

Mission Statement:

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

HELD: Tuesday 9 August 2011 at 6.30pm

LOCATION: Wahgunyah School of Arts

NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PRESENT: 19

Councillors	Council Staff	Community members
Bernie Gaffney – Deputy Mayor	Brendan McGrath - CEO	P. Ashby
Peter Croucher	Roberta Baker – Manager Communications	M. Potter
Barbara Murdoch	Greg Pinkerton - GM Corporate Services	Craig Bromley
	Andre Kompler – GM Major Projects & Programs	Barb Flood
	David Koren – Manager Community Planning	Terry Johnstone
	Scott Landells - Community Strengthening Officer	Wesley Canny
		Bill & Sue Fenn
		Trish Pleitner
		May Houlihah
		Anton Therkildsen
		Des Sheridan
		Terry Young
		Robert Dickins
		Don Nevin

		Bill Bryant
		Alan Pleitner
		Ted Hovard

ITEM NO	ITEM	ACTION
1.0	Welcome: Deputy Mayor Cr Bernie Gaffney	
2.0	Apologies – Mayor Cr Ali Pockley, Cr Vic Issell, Cr Larry Goldsworthy Community members: Jason Michie, Debbie Ronnfeldt, Paul Somerville, AnnMaree Christian	
3.0	Community Strengthening Project – Update – Scott Landells	
	<p>Outlined progress to date with residents establishing priorities they want to work on. These include an extension of the Cycling and Walking Path from Flower Farm to Lake Moodemere, rail trail rest stop similar to Tarrawingee and Bowser; clean and beautify vacant recreation areas, which will include the rail reserve. Meeting held in July with Shire Engineers and Community to discuss issues relating to the Cycling/Walking path extension to Lake Moodemere. Uncle Tobys interested in seeing the land next to their factory developed and available for both community and their staff to use for passive recreation/transit around town. Meeting to map out ideas planned for September. Other priorities include having a regular customer service presence in Wahgunyah, an annual community event also.</p> <p>Barbara Flood commented “everything seems to be a masterplan” but nothing ever seems to come through from the masterplan. Reference was made to the Wahgunyah Foreshore Masterplan and \$60,000 for a toilet at the Willows area foreshore. (Deputy Mayor Cr Gaffney said this should be built before Christmas.) Scott said Council was focusing now on plans to make sure things are coming through.</p> <p>Reference was made to Uncle Tobys annual Community Grant of \$25,000 which most recently was allocated to the Corowa “Bridge to Boat Ramp” project. If we (the community) have a plan we can go to Uncle Tobys and say this is what residents want. Scott reminded attendees that Uncle Tobys employ people from all over the region especially Corowa, Chiltern, Howlong and Rutherglen, not just Wahgunyah and they do aim to share their funding across the border community, however, have certainly indicated strong interest in supporting Wahgunyah.</p> <p>Alan Pleitner commented that “so often we have had promises and very little of shire money, of our rates money come back into</p>	Scott Landells

	<p>Wahgunyah". He asked what guarantee would they have that things will happen.</p> <p>CEO Brendan McGrath said that without these plans Council would not get State of Federal Government grant money. At least with a plan Council can go to funding bodies and say these are the priorities.</p> <p>Alan Pleitner said the town had been 'given nothing but a disgraceful roundabout at the entrance to town'. He said it was all very well for funds to go to Chinese Gardens in Beechworth and money taken from the Wahgunyah Foreshore plan to the boat ramp at Lake Sambell in Beechworth.</p> <p>Barbara Flood said Wahgunyah was the fastest growing town in the Shire and we should get more from Council.</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Wahgunyah Recreational Reserve Masterplan – Update – David Koren</p>	
	<p>Copies of this plan were available with list of priorities. Key users have had input into the masterplan. There will be broader consultation with others interested in providing feedback. Key recommendations include improving access and car parking, improving access from the other side of the creek, longer term recommendations include netball courts and tennis courts. Netball court will be due for refurbishment in 10-15 years and this will be an opportunity to look at the best location for a new court. Masterplan is out for public feedback – launch of draft on Tuesday 23 August at Wahgunyah Recreation Reserve pavilion.</p> <p>Wes Canny, vice president of the Wahgunyah Football Club, talked about the poor state of the clubrooms and asked what funding was the Shire going to put in. David explained the process of prioritising capital works; that once Council had a document that highlighted the priorities of the recreation reserve committee that's the document used to apply for funding. Key thing is to identify the priorities and fully scope cost, that will give Council an idea of what funding programs to aim for.</p> <p>The great facilities at Baarmutha Park in Beechworth and Tangambalanga were mentioned with reference to bushfire money, but there was concern that Wahgunyah might 'be left behind'.</p> <p>David Koren said Council officers will help committees with scoping of projects and developing funding submissions.</p> <p>Wes asked if Council would consider putting in funding. How do we get to that? David suggested they invite Councillors to the facility to show them what they want to do out there.</p> <p>Craig Bromley asked if consultants take account of population growth in developing these masterplans. David explained that the demographics are part of the plan and the consultant does look at the trends for that town. He urged people to have a look at the draft masterplan and if there was something that needed to be highlighted to make their voices heard.</p>	<p>David Koren</p>

	<p>Des Sheridan expressed concern that as the new lessee of grazing lease at the Recreation Reserve from 1 August he was never advised of any plans for that area and asked if there were any new areas to be fenced off. David said most of the development will be contained within the existing recreation areas.</p>	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Wahgunyah Foreshore Masterplan – Andre Kompler</p>	
	<p>As an introduction to what has been done on the foreshore masterplan and the process for dealing with the same into the future, an overview was given of Council’s February 2011 capital allocation and works prioritization process. Additionally, to help understand Council’s policy of renewing and maintaining its existing assets ahead of new facility proposals, renewal funding was spoken about. At present, Council spends about 50% of capital works budget on renewing its assets. In another 5 years this will go up to 80%.</p> <p>From here on, project items contained in masterplans will be fed into a capital works filter, items assigned a priority based on criteria, and then into the future, capital allocation assigned on the basis of Shire wide priority.</p> <p>The Foreshore masterplan is a document that recognizes not all the work items will be done by Council and such works won’t happen immediately. Thus the document has included flow charts, who to contact etc to help the community take ownership and progress some Master Plan items themselves.</p> <p>In relation to amenities at the Willows on the foreshore, \$60,000 was carried over to this financial year. Other things in masterplan will go into capital works database. And it won’t happen immediately. In Beechworth the Committee of Management wanted a boat ramp, and applied for and got a grant. Council helped them with the grant application. Rail Trail – \$120,000 allocated for sealing, but flooding had delayed the work. In relation to Mill Street, the community would not have too many months to wait. (Earlier May Houlihan had asked about the state of Mill Street, and the need to fill in holes because Meals on Wheels people had trouble making deliveries.)</p> <p>Alan Pleitner expressed confidence in Andre Kompler. Alan also expressed concern about past fund allocation perceptions and asked about \$350,000 of rates money that ‘went into Lake Sambell’. So much money ‘is poured into Beechworth and Chiltern got flooded away’.</p> <p>Andre said Council had put more capital works money into mitigating flood works on both sides of the Shire, more recently \$100,000 in both Chiltern and Beechworth as the worst impacted towns. In the last 18 months there was money spent on drainage infrastructure around Wahgunyah such as installation of pipe works and pits. However Council has not solved all of the drainage</p>	<p>Andre Kompler/Don Pope</p>

problems. More money has been allocated this financial year in Chiltern and Beechworth for flood mitigation drainage work. Also this year Council is doing drainage and road repairs - ie best part of a couple of million dollars is being spent on both sides of the Shire.

Alan Pleitner asked about the street sweeper and cited the example of a storm water pit at the north-eastern corner of Foord and Dennison Streets which is completely filled, so during a storm the water flows across the road creating a sheet of water, not easily seen during a storm at night, and which may cause a traffic collision due to vehicles aquaplaning. John Clapton said the street sweeper operator was 'specifically told last year not to suck out the pits'.

Andre said there was only a certain amount of rates and grant money which can be applied to works, which means the maintenance budget will always be constrained. His division is going through a review – looking at what we do, how we can do it better, what is core business- in summary, best use of the funds we do have.

Terry Young asked when the track would be sealed from Barkley Street to Federation Bridge.

Andre said this was part of the scope of work of \$120,000 in last year's budget and would have happened except for the ongoing flooding last year. Have to wait for things to dry out. Money programmed for the current financial year.

Terry Young spoke about drainage and said he had water openly discharging from a Council drain across his land.

Andre Kompler acknowledged more needed to be done to get records up to date and future works to be in sync with current planning expectations. The current budget Council makes allowance for the beginnings of a drainage review that takes account of current town development directions– ie take a holistic approach. Any future drainage infrastructure would be mindful of current information and an integrated approach to needs assessment by Council.

Craig Bromley thanked Council for the decision to build a toilet block at the Willows – looks like we would get that before Christmas. He said the Willows committee would ask Council for help in applying for funding for further work. We have all these other bodies we have to go through in relation to the river and two different states. If the Council can't give us money, if they could help us expedite applications it would help the community.

CEO Brendan McGrath said Council was happy to help. We get just as frustrated with the bureaucratic process ourselves.

Terry Young said the Council was the land manager for the Willows Reserve and he believed Council could just build a boat ramp without going through the other agencies.

CEO said that was not correct. There is no planning permit up to a certain limit, but it doesn't fix cultural heritage issues and the need to check with other authorities, especially in NSW.

Andre Kompler

6.0	Council's Indigo 2030 project – Roberta Baker	
	<p>Outlined project, referred to website and printout on seats. Will be rolled out over the rest of the year and will involve art competition, story writing, a song and a film as well as community conversations. People will be asked to think about Indigo Shire in 2030 and what they would like to see in place then. One suggestion was that Indigo Shire continues to be poker-machine free. A postcard will be in the mail in the next few weeks giving residents a chance to respond and there will be conversations around the shire over the coming months that people can participate in. Project is high level pointer to help Council in its future planning.</p>	Susan Reid
7.0	Your say	
	<p>Alan Pleitner asked why the Council Office report has not been made public. CEO Brendan McGrath said this was part of a confidential report last month, Council is seeking some further information and he anticipates all reports will be made public after the September Council meeting.</p> <p>Alan mentioned the \$300,000 for office design and \$124,000 spent on Beechworth and Yackandandah offices in current year. Council proposes to borrow \$2 million in 2013 and \$2 million in 2014. Did this mean the official decision had been made? CEO said he wished it had been decided, but it hasn't. In the Budget, Council projects ahead up to 5 years, that's normal practice. But no decision has been made.</p> <p>John Clapton asked why in August last year Council advertised for Expressions of Interest for industrial land, received interest and then rejected someone who was cashed up and "had a million dollars to invest immediately". CEO – said Council did run advertisements in several towns to ascertain if there was demand for industrial land to see what infrastructure we might have to plan for. Was not aware of this instance.</p> <p>Alan Pleitner said Council had confirmed that festivals and events should become self-sustaining and asked why the Yackandandah Folk Festival had received grant funding for its 15th festival. Deputy Mayor Bernie Gaffney clarified that the festival had not been funded for 15 years, it is a community based event, one and only event in that town. It was not just for Yackandandah, it had brought 10,000 people to the area. He had been told Beechworth service station had one of its busiest days. Cr Gaffney said Council had also approved a grant for a Rutherglen event. He said he felt sure a major event in Wahgunyah would be looked at favourably for a grant. Cr Peter Croucher said grant funding might be for a new initiative within the Yackandandah Folk Festival, something to do with kids Cr Barb Murdoch said the Chiltern Ironbark Festival also received grant funding.</p> <p>Barb Flood raised concern about Anzac Day and the need for all roads to be closed for the day.</p>	CEO

	<p>CEO said there was a process Council had to go through in each town, not just Wahgunyah. It would be great if we could get an agreement between VicRoads, RTA, Corowa, and Council for a standing arrangement Some times there has to be a police presence. Case by case basis. We'd love to have a standing agreement in place and we are going to have a go at getting that done.</p> <p>Terry Young mentioned closing the bridge for fireworks on New Year's Eve and stated that they must have had a traffic management plan for that event and why couldn't that be used for the Anzac Day closure? CEO said the same process had to be followed, traffic management plans have to be prepared and signed off by the relevant authorities. Fair bit of lead time needed for that. If we can get a standing agreement it would be better.</p> <p>Wes Canny mentioned the rowing regatta, the biggest sporting event in the Shire, at Lake Moodemere and possibility of getting a community grant for rowing sheds and event funding.</p> <p>Alan Pleitner said he had a concern that Council puts money into festivals and events contrary to Shire policy, when you know we get a lot of volunteer groups needing help and we have to prune them back. He suggested funds be adjusted away from festivals and events to the community grants initiative.</p>	<p>Mark Florence</p>
	<p>Forum ended at 8.15pm</p>	