can get these back in place.

RM – Can the gardeners knock ant beds down on the sides of the road?

WD – Well, the gardeners already do more than they have to in town.

WD – What are everyone's thoughts on signs advertising the town being erected? I want more advertising to draw people to town. Possibly even a television ad.

DM – We have \$50'000 set aside for signage and \$20'000 for other advertising in the budget.

WD – I have a concern for the increased camping at Cumberland chimney. There was the upgrade which looks great but the bollards that have been put in place to try and decrease the camping space have been spaced to allow people to get through.

RZ – Why can't there be a fee at Cumberland for camping?

JH – Or can there be signage out there that lists local businesses and what services they provide.

WD – I think that is a great idea. I am also trying to let people know about uCamps online. This is a site where stations can put their property online for tourists to come and camp but they pay a small fee to do so. No toilets blocks are required.

WD – The Gilbert River project is something that will have a massive impact on growth in the Shire.

RM – What is the timeframe before anything happens?

WD – Round 1 for the funding will be assessed prior to July and round 2 will be assessed prior to November.

RM – Is it possible to hold markets on a regular basis in Georgetown, this could be something extra for tourists and townspeople to attend.

WD – That is a great idea but it is an event that should be community run. That might be a good idea for the progress association.

WA – I have just put it on my list to take to the Progress Association meeting.

CONCLUSION

The Mayor closed the meeting at 11:15am.