

NAME OF MEETING:	Ward District Engagement Meeting Junortoun
WARD:	Eppalock
DATE:	Monday April 4, 2016
TIME:	7pm
LOCATION:	Bendigo Baptist Church
ATTENDEES	
COUNCILLORS:	Cr. Helen Leach (chair) Cr Mark Weragoda & Cr. Rod Campbell
CITY of GREATER BENDIGO EMPLOYEES:	Sue Moses – Municipal Fire Prevention Officer & Jo Gibson – Customer Support Officer
OTHER ATTENDEES:	VicRoads – Mal Kersting, Regional Director, Daya Govender – Manager, Planning and Jim Mensforth – Team Leader Road Safety and Traffic Engineering
COMMUNITY ATTENDEES:	10 residents signed the attendance sheet
OTHER ATTENDEES:	Alison Campbell

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	
1.	Welcome & Introductions
2.	Acknowledgment of Country
3.	Mclvor Highway Safety
4.	Fire Prevention
5.	Information Items
6.	General Business

TOPICS DISCUSSED	
3.	<p>Mclvor Highway Safety – VicRoads:</p> <p>The first matter raised was installation of turning lanes on the Mclvor Highway, in particular at Somerset Park Road and Wilkie Road intersection.</p> <p>VicRoads prioritises the need for changes to roads or intersections based on information gathered from a number of sources including: accident records from Police, feedback from non-local tow truck drivers, information and feedback from the community, traffic counts and various VicRoads information sources.</p> <p>Changes to the road networks require the submission of a business case to the State Government by VicRoads. Such a business case competes against business cases from all over the State.</p> <p>The speed limit on Mclvor Highway was also raised by residents, who suggested that this should be reduced from 90kph to a lesser speed limit due to the increased traffic in the area.</p> <p>VicRoads responded that speed limits are a sensitive issue because the Authority must consider the residents in a local community, along with other road users such as the business sector and through traffic as well. Speed limits have to be ‘pitched correctly’ to take the needs of all users into consideration on what is a major arterial road. Speed limits must be ‘fit for purpose’ and re-evaluation occurs as changes occur in the environment that affects the road network.</p> <p>There was a request for a “Kangaroo” sign to be installed at the Mclvor Highway / Wilkie Road intersection, to alert drivers to the dangers of kangaroos on the roads around Junortoun.</p> <p>VicRoads advised that they would investigate this request.</p> <p>The Junortoun Community Action Group offered to provide VicRoads with a prioritised list of intersections where counters could be placed, and other community issues.</p> <p>A resident asked about Black Stump Junction and the number of established (over 100 years old)</p>

	<p>trees that are being removed in this Government funded work. The project team has been working with a number of interest groups (such as Landcare) to limit the number of trees affected, but there will still be a need for trees to be removed. With regards to the “offset” of trees with similar environmental value, it is understood that they don’t replace 100 year old trees but VicRoads is trying to limit the impact as best they can. The contract has been awarded and is due to commence in May.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Fire Prevention –Sue Moses: Sue advised that the declared fire danger period has ended and she explained that now, should anyone wishing to conduct a burn off and their property is less than a hectare in size, they would need to apply for a permit from the CoGB website https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Services/Environmental Health and Local Laws/Local Laws#.VwMZHstf270 . There is no charge for the permit and it can usually be provided within 24 hours. The fire also needs to be registered with Vic Fire on 1800 668 511. There are a number of restrictions on what can be burnt - green waste, paper or cardboard are restricted. The CFA is trying to phase out burning off as a means of disposing of rubbish as bonfires are bad for the environment, and there is a risk of a fire smouldering along underground for some time as well. Sue is happy to arrange a workshop for the community in conjunction with the CFA to develop residents fire plans. The Royal Commission defined that fire refuge areas were actually unsafe - we now have Bushfire Places of Last Resort and these should be used only as a last resort. These areas have been assessed by the CFA and deemed to be an area where you may have a higher chance of survival – there should be no expectation of any support or assistance at these locations. Lord’s Raceway in Junortoun is Junortoun’s last place of resort. Information required for the enforcement of fire prevention notices is gathered by Officers inspecting properties over a three month period. Reports are also received by concerned residents of possible non-compliant properties. A resident asked about whether or not people should be cutting the grass on the side of roads, and Sue advised that if a resident is concerned about long grass on the roadside to call CoGB. We will check to see if it is part of our slashing schedule, and if not Sue can assess it to see if it is necessary from a fire point of view (risk to life or property). If it is deemed to be necessary it can be added to our slashing (or VicRoads slashing) program. If not, the grass needs to be left as it is as it may be deemed necessary vegetation. A resident asked if there is help for seniors to change the battery in their smoke alarm twice a year. The CFA have run a program to assist with this in the past and it would be worth contacting them to see if they are running it again.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Information Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organics Collection: Information is provided on the Organics trial; please see the link to access further information from the City of Greater Bendigo website https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Services/Rubbish and Recycling/Organics collection. • Rates Capping: The State Government will cap rates at the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Councils have two options available, one is to accept the State Governments CPI rate, or Councils can apply to the Essential Services Commission to set rates higher than CPI. The State Government is capping rates to make Councils more efficient and also to keep rates more affordable for the wider community. The rate increase has been set at 2.5% and the City of Greater Bendigo needs to balance the service and infrastructure needs of a growing population with the ability of its residents to pay. • Strathfieldsaye-Junortoun Shared Pathway: Plans are progressing for the off-road shared path from Mclvor Forest Drive, Junortoun through the Greater Bendigo National Park to the western end of Sullivan’s Road, Strathfieldsaye. The City of Greater Bendigo has signed a licence agreement with Parks Victoria regarding use of land within the Greater Bendigo National Park. As a condition of this agreement, the City must undertake a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to determine the likelihood of

discovering cultural artefacts during construction of the path and if discovered, how artefacts will be protected and how ongoing construction will be managed. It is expected that this process will take four months to be completed and construction is scheduled for the second half of 2016. This project will include the construction of a crossing identical to the O'Keefe Rail Trail Mclvor Highway crossing. The crossing will be constructed approximately 100m north of the Sullivan's Road intersection. Construction of on road bike lanes along Junortoun have been rated and referred to the Capital Works Program (Traffic Management Program). Compared to other projects in the program and historical funding, this project is not the highest priority and considered a long term project.

- Bendigo Airport update:

Stage Two works include. The \$15 million project comprising:

- A new 17/35 Runway (1600m by 30m) with increased pavement strength, catering for a Code 3C runway with Maximum Take-Off Weight (MTOW) of 25,000 kgs.
- Upgrade of the 05/23 runway.
- Installation of new taxiways.
- Installation of runway edge lighting system.
- Installation of Approach Path Indicator system (PAPI).
- Installation of Movement Area Guidance Signs (MAGs).
- Installation of Illuminated Wind Direction Indicators (IWDI).
- Construction of airport lighting electrical control cubicle.
- Line marking
- Construction is underway and is expected to be completed in early 2017.

- Bicycle Routes: There is a 2016/17 budget bid currently under consideration by Council for 10 interpretive signs to be installed along the O'Keefe Rail Trail.

The developer of Lorient Park is constructing a shared path link to the O'Keefe Rail Trail. The missing link between Mclvor Forest Drive and the new subdivision (La Valla Ct) has a nature strip which is reasonably flat and can be used in its current condition as an informal path connection. The construction of a formal path has been rated in the Capital Works Program, there are over 600 projects listed in the footpath program valued at \$49 million, compared to other footpath projects, this \$43,000 project is not the highest priority and not under consideration in the short term program.

Bendigo Bushland Trail:

City of Greater Bendigo and Parks Victoria are currently working to improve signage on the trail. The existing route has recently been reviewed in response to new residential development. City of Greater Bendigo only maintains the sections of the trail which are located within City of Greater Bendigo maintained reserves and road.

- Road litter and unauthorised dumping of rubbish: Council has a program of street sweeping to cover the City of Greater Bendigo which provides for roads with a kerb and channel to be cleaned 5 times per year by Waste Services. The Works Unit also cleans table drains on request.

Residents can contact the City of Greater Bendigo via our Customer Service Centres, by telephone, or online request form. These requests are captured in the customer request system and responded to. Requests that are for roads that are maintained by Vic Roads are referred to Vic Roads.

In the past the City of Greater Bendigo has installed signage and taken part in regional campaigns via the Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Group. As part of the Waste and Resource Management Strategy, Council has committed to develop policy and procedures to support action on litter reduction and illegal dumping. The Environmental Health and Local Laws Unit investigates littering and illegal dumping complaints. If the littering/dumping is not on CoGB land they refer the matter to the relevant landowner for further action.

Regulatory investigations are undertaken on over 100 reports per year by Environmental Health and Local Laws Unit.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

- The large amount of growth in Junortoun was discussed, with a suggestion that Council needs to plan for the future. An example was given of the number of mobile phone towers that are going up seemingly everywhere with no planning. Cr Campbell advised that this question has been asked of the communication providers, and part of the issue is that they can use different systems that have different requirements, hence the different masts.
- A resident enquired if Councillors were aware of Catholic College Bendigo's proposal for the Junortoun complex. The College has plans for a substantial sporting facility and community centre. Cr Campbell explained that the College may have conversations with City officers, who would ultimately prepare a report to inform Councillors and that has not yet happened.
- Residents are also concerned with fill and soil used at new development sites. It changes the natural balance and environment, drainage etc. Residents also spoke of concerns that water seemed to flow much faster overland now and into the creek, which rises faster than it used to resulting in overflow and roads flooding.
Jim Mensforth from VicRoads advised that when each subdivision is put to Council the drainage is considered by the drainage engineers. Plans for retarding basins, dams and other drainage measures are approved and form part of the permit for the development.
- A resident expressed concern at the lack of a bus service to and in Junortoun and that this was another example of Junortoun being left out of the ITLUS project. The bus routes are the responsibility of Public Transport Victoria and Councillors will continue to lobby for appropriate servicing of Junortoun.

The following requests for service were received. These have been logged and details are as follows.

WORKS REQUEST REF NUMBER	WORKS REQUEST TYPE
1609673	Request for a member of the Strategic Planning Unit to meet with Junortoun Community Action Group to discuss a possible structure plan.
1609678	Request to Statutory Planning Unit to enquire about the regulations for tree removal on developments.

*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.