

NAME OF MEETING:	Let's Talk Maiden Gully
WARD:	Lockwood
DATE:	Monday May 2, 2016
TIME:	7pm
LOCATION:	Maiden Gully Community Hall
ATTENDEES	
COUNCILLORS:	Cr Barry Lyons, (Chair) Mayor Cr Rod Fyffe
APOLOGIES	Cr Elise Chapman, Emma Power and Leonie Hayden
CITY of GREATER BENDIGO EMPLOYEES:	Trevor Budge – Manager, Strategy, Noel Shanahan – Co-Ordinator Infrastructure Development, Jo Gibson – Customer Support Officer
OTHER ATTENDEES:	Mal Kersting (VicRoads Regional Director), Jim Mensforth (Team leader Road Safety and Management VicRoads)
COMMUNITY ATTENDEES:	23 residents signed the attendance sheet

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.	VicRoads Representatives – Mal Kersting and Jim Mensforth
4.	Strategic Planning – Trevor Budge
5.	Capital Works Program – Noel Shanahan
6.	Information Items
7.	General Business

TOPICS DISCUSSED	
3.	<p>VicRoads Representatives – Mal Kersting and Jim Mensforth: VicRoads had met community members on site at the Edwards Road and Calder Highway intersection, which has been identified by the community as a major concern at a previous 'Let's Talk Maiden Gully' Meeting in 2015 attended by Jim. Since that meeting VicRoads has lowered the speed limit on the Calder Highway from 90km to 80km prior to the installation of traffic lights; and also added a left turning lane at the intersection of Edwards Road and the Calder Highway. These actions have helped, but further improvements are needed. As discussed at the previous meeting one of the major developers is to undertake the intersection upgrade however this is dependent upon lot sales and could take a number of years. With this in mind, and the increasing need for traffic signals, VicRoads has worked with the developer on the design, and built on it to include pedestrian and cycle linkages, and has developed a business case for funding. When funding is secured VicRoads will construct the intersection and the developer will reimburse VicRoads as lot sales increase. This is a unique agreement negotiated in recognition of the urgency of the works and to benefit the Maiden Gully community, enabling the traffic signals to be installed in the near future.</p>
4.	<p>Strategic Planning – Trevor Budge: Trevor attended the meeting to provide an update on the Precinct Structure Plan and the Developer Contributions Plan for Maiden Gully. In late 2013 the Council adopted the Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) for Maiden Gully and Council decided to prepare a Developer Contributions Plan (DCP) which is a plan that directs development proceeds and allocated Developer Contributions to meet specific needs in the community that ties them to the area as it grows. The fund is earmarked for specific works</p>

	<p>and can be used for many things.</p> <p>The development of the DCP has encountered a number of delays. A meeting is scheduled with VicRoads this week, and if agreement is reached then the consultants can make some minor modifications (if necessary) and the plan can be submitted to Council. If supported the plan will be placed on public exhibition. After the public exhibition stage Council will consider all submissions (there are over 220 property owners involved in this DCP so it is anticipated that there will be a number of submissions).</p> <p>Council is hopeful of having the plan signed off before it goes into recess for the elections. Crs Fyffe and Lyons hope to have it completed in their current term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents enquired about resourcing, and if staff can complete Maiden Gully while commencing Marong. Trevor advised that the completion of Maiden Gully has been held up due to negotiations with various agencies and that resourcing the work is not a problem. • A resident enquired about the types of amendments that could occur to the Structure Plan. These could include something as simple as a 20 metre adjustment on a walking track; inclusion of a roundabout instead of a junction; identification of drainage retention and so on. • Residents asked a variety of questions about footpaths and contributions and development/subdivisions. <p>Mal responded that even though a lengthy process, working through the PSP and the DCP allows for a clear understanding of the level of contribution that will be collected from a development and where that will be allocated. This gives a lot more certainty for agencies such as VicRoads about the provision of other infrastructure also. It introduces fairness in developments where all developers contribute equally. It also introduces mechanisms to determine the impact of developments and how to be proactive about managing these. Cr Lyons agreed that the work will be worthwhile and it will result in much better outcomes.</p>
5.	<p>Capital Works Program – Noel Shanahan:</p> <p>Noel explained the Capital Works Program and how works are prioritised. When considering projects two main factors are taken into consideration: Benefit Cost and Engineering and Community factors. The rating system is divided into: bridges, culverts, footway construction, drainage construction, footpath, kerb and channel, road construction, road re-construction, traffic management and various other factors.</p> <p>Noel discussed how decisions are reached and how much work is outstanding and at what cost. He also advised that every time a request is raised regarding for example a road, drain or footpath, the list may be re-rated and the list of works may change regularly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents enquired about how they may find out where on the list a requests sits currently. • Resident enquired about road resealing - Noel explained that this can be likened to a coat of paint on a wooden house - the reseal costs significantly less than a repair as the road is not dug up rather it simply has another 'coat' added. The roads that are dug up are failed sections of road, and to repair tem costs more money than a reseal.
6.	<p>Information Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organics Collection: 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. <p>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.</p>

4. GENERAL BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

- A resident enquired about a proposed church in Kronk Street. This was also mentioned at the last meeting. Councillors advised that this application had been approved.
- A resident enquired about the tattered looking flag at the Town Hall and when it would be replaced. Resident was advised that the flag will be replaced tomorrow (Tues 3rd of May)
- Resident shared information regarding a social media page called 'For a Better Bendigo'. The campaign was created with funding from a grant from the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The resident was concerned about who this is directed at, she felt that Bendigo is a multicultural city and has been for years and that people who do not agree with Islam, should not be labelled as racist.
- A resident expressed concern at communicating with Council and not receiving any response. Councillors advised that this would be investigated.
- A resident expressed concern that the Government is investigating the Council and wanted to know what the enquiry was about. Cr's advised that it is confidential and they cannot discuss the matter, explaining that it is not an investigation into the Council but into Council actions.

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

WORKS REQUEST REF NUMBER	WORKS REQUEST TYPE
1612376	Request to ascertain where previously requested footpath works sit on the priority list.
1612235	Request from the Maiden Gully Playgroup to ascertain who owns the Maiden Gully Hall and surrounding grounds, to establish a contact for maintenance and upgrades works

*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.