

Mission Statement:

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

HELD: Tuesday 14 June at 6.30pm

LOCATION: Rutherglen Senior Citizens Hall

NUMBER OF RESIDENTS: 26

Councillors	Staff	Community members
Ali Pockley - Mayor	Brendan McGrath - CEO	Lynette & Noel Bailey
Bernie Gaffney – Deputy Mayor	Ron Sneddon - Manager Civil Operations	Keith Melville
Peter Croucher	Roberta Baker - Manager Communications	Beryl Cooper
Barbara Murdoch	Greg Pinkerton - GM Corporate Services	Rosemarie Gayfer
Peter Graham	Chris McGorlick - Community Strengthening Officer	Ross Martin
	Scott Landells - Community Strengthening Officer	Malcolm Campbell
		Brendan Smith
	GUESTS	Helen Mackinlay
	VicRoads Regional Director North Eastern Victoria - Graham Freestone	Gordon Mackinlay
	Dina Jones - VicRoads Media Officer	Bill Baxter
	Alison Leeson - VicRoads Acting Program Development Manager	Geoff McLeod
	Matt Warry - VicRoads Engineering Graduate	Mark Eltringham
		Billy & Glenice Campbell
		Mary Terrill
		Mathew Andison
		Ray Terrill

RUTHERGLEN COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

	Laurie Thatcher
	Mary Dunn
	Louise Dunne
	Nancy Duursma

ITEM NO	ITEM	ACTION
1.0	Welcome	
2.0	Apologies: Cr Vic Issell, Cr Larry Goldsworthy	
3.0	<p>Rutherglen Heavy Vehicle Deviation – Graham Freestone, Regional Director VicRoads</p> <p>Summary of measures for Main Street, Rutherglen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40kph signs, normally it's 50kph. • Virtual speed humps painted on road, Mr Freestone asked people their perceptions of whether the virtual speed humps are a worthwhile addition to road safety and an opportunity to slow traffic through town. <p>Comments included: Once you've been over them once, no one takes any notice. Being a local all my life, it occurred to me how much safer it is at 40kph. The 40kph sign adds to the effect of virtual speed humps. (Mr Freestone said he would consider sending one of the VicRoads TSS officers to monitor heavy vehicle driver behaviour.) Trucks are the problem not the cars so much. Humps generate more pollution as vehicles slow and then speed up afterwards.</p> <p>CEO Brendan McGrath suggested one issue is safe crossing points and whether lights would be helpful. Mr Freestone said one small town (in Victoria) asked to have crossing lights removed after asking for them in the first place. He said the impact of lights means you will have to cross the road at the lights and wait for them to turn green and this can be tiresome when you are used to crossing the road wherever you like. General comments on this topic included country people would need more education on how to use a crossing, a crossing would slow traffic. Mary Tyrell asked if the town had more or less accidents with traffic lights. Mr Freestone said it was generally</p>	<p>VicRoads (Graham Freestone)</p>

true that in a high volume traffic area, lights did slow the traffic, which was safer from a pedestrian perspective. But number of rear end crashes increases so it's not as safe for cars. With cars, there is more indecision involved with lights.

Laurie Thatcher suggested the 40kph sign on eastern end was too far into the town, should be before the roundabout. People new to town probably don't see it.

Nancy Duusmer said a crossing was needed at the western end, as traffic was faster coming from Yarrawonga, eastern end traffic has to slow down for the roundabout and can't get speed up after that.

Setting sun an issue.

Comment: re 40kph sign, on eastern end from Chiltern, driving into afternoon sun, solar lights with the flashing speed limit, would be preferable, especially around schools. They stand out; two schools in Rutherglen should have them too.

CEO said illuminated signs exist at Wooragee.

Comment: crossing supervisor leaves post before 9am. Is this correct?

Gordon McKinlay: we are tinkering around the edges, let's put a bypass in, get rid of the trucks.

Mary Dunn was on original focus group for the deviation project and said 40kph signs were trialled, and another crossing was needed in Main Street.

Comment: recent road signs, market signs jutting out into the road blocked view of oncoming traffic.

Comment: Number of parking spots in the town, one near fire station which has been relocated. One near National Bank for taxis. 'I was a young man the last time there was a taxi there. Times have changed.'

Steve Ronnfeldt suggested radar might work to slow traffic.

Beryl Cooper said speed in Victoria was 50kph unless otherwise stated. Why 60kph coming down High Street? Mr Freestone said the default speed in Vic was 50kph in residential streets, unless signed otherwise. Generally the arterial network (VicRoads' roads) are default at 60kph except if otherwise signed in commercial area or near schools. Get anomalies in some areas.

In relation to the Aurecon report into the Rutherglen Heavy Vehicle Deviation Route, Mr Freestone said

Nick McDonald

	<p>VicRoads and Council had different views on that report. A deviation was 15-20 years away at least, It would have been nice to have a route adopted, but if it is not going to be constructed in the next 30 years, there's still plenty of time to select a route. Issue is what is going to happen between 2011 and 2030 or more. Report didn't address that issue.</p> <p>Mr Freestone said he was keen to get a solution acceptable to all parties. But whatever the solution is, there will be some people who will not be happy. Committed to work with council on other alternatives.</p>	
4.0	<p>Proposed project to solar heat Rutherglen Swimming Pool</p>	
	<p>Ray Tyrell and Bill Meagher spoke to this topic. (Councillors and senior staff toured the facility before the Council meeting.)</p> <p>At the start and end of season, water temperature is quite cold and there are many user groups. Primary school take younger students to Wangaratta to a warmer pool. Pool is extensively used by a number of user groups. Cost of solar heating estimated at \$80,000. Participation by students would increase with a warmer pool. Such heating will encourage more use of pool by wider community.</p> <p>CEO acknowledged the group's submission to the draft budget. It is one of nine or 10 that had been received in relation to the draft Budget and next Tuesday (21 June) Council will consider all submissions received.</p> <p>Mark Eltringham asked how projects could be included and kept on Council plans. This solar heating project was put on Council's plan five years ago. Do not have to treat all pools the same across the shire, as needs in each area and requirements of schools, are different. In Council's recreation plan of 2008 all of this proposal fits in with the plan and saving energy.</p> <p>CEO – we keep a big database of all capital expenditure projects. When something is recommended in a recreation plan or is made a submission, it makes its way on to a master list. We have 20-40 years' worth of work on that list. What limits us is priority and how much money there is available. What you have done over past few weeks is good, keeping issue high in people's minds. One thing I would say is that this Council, previous to my arrival, had spent a lot of money on its outdoor pools, which were much more modern than others in other local government areas. Council and community has done a lot of work to keep pools up to date.</p>	<p>CEO Brendan McGrath</p>
5.0	<p>Community Strengthening Project – Scott Landells</p>	
	<p>Project is community driven and involves developing Community Plans with residents. About seven community plans in the shire at the moment - Indigo Valley, Wahgunyah, Stanley, Bruarong, Chiltern, Yackandandah, Beechworth. Funding from different government departments and bushfire money. Chiltern and Stanley are</p>	<p>Scott Landells</p>

	<p>about a year down the track. We undertake projects with the community and make them ongoing. Chiltern and Stanley are good examples of the sustainability of the project. Community feels confident they can take charge of their future, they feel more skilled. Stanley lobbied for mobile phone tower, got their post office back, formed Stanley Rural Community Inc, now applying for grants, turning adversities of the past into strengths for the future, established a monthly newsletter, food swap, fruit and veggies at post office, which is developing into a community hub.</p> <p>Rutherglen project, letters about to go out to the community. Looking for feedback on ways the project can be adapted to suit your community. Involves about three months of consultations, then a meeting to set priorities, before a draft community plan is circulated for comment.</p> <p>Mark Eltringham asked if bushfire money determined what towns had the Community Strengthening Project first as the view in Rutherglen is that 'we are the poor cousin, the last one you think of.'</p> <p>Originally, the project was funded for towns in Indigo affected by bushfires, then the project was extended to all other towns in the shire.</p> <p>Mayor said Cr Issell had asked for a breakdown of how much money has been spent in our towns. Cr Murdoch said Chiltern was about to conduct an overview of their plan. She was skeptical at first, but the project has brought people together, and also in Stanley. Very successful. But the community has to be prepared to put into it.</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Storm damage in Rutherglen, and Fig Tree toilet block – Ron Sneddon</p>	
	<p>Fig Tree toilet block finished in time for Rutherglen Winery Walkabout. Rutherglen has got four 4 public toilet blocks. The fig tree is safe, well care for. Project has come in on budget.</p> <p>Overview of road situation. There are 1500km of roads, 1000km is gravel. Council has three graders, shire is broken up into two areas, either side of the Hume. Graders are used as often as possible. 90% of the time two graders are in use, third grader is used in construction work – about 50% of time. Third one helps with gravel roads where possible. We are governed by how well roads are used, what defects are there and we rely on community to some extent to tell us, road management plan guides us. We try to use graders in systematic approach. In normal year, we have 8 maintenance zones and it takes 2-3 weeks to attend to each zone. This year record rains has knocked the roads about terribly. Council today approved contract for the western section – 150 sites affected, some still underwater and can't do much until water is gone.</p>	

7.0	Council Plan – CEO Brendan McGrath	
	Updated Council Plan adopted that night by Council. Mark Eltringham asked how various grants affected the Council Plan and CEO said the prospect of getting grants is greater if the matter is related to the Council Plan.	
8.0	Council's 2030 vision – Roberta Baker	
	Outline of this project provided. It is in Council Plan and is a high level strategic plan that will sit over the Council Plan. Community will be asked to imagine what Indigo Shire and their town could look like in the year 2030. Will use conversation, music, art, short story writing, video, film to capture people's ideas over the next few months.	
9.0	Business signage review – Roberta Baker	
	Survey received 101 responses, meeting on 27 June with 31 people who want to discuss issue further. Report to Council probably in August. Survey looked at different aspects of heritage business signage to gauge whether the community wanted the guidelines to change and if so, how. Suggestions from survey for more flexibility in upper and lower case signage, such as website addresses, and logos. CEO said the community clearly indicated in the survey they wanted Council to protect heritage aspects of our towns otherwise there would be a mishmash of streetscapes.	
10.0	Your Say	
10.0	<p>Nancy Duursma said the Ovens & Murray Advertiser is a great newspaper but is not delivered or available in Wahgunyah. Can this be addressed?</p> <p>Comment about dogs loose on the golf course. Should be on leads. Can something be done? Difficult to fix permanently but dog catcher can do a patrol of the area.</p> <p>Comment: Hard rubbish collection – kerbside collection is needed. Mayor Cr Pockley said there were issues with kerbside collection including OH&S issues and the cost. She said council needs to look at it again.</p> <p>Comment: trees on Cemetery Corner, Distillery Road, blocks vision. Cr Peter Graham said it is a VicRoads area and has been reported to VicRoads on many occasions.</p>	<p>Roberta Baker</p> <p>Nick McDonald</p> <p>Mark Greene</p> <p>Ron Sneddon</p>