

Mission Statement:

To support and develop a sustainable, thriving and resilient community through leadership and partnership.

HELD: Tuesday 13 December 2011

LOCATION: Chiltern Memorial Hall

NUMBER OF RESIDENTS: 9

Councillors	Council Officers	Community members
Mayor Cr Larry Goldsworthy	CEO Brendan McGrath	Bob Goldsworthy
Deputy Mayor Cr Peter Croucher	GM Sustainable Communities Mark Florence	Don Nevin
Cr Ali Pockley	GM Major Projects & Programs Andre Kompler	Patricia O'Connor
Cr Bernie Gaffney	GM Corporate Services Greg Pinkerton	Joy Lee
Cr Barb Murdoch	Manager Communications Roberta Baker	Bill Hotson
Cr Vic Issell		Peter Twigg
		C.R Peake
		Lois Hotson
		Nerida Kerr

ITEM NO	ITEM	ACTION
1.0	Welcome	
2.0	Apologies: Chief Executive Officer Brendan McGrath and Cr Peter Graham	
3.0	<p>Study into need for Industrial/Commercial land</p> <p>Mark Florence – explained there had not been a definitive assessment of demand for industrial land in Chiltern or Barnawartha. Council has received a grant of \$7,500 from Regional Development Victoria, and matched it to \$15,000 - specifically to look at the demand in Chiltern for industrial land. For Council to proceed to a planning scheme amendment we need justification, so that is what this work will be. Council is in the process of appointing an independent person to begin the study in early January. Council hopes to have something in the first half of next year.</p> <p>Peter Twigg – at the last forum, the issue was raised in relation to semi-trailers parking in the street. Peter said the CEO acknowledged it was illegal at the time, and a councillor said we should find somewhere to park these trucks. This is still a massive issue in Chiltern, Wenkes Road, High Street, Albert Road, all becoming a parking area for trucks.</p> <p>Mark Florence – explained that justification for providing industrial land can't be based on solving a truck parking issue. Need to prove it (industrial land) would attract industry to the town. And this would also solve the parking issue.</p> <p>Pat O'Connor – expressed concern that some home-based industries would not participate in a study because as soon as they come to notice they would be told they couldn't do it anymore.</p> <p>Bill Hotson – questioned the need for another study. When he was on council there were at least 15 different sized businesses that wanted to come to Chiltern but there was no suitable land. Those people are not going to come forward for this study, and you are not going to get the backyarders coming forward. You've got the suitable land. It needs to be rezoned and Council needs to bite the bullet on this like they did 20 years ago in Rutherglen. Then little operators will slowly come out and take up those blocks.</p> <p>Mark Florence – I don't dispute all that history. At the end of the day any land that is identified has to be rezoned, and this needs a planning scheme amendment. For this to happen we need strong justification for the</p>	Ian Scholes

	<p>amendment. The department is saying this. No matter how much knowledge we have, the department says we have to do this.</p> <p>Mayor Cr Larry Goldsworthy - stressed that Council had to follow due process.</p> <p>Cr Ali Pockley – there was a move to put industrial land at the entrance to town and there was a massive outcry.</p> <p>Joy Lee – said there was a huge outcry from a handful of people, majority were silent. It got dropped off the MSS (Municipal Strategic Statement) that year.</p> <p>Nerida Kerr – none of that work has been done at Barnawartha.</p> <p>Mark Florence – said he understood the frustration but we are governed by the law and we have to go through the process.</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Maintenance trends at Indigo Council – Andre Kompler</p>	
	<p>GM Major Projects and & Programs Andre Kompler - short PowerPoint presentation to show statistics over the year in his department, including the number of work requests and the time taken to complete them. The printed information was handed out (see attached) and feedback was sought from those present.</p> <p>Andre Kompler - The number of total work requests each year has risen steadily. Even allowing for the 300 or so works requests because of the floods last year, the increase is still very high over the past 4 years. Chiltern accounts for about 20% of requests and about 500 a year come from Chiltern, Barnawartha, Indigo Valley, Norong, Browns Plain, Cornishtown, Lilliput. What does this mean for the community? In the community's mind, if we need to spend more time on drainage, it means cutting back on something else.</p> <p>Bill Hotson – gravel roads are still appalling but drainage is still a huge problem.</p> <p>Bob Peake – issued an open invitation to any councillor and employees to show them the problems around the shire.</p> <p>Peter Twigg - our road, Franks Road, is graded regularly, last time in winter, which created a lot of mud. I have crushed rock but our road is perfect. It doesn't need grading twice a year. Seems to be a waste of resources.</p> <p>Andre Kompler - we will take that on board.</p>	

5.0	Flood mitigation works	
	\$470k to be spent on flood mitigation work around Chiltern. Focus this year is on the Kilgour St, Black Ball dam areas.	
6.0	Indigo Pools Development Plan	
	Mark Florence – Council has 5 pools, manages a sixth in Wodonga. Each of the 5 was built as part of preparation for Melbourne Olympics in 1956. Like many in Victoria, they are ageing and the cost to maintain and run them is escalating. Pools in small communities are a very valuable asset. The plan involves a review of management structure – is that the best way to do it – are there other ways to do this. What improvements could happen – do we need more toddler water, more slides, etc. Hard copies of a survey are being sent to schools, swim clubs, mothers groups, lap swimmers for feedback. Survey also on Council website. Aim to complete this by February-March to factor into the budget process.	David Koren
7.0	Your Say	
	<p>Bill Hotson – expressed concern about a Chilean Needle Grass infestation. Said Council needed to manage roadsides, look at total perspective including drainage. Council’s responsibility to manage noxious weeds on roadsides and the Roadside Management Conservation Plan has little regard to weeds. If that needs to be a budget item, then that should be the case.</p> <p>Mark Florence - staff are not ignorant about this issue. MAV with State Government has determined that councils are responsible for weeds on their own roads. State Government looking at question of funding councils to help. With 1300km in Indigo we could spend a lot of time and money on roadside weeds, at the expense of other services ie 800 meals on wheels, several hundred HACC clients, maternal and child services etc.</p> <p>Bill Hotson – stressed need to treat weeds regularly because if this is not done the problem gets bigger each year.</p> <p>Peter Twigg – St John’s Wort is not a priority weed. Needs Council to put pressure on Department of Sustainability and Environment.</p> <p>Cr Vic Issell – asked if a briefing could be arranged here on site in the New Year. Cr Goldsworthy suggested inviting the Member of Benambra Bill Tilley.</p>	Mark Florence
	Peter Twigg – referred to Andre Kompler’s PowerPoint and commented that the average number of days to	

complete a work request seemed high. He wanted to know the ratio of administration staff to outdoor staff.

Andre Kompler – probably about 20% of whole staff is outdoor staff. This is in the same ball park as other shires.

Cr Goldsworthy – commented that it was not fair to say staff who are not outdoor staff are administration staff. Non-outdoor staff may be providing other services apart from administration.

Cr Vic Issell – said the average number of days to complete was not the same thing as average days for a response.

Peter Twigg – raised the need for mowing between Church Street and High Street.

Bill Hotson – commented on tourism and benefits to the shire. But said the future of tourism must involve Council partnering with industry, eg Albury airport accommodation, and other councils. At Rutherglen it occurs fairly well with winemakers etc. He mentioned the idea of a national park and felt not much was happening. GM Corporate Services Greg Pinkerton – indicated things were happening on this issue. The idea of an interpretive centre requires a fairly solid plan on what we need to do, Tourism Department is completing a grant application to get some funding to have that study completed. RDV has shown a fair bit of enthusiasm. Then a plan will be put together and we can apply for funding.

Cr Issell - that will mean engaging with the community and key stakeholders in the shaping of that plan.

Cr Bernie Gaffney – said Council had that day voted to include an Economic Development Advisory committee in a draft Economic Development Strategy coming to Council in February and this committee will be inclusive of the current Indigo Shire Tourism Advisory Committee. He said there is certainly a strong representative from Chiltern on the tourism advisory committee.

Bill Hotson – mentioned need to focus on bicycle tourism. There was a missing link between Rutherglen and Chiltern.

Cr Goldsworthy – bicycle tourism has not been off the agenda for the entire time I have been on Council.

Cr Peter Croucher – a lot of the Community Strengthening priorities include bike trails. There is a lot of effort in this area.

Nerida Kerr – on a regional level there is a whole study being done around rail trails.

Bill Hotson – said the Chiltern region is not getting its fair share of the tourism pie and it's time that was

Mark Greene

Greg Pinkerton

	<p>redressed.</p> <p>Bob Peake and Lois Hotson commented on street issues including the bollards too far out in Conness Street, disabled parking bays in front of the bakery and the WAW.</p> <p>They spoke with Andre Kompler after the meeting.</p>	<p>Andre Kompler</p>
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