

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY 06 JULY 2016
CWA HALL - FORSAYTH

Cr Devlin opened the meeting at 9:25am

ATTENDANCE

Cr Warren Devlin (WD)
Cr Tony Gallagher (TG)
Cr Troy Barnes (TB)
Cr Warren Bethel (WB)

Cr Will Attwood (WA)
Michael Kitzelmann (MK)
Rebekah Hill (RH)

Community Members: Total of 11 people attended from the Forsayth Community

APOLOGIES

Barry Hughes
Harrie Bait

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY, EWAMIAN PEOPLE

We respectfully acknowledge the Ewamian People - the traditional custodians of this land where we meet for the Community Consultation Meeting in Forsayth. We pay our respects to the Ewamian People, especially the Elders, past and present and acknowledge their traditional customs and lores 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.

CHARLESTON DAM

Cr Devlin advised that Council has submitted a grant application to the National Stronger Regions program for \$10 million to construct the dam wall. Council is waiting to hear if the application is successful. The project is shovel ready and as soon as funding is secured construction will commence. In the overarching plan for the dam, council has designated for the dam to be a recreation area as well as a water supply. The recreation area is likely to include boat ramps, picnic shelters, electric barbeques and large shade trees. If the grant is unsuccessful council will pursue other means to secure water for Forsayth. There is currently a grant application in to upgrade the water treatment plant.

Floor – What is council's relationship like with Bob Katter?

WD – Positive, council has a good working relationship with Bob.

WA – In the last couple of days Katter has announced what projects he'll be backing if he is elected in Kennedy and two of those projects are in Etheridge.

MAIN ROADS

Forsayth/Georgetown Road

Cr Devlin advised that Council is still planning on putting bitumen down on the Forsayth/Georgetown Road.

Floor – The only hesitation from the community is that with a bitumen road may come a school bus and the closure of Forsayth State School and perhaps even the health clinic.

MK – If Education Queensland were to shut the school they would need a change in legislation which is not likely.

TB – If the school did shut maybe the extra students at Georgetown would support an application for Georgetown to become a Prep – Yr 10 school for Etheridge Shire.

Cr Devlin advised that property owners along the Forsayth/Georgetown Road will be consulted as to what event are on so as to try and arrange roadworks in their area at the most convenient times possible.

Forsayth/Einasleigh Road

Cr Devlin advised that if council gets approval to put TIDS money on a state road, they would like to prioritise laying some bitumen on the Einasleigh to the Oasis/Lynd Rd to provide safe passing opportunities.

Floor – The last minute grading done by council before the Oak Park Races is very much appreciated. There were about 2000 people leaving the races on the weekend and they all had to stay dust distance apart. The road had a pothole that would have been quite dangerous if one the drivers hadn't stopped and filled the hole up with rocks.

Hann Highway

Floor – Concerns about Norm Jacobsen for Labour made an announcement in the media that he didn't see value in upgrading the Hann Highway now. He would rather wait until they can build a massive highway with multiple lanes and large bridges.

MK – Bob Katter supports the Hann Project.

WIND FARM, HYDRO PROJECT & IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Cr Devlin advised that Infigen has some current challenges that they will hopefully overcome in the next few months. When they do there could be 50-150 workers based in Forsayth sometime in the next six months. Council would like both Genex and Infigen to be successful in their projects.

Cr Devlin advised on Strathmore Station and the Gilbert River Agricultural Precinct in regards to currently having cleared trees. There are approximately three or four further properties in the shire that have submitted tree clearing applications. The Einasleigh Plateau will be aimed at small blocks that will encourage those Mum and Dad boutique agricultural projects. WD and MK have met with the Coordinator General regarding water allocations and are hopeful that on September 5th more allocations will come available for people to apply for.

TB – There are numerous large projects in our shire at the moment and council has put aside \$120,000 to hire a professional to manage these projects and put a prospectus together.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Ian Carroll

- Forsayth Turnout currently has a flyer circulating for people to enter their baking, art, etc in the show. Veronica Loudon will be doing the catering. The horse show has low entries this year.
- Thanks to the current and previous council for their support of the Forsayth Improvements Group (FIG). Some of the improvements the group have identified and are working on include the dump point, signage in the park to be moved forward, bollards to stop people going to Pauls place, a shelter at the cemetery and a tap at the gardens for Rodney to water. The FIG would like to invite council to be a part of and workshop the town plan and look at footpaths and edgings, etc.

ACTION – Council to get a tap installed near the gardens.

- RPS has not approached anyone in Forsayth regarding urban planning so if their report comes back and it says they have had community consultation or input from Forsayth residents that's not correct.

ACTION – CEO to follow up with RPS.

- Forsayth is in need of a spare inflatable stretcher that can go away with RFDS and be returned. At the moment if someone has an accident and a spinal injury is suspected, they are locally put on the inflatable stretcher but when RFDS comes the stretcher has to be deflated and the patient transferred to the RFDS stretcher. This increases the risk of spinal injury.

ACTION – Cr Attwood will consult with Harrie Bate and take the need to the health board

MK – The event is registered as the Etheridge Show, however if we want to secure the public holiday instead of just a bank day we need to keep agriculture as a part of the event.

Graham Loudon

- The rifle range is in the process of being upgraded.

Val Gray

- The CWA Hall is a great facility but it is being underutilised. Can council assist in arranging for people to come out and provide a service or activity in the hall for locals? Perhaps something for young mums and some arts/crafts activities.

ACTION – ECDO to investigate activity opportunities and report back to Forsayth residents.

ACTION – Mayor to forward the dates of the Shitbox Rally to Ian Carroll who will inform the Forsayth Community. It's estimated that between 300-500 cars will come through town.

Laurie Baron – When are building blocks going to be released in Forsayth?

MK – There are currently 26 blocks of undeveloped land in Forsayth of which council owns 11. Council has also applied to the state government for more land. Unfortunately we don't know when they'll be released but the paperwork is in and council has done what it can. At this stage it's a waiting game.

TB – In the future council is hoping to assign a councillor to each township to be the point of contact and advocate for each community. Community Consultation Meetings would then occur every three or four months consecutively in each town within a week.

Cr Devlin advised Forsayth residents that there is \$10,000 annually in the budget for small works in Forsayth for them to consider where that money should be spent.

Dudley Fitzsimmons

- The first grid when you head out of town towards Georgetown is filled up with sand from the grading around the fence. Can that please be fixed as cattle are walking over it?

CONCLUSION

Cr Devlin closed the meeting at 11.05am