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| NAME OF MEETING: | Ward District Engagement Meeting |
| WARD: | Eppalock |
| DATE: | Monday March 7, 2016 |
| TIME: | 7pm |
| LOCATION: | Axedale Hall |
| ATTENDEES | |
| COUNCILLORS: | Cr Mark Weragoda (Chair), Cr. Rod Campbell & Cr. Helen Leach |
| CITY of GREATER BENDIGO EMPLOYEES: | Sue Moses – Municipal Fire Prevention Officer, Anne-Marie Roberts – Emergency Planning Officer and Jo Gibson – Customer Support Officer |
| COMMUNITY ATTENDEES: | 20 residents signed the attendance sheet |
| OTHER ATTENDEES: | Alison Campbell |

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| PURPOSE OF NOTES: | Please note the purpose of these notes is to record the information presented, the topics discussed and the details of any works or action requests raised at the meeting. They are not formal minutes. |
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| AGENDA ITEMS | |
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| 1. | Welcome & Introductions |
| 2. | Acknowledgment of Country |
| 3. | Fire Prevention |
| 4. | Rate Capping |
| 5. | Information Items |
| 6. | General Business |

| TOPICS DISCUSSED | |
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| 3. | <p>Fire Prevention – Sue Moses:</p> <p>Sue introduced herself and Anne-Marie Roberts and gave an outline of her role. Information was available for residents regarding open air burning, what is a cooking fire CFA information and also information on emergency planning.</p> <p>Sue advised that we had been fortunate so far this season with fires, and reminded people to keep an eye on the risk meter signs that are on many roadsides.</p> <p>It is the individual householder’s responsibility to develop a fire plan and decide on a course of action in the event of a fire. Information on how to set up a fire plan is available on the CFA’s website http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Safer Places were mentioned but it was stressed that these are, in fact, a last resort and that there will most likely be no agencies at these locations to offer assistance or support. They are areas that have been assessed by the CFA and deemed to be an area where you may have a higher chance of survival. It is much better to have a fire plan and enact it and leave early.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Safer Places can be nominated by the community, but it is up to the CFA to determine if the location is safe. If it is determined that the location is safe the CFA will add it to the Safer places list.</p> <p>Axedale could have a plan as a community but such a plan would need to developed by the community. The Emergency Planning Officer advised that she is available to assist the community to develop a plan.</p> <p>A workshop has been arranged and will be facilitated by the CFA for the community to help resident develop emergency plans. The workshop is on the 5 April.</p> |
| 4. | <p>Rate Capping:</p> <p>The rate increase has been set at 2.5%, and the COGB has to now manage the growth and development of the municipality within this rise.</p> |

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| | <p>Cr Campbell spoke about the increased incidence of cost shifting from the State Government to Local Government over a number of years to fund many services the State Government had previously delivered.</p> <p>Rate capping will present a lot of challenges and there may be some services that ultimately will be discontinued.</p> <p>Any application for variation to the rate rise requires Council to consult with the Community. This consultation may be assisted in the future by the 'Citizens Jury' which was supported by Council on Wednesday night. The 'Citizen's Jury' will be selected from the community and will hear and discuss issues affecting the municipality before they are voted on by Council.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Information items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Axedale Preschool and Hall: Internal painting project completed including the painting of main hall walls, skirting and doors, that the Preschool walls, skirting and ceilings. • Sale of Lot 1 Raglan Place West: Linkages between Lot 1 Raglan Place West and the land purchased for future public open space across from the school. The Axedale Township Structure Plan does not identify this as a future need or aspiration of the town. The land purchased for future public open space (across from the school) is 3.9 hectares, in comparison Barrack Reserve in Heathcote is 4.8 hectares in size. There is an ample supply of open space within Axedale, for example, the land used for tennis courts and as a golf course (42 hectares) and the land along the river corridor. • Blackspot Funding - intersection of Mitchell St and High St (McIvor Highway): Being located on an arterial road, the responsibility for any safety improvements at the intersection of Mitchell & High Streets, Axedale, sits with VicRoads. Whilst the intersection does not have a 'significant' crash history over the last ten years (where a police report has been required; Note: this is what triggers eligibility for Blackspot funding), the City recognises community concern about traffic safety at this location due to the number of 'near misses' and recent accident activity. The City has lobbied VicRoads to undertake traffic safety improvements at this location that takes into account traffic safety standards and the amenity of nearby residents. Subsequently, VicRoads has committed to improve the delineation on the intersection approach with improved line marking and the installation of reflective pavement markers. City staff will also undertake works to improve placement of 'Give Way ahead' signs. The City will continue to monitor the safety of this intersection and lobby VicRoads if required to ensure a good outcome for the community. For 2015/2016 the approved Blackspot Funded project for the Axedale area is the Axedale-Goornong Road, Fosterville, to install wire rope safety barriers around bends and shoulder widening. • Walking path from Axedale Park to the Tennis court complex: The footpath along Mitchell Street is currently rated and listed on the Capital Works program as a long term project and is unlikely to be supported in the near future. • Proposed Broiler Farm – Lot 1 Axedale-Goornong Road, Fosterville: Below is the link to the Council Planning Departments Objections and Consultation process: https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Services/Planning/Objections_and_Consultation |

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| 6. GENERAL BUSINESS / DISCUSSION | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from Axedale Our Town Our Future: First stage of the Axedale historical loop was launched at the Heathcote Community Games, thanks to COGB for the support with a community grant. Discussions have occurred with COGB Manager Tourism, to discuss the potential for extending the bicycle track from Axedale to Camp Getaway. These discussions are part of the work of the Lake Eppalock Advisory Committee, to seek Tourism and business options. Axedale Our Town Our Future is also progressing the ANZAC Memorial. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents raised a number of concerns with the proposed Broiler Farm: the brief information sheet; the impact on the community foremost the increase in traffic; the advertising of the application. |

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| <p>Cr Campbell advised that Council must follow established procedures under the Planning and Environment Act and the advertising of Applications is covered by these procedures. The application has not yet been considered by Councillors and that there is still much consultation to occur. A report will then be prepared by the Planners and if there are four or more objectors, or the recommendations is for refusal, the report must be presented to Council for a decision.</p> <p>A question was asked about intensive animal industries and whether or not the Council has earmarked Fosterville for this kind of industry. Cr Campbell advised that Fosterville had not been earmarked, however as Cr Campbell understands it, it is a rural zone and this is the only zone farms can be located. All applications are considered on their merits and within the current State Planning Framework.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident raised the issue of parking at the school. Advice had been received from a City of Greater Bendigo traffic engineer that the City does not have the funds to install additional parking at the School. <p>A suggestion was made for Council and the Axedale community to work on a joint approach to achieve the desired outcome of additional parking. Cr Campbell suggested that the School develop a staged plan and submit it to him. Once a plan has been agreed, then Council could discuss this with Jacinta Allan MP to establish if State Government funding is available. Cr Leach suggested a budget submission, however this had occurred previously with no success.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident advised Councillors that there is evidence of great concern regarding the Broiler Farm, specifically related to: the traffic; the lack and quality of information provided by the proponent; odour and other concerns, and asked that the Councillors take this into consideration. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the last Council meeting part of the new planning strategy for a compact city, according to the resident, included overriding the Strathfieldsaye Township Plan and Community Plan. It was queried why Council voted for that without consultation with the community. Councillors advised that all submissions were considered as part of the Panel Report, that Council voted in support of a compact city to adopt the recommendations on the Greater Bendigo Residential Strategy (C 215). | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident referred to a need for a whole strategic view of the municipality, to protect farmers as well as the community for the future. Cr Campbell advised that there is an enormous amount of strategic work to do. The COGB has an amendment waiting to be considered by the State Government which will hopefully, ultimately, give some certainty to industry so people can go with confidence to an area without disputation and anxieties from communities. | |
| <p>The following requests for service were received. These have been logged and details are as follows.</p> | |
| WORKS REQUEST REF NUMBER | WORKS REQUEST TYPE |
| 1608825 | Request to VicRoads to add additional bitumen on slip lanes on Mclvor Highway where it intersects with Longlea Lane. |
| 1608306 | Request for bitumen apron on Longlea Lane. |
| 1608314 | Request for bitumen apron on Raglan Place West (north and south) |
| 1608321 | Request for Ash trees to be planted along High Street, Axedale (western end). |
| 1608141 | Request to install bollards on the block adjoining the School |
| 1608140 | Request to grade Raglan Street, Axedale four times a year. |
| 1608139 | Request for a 'gap' to be installed in the playground fence to allow for access through to the Hall. |
| 1608849 | Request to inspect trees on either side of the Mclvor Highway and High Street intersection. |

*For updates on the above requests please call CoGB Customer Support Unit on 5434 6000 or email requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au and quote the relevant works request ref number.