

TOWN OF BASSENDEAN

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

HELD IN THE BASSENDEAN COMMUNITY HALL
48 OLD PERTH ROAD, BASSENDEAN

ON MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.00PM

1.0 OPENING AND WELCOME

The Mayor declared the meeting open, welcomed all those in attendance and acknowledged the past and present traditional owners and custodians of the land on which the meeting was held.

2.0 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

Cr Renee McLennan, Mayor
Cr Kathryn Hamilton, Deputy Mayor
Cr John Gangell
Cr Hilary MacWilliam
Cr Sarah Quinton
Cr Jai Wilson

Officers

Ms Peta Mabbs, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Paul White, Director Corporate Services
Mr Luke Gibson, Director Community Planning
Mr Phil Adams, Executive Manager Infrastructure
Mr Bryce Campbell, Waste & Recycling Coordinator
Ms Deanie Carbon, Corporate Communications Coordinator
Mrs Amy Holmes, Minute Secretary

Public

Approximately 30 members of the public were in attendance.

Press

Nil

Apologies

Cr Chris Barty
Don Yates
Carolyn McGregor
Carol Seidel

3.0 MAYOR'S ADDRESS/REPORT

Cr Renee McLennan presented the Mayor's report for the year ended 30 June 2019 and spoke on the progress and achievements of the previous 12 months and current projects:

- Changes to Council administration and staff
- Ensuring direction of Council aligns with community expectations
- BassenDream Community Engagement project
- Community Benchmarking survey
- One Planet Living sustainability framework
- Bassendean Men's Shed
- Mary Crescent playground redevelopment
- Progressing Sandy Beach playground
- Urban forest – street tree planting
- Transport study – active transport such as walking & cycling
- Whitfield Safe Active Street
- Arts & Culture Plan
- Plastic Free
- FOGO – Food Organics & Garden Organics
- 1 Surrey Street restoration & extension
- Underground power
- Living Streams

4.0 CEO'S ADDRESS

The Chief Executive Officer, Ms Peta Mabbs, provided an overview of administrative changes since her commencement and outlined her priorities:

- New Executive team – changes in leadership to drive necessary changes internally and externally

- Strategic review of the organisation – fit for purpose in serving the Council and community into the future
- Priorities are - Governance, Community Engagement, Town Planning and Sustainability
- BassenDream Our Future
- Local Planning Framework
- 10 Year Strategic Plan for the community
- Review of IT systems – opportunity for improvements to streamline our business.

5.0 RECEIVING OF THE 2018/19+ ANNUAL REPORT

The purpose of the meeting is to receive the 2018/19 Annual Report and any other General Business. The Annual Report can be found on the Town's website at:

<https://www.bassendean.wa.gov.au/documents/735/annual-report-20182019-adopted>.

RESOLUTION – ITEM 5.0

MOVED Emily Wilding, Seconded Paul Bridges, that the 2018/19 Annual Report including the Audited Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report, be received.

CARRIED

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Questions Submitted in Advance

Ms Genevieve Errey, 36 Anzac Terrace, Bassendean

What is the Town doing to protect trees on private property

The Mayor advised that the Town is really concerned about the loss of trees. Last year, the Green Spaces Better Places Report (https://www.greenspacesbetterplaces.com.au/media/163130/w_sattg.pdf) identified the Town of Bassendean as one of the areas most likely to be vulnerable to extreme heat and in the top 50 greening opportunities for the whole of Australia. This is one reason why we have introduced a target of 70% canopy coverage of our road reserves and tripled our budget for new street trees. We have already procured 600 trees for this winter's planting season and will be purchasing more. We have also recently employed a street tree officer to ensure the success of our tree planting program.

However, as we know, the majority of canopy loss is due to the clearing of mature trees on private property to make way for new development. We are therefore in the process of developing a local planning policy relating to retention of existing trees and provision of new trees on private property.

Under the current state legislation there are limitations on local government's ability to regulate tree removal on private property, therefore the Policy will likely seek to incentivise the retention of existing trees and where that is not achieved, require new trees to be planted.

In addition, I am personally very keen for the Town to lobby the state government to implement legislative changes to bring WA more in line with other states for the protection of significant trees.

Emily Wilding, 21 Second Avenue, Bassendean

What is the Town doing to address homelessness.

The Mayor responded, the 2016 Census identified 97 people in Bassendean who were defined as homeless. The numbers include people who are sleeping rough but also people in shelters, boarding houses, temporary housing or those living in houses considered to be severely crowded. I know that as a community we have a heart for people and I love that our community cares when they hear about those amongst us who are suffering. WA's 10 year strategy on homelessness for 2020-2030, "All Paths Lead to Home" was recently released to address this complex challenge. The strategy identifies that homelessness is best addressed when all levels of government, community services sector, private business and communities work together. It also highlights the need to define and understand our respective roles to provide clarity about how we will work together to affect the greatest positive change. The strategy identifies the ways in which local governments can contribute many of which I'm pleased that the Town is currently doing or working towards:

- Making information on local services and supports available and accessible.
- Ensuring Rangers and front-line staff are informed and supported to interact with people experiencing homelessness and, where appropriate, refer them to local services.
- Working with Police to support and refer people experiencing homelessness to local services and supports.
- Coordinating volunteer and charity groups through a place-based approach that better meets the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

- Utilising land and assets to create places that are inclusive and can support vulnerable people

Our frontline workers, including rangers, library and youth services staff interact with and provide assistance to people who are at risk of, or experiencing homelessness.

Although these staff may not have the specialist skills required to address the complex issues these people face, there is an opportunity for the interaction to be a key point of referral to local homelessness and accommodation services. Recently several of our frontline staff have undergone training in mental health awareness to build knowledge and understanding of vulnerable people in our community. The ToB also provides emergency packages (of food, water and toiletries) when we become aware of people who may be sleeping rough in our Town. Our staff also provide information to assist people to access State and Commonwealth funded services through our library which is often frequented by vulnerable people seeking a safe place to access the internet and use facilities.

Recently, the Town undertook an asset mapping exercise with community members to better understand the strengths in our community, including community groups and key services and to identify any gaps. We are now bringing this information together and turning it into a community directory for all of our community members to access.

The Town's Youth Service delivers the SHIELD Program (Secure Housing for Individuals Exploring Lifeskills Development). This program is a partnership with the premier youth homelessness provider in the region; Indigo Junction (formerly Swan Emergency Accommodation), the Department of Communities and Foundation Housing. SHIELD offers 4 local houses to young people who are transitioning from 'supervised' accommodation with 'live in' support workers, to independent housing supported externally. The Program offers this accommodation for up to 2 years, by which time successful participants can transition to permanent public or social housing.

We will soon be undertaking a major review of our asset portfolio. Providing inclusive places is important and the opportunity to review our community facilities will allow us to consider the needs of all members of our community.

What is the Town doing to promote community safety.

All of us want to feel secure and building a safe, strong community is a priority. We have developed a close relationship with our local police and meet regularly to discuss any concerns. We have been extremely impressed with their responsiveness whenever concerns have been raised. This has included deploying mounted police in the Town, attending community meetings, visiting businesses along OPR to discuss security concerns and providing advice and recently additional police resources being allocated to our area in response to a spate of burglaries.

Despite this, police have confirmed that crime in our area has not increased in recent years. We experience incidents of opportunistic crime but the most significant issue that they deal with in our Town is domestic violence.

Our recent Community Survey results indicate community safety is a priority for our community and this will be considered when developing our new SCP in the coming months. Our actions over this reporting period has included:

- Communication & raising awareness– we have included material on the ToB website; Thrive; in person (ToB and Police) with the aim of empowering citizens to protect themselves, their home, their businesses;
- CCTV installation at Jubilee Reserve & Mary Crescent Reserve;
- Deploying the Town’s mobile CCTV trailer in conjunction with the police;
- Creating a reporting culture in our community – report suspicious activity to enable police to build a picture of what is happening and respond accordingly;
- Building stronger community connections where people know their neighbours through supporting local community groups;
- Funding Constable Care in our schools to teach younger children the importance of protective behaviours;
- Visiting other local governments to assess their approaches e.g City of Kwinana;
- Lighting upgrades along OPR and throughout much of the Town north of the train line with the proposed undergrounding of power; and
- Promoting foot traffic through the Town centre with vibrancy activities such as WonderRealm.

We are currently examining the value of an audit on OPR to identify opportunities for making changes to the physical environment to enhance safety. We all have a role to play. Community safety and crime prevention requires government, the police and each of us as community members to play our part.

6.2 Public Question Time

Mr Paul Bridges, West Road, Bassendean

When is the History Book going to be published in some form. Given the money spent, staff hours and community contribution, the information needs to be made available to the public.

The CEO advised that it is going through a review.

Mr Robert Giersch, 47 Fifth Avenue, Bassendean

Would Council consider banning parking down one side of the street in the Avenues. Fourth Avenue in particular is bad.

The Mayor advised that the public can report parking issues which will then be followed up by Ranger Services. The Rangers can look into this issue.

The large trees on Success Avenue have caused issues with the road and kerbing. The road has just been resurfaced. Before any more large trees are planted, consideration needs to be given to the potential damage caused.

The Mayor advised that this will be considered by the Town to ensure that tree roots don't affect the infrastructure of roads, pavements, verges etc.

Mr Phil Adams, Executive Manager Infrastructure, advised that the impact of tree roots will be taken into consideration to ensure appropriate selection of trees.

Mr Bill Busby, Ashfield Sports Club

Please give some attention and consideration to the Town Planning Scheme.

What have you done to improve the security of businesses in the Town, particularly in relation to the break-ins at the hairdressers.

The Mayor commented that the Town has met with the business owner a number of times, along with the Police. They have installed security measures. The last communication with the business owner was that they were comfortable with the action taken to date.

Mr Bruce Keay, 11 Earlsferry Court, Bassendean

Where is the Town at with Scheme 4A. Under Financial Risk Management on page 57, there is not a single mention about the contingent risk for the Town with Scheme 4A. The Scheme has been in deficit for a number of years. What other things has the Auditor not identified that may be a risk to the Town.

The Mayor responded that a report on Scheme 4A was presented to Council at its December OCM and a series of actions was agreed to.

The Director Corporate Services advised that this report is for the financial year ending 2019. Scheme 4a will be reflected in the 2019/2020 report.

Mr Clive Haliday – 3/106 Broadway, Bassendean

To what extent is the Council accountable to the State Government for the implementation of planning matters. What kind of time frames are in place for these matters to be implemented.

The Mayor advised that the Director Community Planning will be presenting a timeline to Council at its February OCM.

The Director Community Planning commented that the West Australian Planning Commission sets the rules and agenda for planning for the State. The final decisions rest with the Minister. There is an expectation that any proposals put forward are in line with community sentiment and that the community has been consulted. Approval rests with the Minister and the State Government.

Mrs Anne Brinkworth, 19 Ida Street, Bassendean

Congratulations to the Wind in the Willows Childcare service in Ashfield for being ranked in the top ten.

The Broadway Arboretum needs some attention as a number of trees have been cut back to stumps and many of the plants aren't getting enough water. The Council needs to allocate some funding to maintain this asset.

The Town really needs to progress its Transit Oriented Development or we are going to miss out.

The Mayor commented that the Town has the opportunity to have a new scheme in place soon and has the opportunity to do it well.

Emily Wilding, 21 Second Avenue, Bassendean

The Town's 2018 Youth Statement outlined 'legal issues' as a priority area and highlighted the need to play a diversionary role in the prevention of juvenile/youth crime, as well as the need to foster improved community relations between young people, the police and the general community. What plans are in place, or will be put in place to achieve these priorities.

The CEO commented that there are programmes delivered through the Town's Youth Services, specifically Case Management which is focused on an individual's situation. We work with other agencies and provide an education programme for those youths who find school difficult to deal with. Recently the BassenDream project and community survey identified the need to work closely with the younger members of our community and make them feel included.

Mr William Busworth, West Road, Bassendean

Half of total revenue received from rates goes to employee costs. Employee costs were almost \$1million over budget. What will be put in place to avoid this in the future.

The Mayor commented that the period reported was during our organisational restructure. Changes to administration and staff have impacted these figures.

The Director Corporate Services commented that a number of things weren't anticipated. A large part of the increase was the transformation programme. Staff were paid out their entitlements when they ceased employment with the Town. Wind in the Willows - paternity leave entitlements, change in the delivery of Senior Services – changed from state based system to commonwealth system. Resulted in a need to boost the workforce through additional casual employees.

The Mayor advised that more than half the Town's staff are employed in Wind in the Willows and Senior Services. These are paid for by the service, not through rates revenue.

The Mayor advised that the Town is putting processes in place to avoid this happening in the future. We have had many conversations about this.

The CEO commented that the 2018/19 Budget was set almost two years ago. There were some factors we were not aware of. Superannuation increases, EBA salary increases, people leaving – entitlements, backfill arrangements when people are away – paying extra salaries etc. These issues will be considered when setting the next budget.

Presley Chihuri, 3 Thompson Road, Bassendean

Can the Town save money on the frequency that Councillors have meetings. Why are there two Council meetings two weeks apart, isn't this double handling.

The Mayor explained that a Briefing Session is conducted one week, followed by the Ordinary Council Meeting the next week. That is the way the majority of local governments operate. The briefing sessions are not additional meetings but are an opportunity to ask questions of staff and gather information needed as part of the decision making process. Decisions are made by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting. Councillors and Executive Staff are not paid per meeting.

Mr Paul Bridges, West Road, Bassendean

Have the 48 properties identified under the Municipal Heritage Inventory been listed for protection under the Town Planning Scheme.

The Director Community Planning responded that yes they have.

Has any money been allocated for the development of Streetscape Guidelines.

The Director Community Planning advised that little progress has been made. The current priority is to review the planning framework of the Local Planning Strategy.

With regard to the street tree planting programme and the aim to achieve 70% canopy cover, what will be the measures of success. Climate change issues affecting our Town need to be considered, with the main issues being tree planting and rising sea levels which are bringing salt water into Bindaring Park.

The Mayor commented that the Town's Street Tree Officer will be assessing what we currently have in terms of street trees and an overarching plan will be developed.

Are we still pruning street trees to the property line and road edge.

The Mayor advised that the Town has had conversations with the contractors about pruning requirements.

Mr Bill Busby, Ashfield Sports Club

Can the Town look into improving facilities at the Ashfield Sports Club to support female sport participants. For example, there are no female changeroom facilities.

There's a section of festoon lighting on Old Perth Road that isn't working and needs to be repaired.

The Mayor advised that this particular section of festoon lighting was installed in the wrong area by the contractor and so is not connected to the electricity.

6.2 Motions

Nil

7.0 MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed, the time being 8.40pm.