

TOWN OF BASSENDEAN

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

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

ON WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2021 AT 6.00PM

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 Chris Barty
Cr Hilary MacWilliam

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 Jeremy Maher, Executive Manager Sustainability & Environment
Ms Elizabeth Kania, Manager Governance & Strategy
Mrs Amy Holmes, Minute Secretary

Public

Approximately 13 members of the public were in attendance.

Apologies

Cr John Gangell
Cr Sarah Quinton
Cr Jai Wilson

3.0 MAYOR'S ADDRESS/REPORT

The Mayor, Cr McLennan, spoke on following items:

- This meeting is just one of many opportunities for our community to engage with their local government.
- Tonight is an opportunity to have your say and for Council to listen to your perspective and hear any concerns.
- To keep the conversation positive and productive I ask that each of us gives those around us, our neighbours and friends, the respect and courtesy they deserve – as well as the elected representatives and staff who work hard on our behalf.
- Because ultimately our success as a community depends on how well we all work together.

Year in review

- Tonight's meeting is about reporting back to the community on the Town's performance during the past financial year.
- So I want to take a few minutes to reflect on 2019/20; as we are all aware the year was not without its challenges.
- In January 2020, the world faced a global crisis in the form of a pandemic that affected our Town and impacted on our community's way of life. Meetings could no longer be conducted in the Council Chambers, facilities were closed, and events were cancelled.
- But through it, the Town continued to operate, adapting to the new requirements and implementing new ways of providing services to residents, and in particular, to the most vulnerable in our community.
- One of the most significant achievements during this period was the introduction of our new three bin system. The Town became the first local government, north of the river, to introduce the three bins to households. Our community has clearly identified sustainability as being a key priority and we have been a leader in waste management by embracing the third bin to separate out our food organics and garden organics, reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill and our impact on the environment as well as reducing waste costs to our community.

- During the year, the Town was also invited by the Waste Authority to participate in a 12 month pilot project to replace single use plastic. In partnership with the Boomerang Alliance the Town worked with local businesses assisting them to transition away from Single Use plastic items. During the project, our cafes swapped out over 26,000 items that would have been sent to landfill.
- Despite the impact of COVID, the Town was still able to provide opportunities to support and connect our community through initiatives such as our outreach program and Neighbour Assist.
- The construction of the Men's Shed on May Holman Drive was completed and the facility opened. The men continue to work on the fit out with some assistance from the Town and we look forward to this being increasingly utilised by a wide range of community members and groups.
- The Town also worked with Western Power on a pilot project that will see overhead power lines replaced with underground power in Eden Hill where aging infrastructure requires replacing. Construction of the project is due to commence in the coming months and will deliver many benefits to individual property owners, but also the community as a whole at a greatly reduced cost.
- Updated planning has been a strong focus with the community providing extensive feedback through BassenDream Our Future to inform the development of our new local planning framework. We are currently awaiting feedback from the WAPC and permission to advertise the draft local planning scheme and strategy to our community for comment.
- During this period we also launched our community led Town Centre Masterplan project which aims to facilitate the revitalisation of the Town Centre. Community engagement including workshops and focus groups have shaped the development of the draft plan that will soon be ready for the next phase of community engagement.
- We also used this time to check in with our community and get independent feedback on how we were going as a local government using the Markyt Community Scorecard; and it was wonderful to get some positive feedback as well as identify areas for improvement in future. The benchmarking study found that our residents are among the most satisfied in WA with their community and local government. It showed that the community identified the Town of Bassendean as an industry leader in sustainability and in communication/engagement and that Bassendean is one of the most highly rated places to live and as a governing organisation.
- Together we developed a new 10 year Strategic Community Plan that embeds community priorities and the One Planet Living Principles. The new plan has since been adopted and will provide Council with direction for the coming years.

4.0 CEO'S ADDRESS

The Chief Executive Officer, Ms Peta Mabbs, provided an overview of the Administration's achievements:

- The Town of Bassendean demonstrated strong community leadership last financial year, reinforcing its commitment as an agile, supportive and professional local government.
- A review and organisational restructure was undertaken to ensure the Town had a capable leadership team to take it forward. Mr Paul White, the Director Corporate Services was appointed in June 2020, Mr Luke Gibson, Director Community Planning and Mr Phil Adams, Executive Manager Infrastructure were appointed in October 2020 and Mr Jeremy Maher, Executive Manager Sustainability and Environment joined the Town in May 2020. Each of them bring talents and attributes that have strengthened the Town's capability for the future.
- A new 10 year Strategic Community Plan was developed with Councillors which will guide expenditure and efforts in the years to come.
- COVID took us all by surprise. The Town, however, adapted quickly in order to minimise the potential spread of the virus, maintain business continuity, whilst increasing support for the community, particularly the most vulnerable. The Town established a community outreach program, proactively contacting vulnerable residents to ensure they had the necessary support. A community information line was established to help community members, whether it be with meals, library books, shopping, transport, medical visits or mental health. New partnerships with different groups in our community were forged to deliver meals and we turned to our local community where possible to fill local jobs. We saw an increase in clients as part of Seniors and Disability Services as families looked to the Town to provide the necessary support to older family members.
- The most significant project to kick off in the latter part of the year was the Town Centre Masterplan designed to attract investment and development into our Town Centre. Whilst the benefits of this have a longer timeframe than other COVID responses, the potential benefits will position the Town for a prosperous future. Advocacy has been a key focus in order to encourage investment in the town centre and many discussions have occurred across various government portfolios at the administrative and political levels. These discussions will continue particularly following the conclusion of the Town Centre Masterplan for which the community will be invited to comment on shortly.

- From an environmental perspective, as a small local government, we planted more trees than any other local government in the metropolitan area. We also got ready for the implementation of FOGO, becoming the first local government north of the river to implement the new three bin FOGO system, with the support of our community.
- From a planning perspective, we undertook significant work to advance a new town planning scheme. From an asset management perspective, we kicked off a review of the Town's assets. We are now better positioned to plan for future investment and manage the various assets across the Town. From a governance perspective, we are putting in place strong foundations for the future. Improved planning and budgeting processes, a new purchasing framework, new financial hardship policies to support community members who may be struggling financially and a new delegations framework to reinforce decision making at the right level, just to highlight a sample of organisational improvements. These efforts are important for any public entity and contribute to building confidence and integrity in our processes and decision making.

5.0 DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES ADDRESS

The Director Corporate Services, Mr Paul White, provided a financial overview:

The 2019-20 Annual Financial Statements are included in the Annual Report. The Town received an unqualified Audit Report for 2019-20.

2019-20 was a challenging financial year for the Town, with the March to June period impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town implemented Council's resolutions to provide financial relief to community and sporting groups from certain, fees, charges and lease payments.

Nevertheless, operating revenue for the year was \$23.4 million – up 2.5% from the budget of \$22.85 million. This was due to:

- Advance payment of the Financial Assistance Grant - \$294,000;
- A dividend from the East Metropolitan Regional Council - \$214,463;
- Increased demand for Seniors Services;
- The Federal Governments Child Care Relief package, paid to compensate for lost revenue from Children's Services; and

- This was partially offset by a fall in interest revenue: \$365,000 – down 21% from the budget of \$460,000. That was due to low interest rates and a priority to invest with non-fossil fuel lenders.

Operating expenses were \$25.7 million – down 1.2% from the budget of \$26 million. This was due to savings in the delivery of events and operational projects, largely due to the COVID 19 pandemic, offset by employee costs being higher than budgeted:

- Employee costs were \$13.4 million – up 7% from the budget of \$12.9 million. Employee costs include salaries and wages, superannuation, staff training, FBT, workers compensation insurance and other expenses such as uniforms.
- The increase in employee costs over budget was due to:
 - Terminations, offset by the timing of new positions - \$129,054
 - Errors in the superannuation budget - \$336,871
 - Staff training and development - \$70,175
 - The budget was amended in November 2020 to account for these items - \$536,100
- The increase in employee costs since the November 2020 budget review are due to additional costs for street/verge maintenance, casual Rangers and higher SDS and Children's Services costs due to increased demand for services.
- Importantly, employee expenses for 2020/21 are tracking on budget.

There were 7,260 rateable properties in the Town, generating \$13.4 million in rates revenue.

The Town has \$185 million in total assets.

Liabilities are \$9.4 million; the bulk of which is made up of trade creditors of \$5.5 million and provisions for employee leave of \$2.5 million.

Cash reserves were \$6.2 million, down from \$7 million at the start of the year, largely due to draw-downs from the unspent grants reserve to complete capital projects.

Net assets totalled \$176 million, down from \$179 million at the start of the year, largely due to an increase in trade and other payables arising from changes in required accounting treatment.

The key financial ratios either met or exceeded industry benchmarks except for the asset sustainability ratio and the operating surplus ratio. Both ratios have been experiencing a downward trend and this matter was raised with the Town by the auditors and Office of the Auditor General as requiring remedial action by the Town.

The Town is aware of the continuing adverse movement in these two ratios, the reversal of which requires a whole of Town approach to asset management and long-term financial and operational planning. The Town is presently conducting a comprehensive review of its asset management plans and its long-term financial plan to identify opportunities for capital renewal and replacement in the coming years. The Town will continue to explore further sources of own source revenue and is closely managing operating expenditure.

It is quite possible, however, that both ratios will remain at levels below the standard in the short-to-medium-term, due to cost pressures and limited revenue resources.

There is no doubt that the Town faces some financial challenges in the years ahead, with a need to balance continued delivery of high quality services to the community, greater provision for the future via increased reserve allocations and an improved approach to asset management; an area that has historically lacked a rigorous approach.

6.0 RECEIVING OF THE 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT

The purpose of the meeting was to receive the 2019/20 Annual Report. The Annual Report can be found on the Town's website at: <https://www.bassendean.wa.gov.au/documents/972/annual-report-2019-2020>

Resolution – Item 6.0

MOVED Ross McDonald, Seconded William Bosworth, that the 2019/20 Annual Report for the Town of Bassendean be accepted.

CARRIED

It was noted that Don Yates voted against the 2019/20 Annual Report being accepted.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Public Question Time

Mr Paul Bridges, 150 West Road, Bassendean

When is the completed Bassendean - A Political History 1975 - 2015 going to be published? Is it that Councillors don't want it published and if so how and when was this decision made?

The CEO advised that the book relates to a Council Resolution from 2011 to develop and publish a history book of the Town of Bassendean. Recommendations were provided to Councillors in 2020 not to publish the book or make it available due to the risks to the Town of Bassendean's reputation and the potential reputation of those named in the book.

What is the total expenditure to get this book completed and ready for publication stage, including authors, editors, design and layout, photo use, legal fees and any other costs?

The CEO advised that the output that was produced was not in a format that could be made available. Costs were not available on hand and therefore the question was taken on notice.

(A report is scheduled for the April 2021 Council meeting further addressing this matter.)

Mr Don Yates, 10 Thompson Road, Bassendean

Should Councillors be responsible to select what community representatives sit on committees, such as the Audit and Governance Committee?

The CEO responded that community positions on Council committees are advertised and appointed as per the requirements of the Local Government Act – Section 7.1A: “*Members of the Audit and Governance Committee are appointed by the local government – Absolute majority required.*”

Should ongoing financial costs related to tree planting be included in the budget?

The Mayor commented that the Town's asset management is a key priority to the Town and is something that is being reviewed at the moment.

The CEO advised that costs for the planting of 1,000 trees is \$150,000 in procurement and watering and maintenance on top of that is \$200,000 and the Town also spends \$750,000 on tree pruning and maintenance.

The play equipment at Broadway is not up to standard. Why hasn't the shade been reinstalled?

The Mayor commented that it is a priority of the Town to address.

The following questions were received from Mr Don Yates in writing and responses provided as follows:

Q1: Where is the demonstrated proof that this publicity program happened (in relation to advertising the Annual Electors' Meeting)

Response:

The Town met the requirements under the Act in terms of advertising/promotion of the meeting. By way of background, the Town placed the notice on the website on 24 February 2021 which was in excess of the minimum 14 day notice period of the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting. It subsequently advertised the date, time, place and purpose in the Eastern Reporter on 4 March. Additionally, the notice was advertised on all the notice boards and the Facebook page. That is 4 means of advertising not including YouTube.

Q2: If the accepted practices for publicising the Annual Electors' Meeting did not happen in 2021, does that make the proposed meeting for Wednesday March 17 2021 a 'non-event' and a new date for the AEM is required?

Response:

Not applicable, please refer to above response.

Q3: Why is the planned AEM for Wednesday March 17 2021, not to be either live video or Audio streamed in these days of COVID?

Response:

Access to live streaming was not required as the meeting was recorded. Both the recording and minutes will be uploaded to the Town's website for the community to access.

Q4: Should the Town of Bassendean publish the CEO's KPI's and performance against these?

Response:

It is not deemed appropriate to publish the CEO's KPI's on the Town's website. Under the *Local Government Act 1995*, this information is not required to be placed on a local government's website. Further, under s. 5.23 of the Act, this information would be one that if dealt with at a

Council meeting would be behind closed doors as it deals with a matter affecting an employee and the personal affairs of a person. As with any officers' performance appraisal it is not deemed appropriate to have this published. Council, as the elected representatives of the Town, are tasked with the performance appraisal of the CEO.

Q5: When will the blue bin at the Bassendean Oval Recreational Gates entrance be replaced?

Response:

A general waste public bin was replaced on 18 March at this location.

Q6: Is there a list of grants received by the Town of Bassendean and those grant applications that were not successful?

Response:

Revenue from operating and non-operating grants, subsidies and contributions is shown in the annual budget (note 9) and the annual financial report (note 2). Grant funding is reported to Councillors regularly as part of the annual budget-setting process, project reporting and reports to Council on individual projects. Progress on all grant applications is reported to Councillors weekly.

Q7:

a) Are there any provisions setup in Bassendean to formalise ongoing and one-off bequests (say from the wills of past residents), to support a range of social, sporting, career and educational programs for the benefit of the Bassendean community?

Response:

The Town of Bassendean does not have a policy for bequests. These would be dealt with on a case by case basis taking into consideration the wishes of the grantor under the bequest.

b) Is it accepted that such arrangements could benefit the community?

Response:

There is nothing to prevent a bequest being made.

Q8:

a) In the above 2017 correspondence received there is the FALSE assumption that there is an ALL VEHICLE STOP pedestrian exclusive cycle since 2003 in the West and Guildford Rd traffic controlled intersection.

With the deaths of 2 pedestrians at and near this intersection in recent times, PLUS the 'Bike Safe' Whitfield Street facility that joins the intersection, that the ALL VEHICLE STOP pedestrian exclusive cycle is actually installed as a matter of priority, possibly sourcing BLACK SPOT funding to do this?

b) Can the red turn left control arrow mentioned be re-installed in support of improved walkable community safety at this intersection, again possibly using the same BLACK SPOT funding resource?

Response to 8a and b:

Currently pedestrians can cross the left turn lanes safely at the pedestrian (zebra) crossings where it is a legislated requirement under the Road Traffic Code for vehicles to give way to pedestrians. Furthermore pedestrians have a phase allocation for the crossing of Guildford Road and West Road.

Q9: What initiatives are in progress today to secure grants?

Response:

Staff regularly review and respond to grants based upon alignment with Council's priorities.

Q10:

a) What is the value of the Town's real estate assets today?

Response:

The value of the Town's real estate assets is shown in Note 9 to the Financial Report.

b) Is there a public list of these land assets that might be used as part of stimulating the local economy?

Response:

The Town has a Land Asset Strategy to guide the use of its assets to generate maximum benefit for the community.

Q11: Why was SPP 4.2 ignored and the 3 properties (old garage site, Ivanhoe St, 93 Lord St and 8 Chapman Rd) sold for substantially less than what they may have realised?

Response:

The lots were sold following the process prescribed by the *Local Government Act 1995*. The Eden Hill site was sold on the basis of a licensed land valuation and the two other properties were sold via a competitive process, ensuring maximum returns.

Q12:

a) *Does the outcome of the March 2021 State Elections mean that the State could step in without restraint when it comes to their plans for redevelopment (of Wilson St carpark, the Council Chambers, the community hall, BIC Reserve and parts of the Bassendean Oval)?*

Response:

The Town is currently developing a community-led Town Centre Masterplan, including consultation with State Government. This will assist in guiding investment and development for the future.

b) *The Town of Bassendean is listed as being 'ripe' for redevelopment of the Town Centre. What does 'ripe' mean?*

Response:

The Town has undertaken extensive community engagement to understand community aspirations and values. This has been used as a foundation to create a new Strategic Community Plan, Local Planning Strategy and Town Planning Scheme and Town Centre Masterplan. Creating the right policy settings will promote investment and development.

c) *Is it agreed that amendments of LPS 10 can occur as a matter of some urgency, until Local Planning Scheme 11 is eventually in place to replace LPS 10, with a view to encouraging private development?*

Response:

The Town has progressed a new Town Planning Scheme (11) and is currently awaiting formal feedback from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. It is not considered appropriate at this time to initiate any individual amendments to the current scheme.

d) *If that is accepted, why does the current LPS 10 and the proposed LPS 11, that is being considered now by the WAPC, not include the following features:*

i. *Encouragement of all 3 TODS, as per April 2009 Council motion and supported by the recommendations of the BassendREAM Report accepted by Council, Nov 2019?*

ii. *Acceptance of the higher densities in the Ashfield Precinct Plan, accepted by Council in March 2010?*

- iii. Acceptance that higher densities can result in less car dependence as per Development Control Policy 1.6 as gazetted in Jan 2006?*
- iv. Strong belief in and promotion of all of the 13 aims stated in Section 9 of LPS 11 that can also support the current LPS10?*
- v. Support of adjoining EMRC member aims like the RITS Top 10 objectives, (RITS - Regional Infrastructure Transport Strategy - Lord St upgrade is a priority).*

Response:

The justification for the draft LPS 11 is contained in the report presented to Council's November 2020 Special Council Meeting.

Q13: What immediate initiatives are being undertaken to achieve progress with (contaminated) these sites?

Response:

The Town has recently reported on its contaminated sites to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. The Town developed a Land Asset Strategy in 2020 and identified all its land holdings and future potential. This will be subject to further review in 2021.

Q14: What is the estimated annual lost rates revenue because the sites as raised in Q13, are so compromised?

Response:

Potential rates revenue from the sites cannot be estimated as it is dependent upon many assumptions about future ownership and use of the sites.

Q15: Is it accepted that the sale of say 10% of the remediated Town owned lots could:

- a) Payout almost immediately the large compensation due under the terms of TPS4A?*
- b) Improve the safe community walkability bike and pedestrian path networks plus the recreational park lighting, CCTV security and emergency phone support?*
- c) Buy a Ditch Witch or Vermeer horizontal boring system for cheaper stormwater control, cost-effective underground power installations throughout Bassendean and safer footpath lighting options?*

Response:

The costs to remediate the land are not known, nor is the potential sale price of the land. Application of any sale proceeds would depend on the strategic priorities of Council, which may not be aligned with the suggested projects.

Q16: Why is the Town spending money on future-proofing the Stormwater drainage network and not installing distributed and appropriate aquifer recharging systems?

Response:

The Town looks for and seeks opportunities to undertake Water Sensitive Urban Design when undertaking drainage projects. Recent examples of this include installation of drainage infiltration cells and rain gardens at Shackleton St infiltration cells at Christie Park and Villiers St West. Limitations of conditions such as ground permeability across large sections of the Town do not allow for infiltration as an option when considering effective designs to mitigate flooding of the Town. The Town undertakes a balanced approach where the current stormwater drainage network is maintained to capture water from storm events along with installing drainage infiltration cells as noted above.

Q17: There has been a range of expenditure in the last years by Council that may impose financial burdens on future ratepayers. What detail of future revenues and forward expenditures are listed in the Annual Records of the Town of Bassendean? Do they include the following, and if not, why not?

- a) Estimated costs of maintenance and replacement where necessary of the recent 1000 tree plantings for the next 5 years?*
- b) Estimated costs of maintenance, running costs and insurances for the planned Sandy Beach playground facilities and associated infrastructure for the next 5 years?*

Response:

The Town's annual budget and annual financial report detail the Town's budgeted and actual revenue and expenditure for one year. Project reports to Councillors provide estimates of future operational and capital expenditure, which is included annual budgets.

Q18: What is the cost comparison to inspect and remove the 2 historical jetties at Pt Reserve compared to a holding action of isolating the same 2 jetties from the river bank and treating the claimed termite infestation, so the cost of the removal of the 2 jetties would not be required, and alternatives could have been considered such as lightweight, low cost beam replacement where thought necessary?

Response:

This was not a consideration due to the independent professional assessments which noted the severity of the degradation of the structural integrity of both jetties attributed to age and termite damage.

Q19: What is the estimated lost rates revenue over the last 10 years because the amendment of LPS 10 to recognise the R codings of the gazetted Ashfield Precinct Plan was not undertaken.

Response:

This is a hypothetical question as this did not occur. In any event, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has advised that the Ashfield Precinct Plan is now redundant.

Q20: Should the annual report considerations NOT be accepted at the Annual Electors' Meeting until a number of the future cost and revenue estimates are better defined and accepted.

Response:

The purpose of the annual financial report is to report on the Town's actual revenue and expenditure for the preceding financial year, not to project future revenue and expenses.

Q21: Who is responsible for lost rates revenue?

Response:

The Town does not accept the notion of lost rates revenue, as inferred by the questions from the community member.

Q22:

a) If property owners of the affected lots were financially disadvantaged should they seek financial redress based on the amendment of LPS 10 as passed by Council in March 2010?

b) Is there an estimate as to what this could be?

Response:

The Town is not aware of any mechanism for that to occur.

Q23: Is it time for the selection of Mayor to change and this to occur every two years at the same time as the normal local government councillor elections?

Response:

The method of filling the office of Mayor is set out in section 2.11 and 2.12 of the *Local Government Act 1995*. It is for the Council to amend by absolute majority under s. 2.11 to do so, or by the electors under s. 2.12 subject to the criteria being fulfilled.

Q24: Should councillors be responsible to select which community members are selected to such committees?

Response:

Since the last election in 2019, membership for committees of council such as the Audit and Governance Committee have been open to community members. Such opportunities are advertised. Officers collate responses from the EOI process and make a recommendation to Council. The *Local Government Act* (s 7.1A) requires members of an audit committee to be appointed by an absolute majority of Council.

Q25: While it is not a formal requirement for Local Governments to comply with Australian Standards, surely recognition of such standards should be the aim. Is there any particular reason or reasons why the following Australian Standards are not complied with in many instances in Bassendean: AS 1158 - minimum lighting levels of footpaths and bike paths not complied with AS 2890 - minimum ramp widths and maximum steepness of ramp access to carparks AS 5100 - no protection of bridge piles (Lord St is a possible Granville disaster site). AS 3996 - storm water entry grates should be bike and pram proof AS 1428 - ramp safety features - ramps at Ashfield & Success Hill Station too steep AS 4685 - safety of play equipment AS 4399 - sun protective clothing - could also be applied to shade cloth protection of play equipment.

Response:

When the Town undertakes infrastructure projects the current relevant standards are complied with but the Town does not always retrospectively apply current standards to pre-existing assets.

Q26: There are many outstanding issues related to the Bassendean Shopping Centre. When will the issues be addressed?

Response:

This matter has been responded to on a number of occasions. The development has occurred in accordance with the approval issued by the Development Assessment Panel.

Q27: Who is the creator /artist responsible for the screen artwork adjoining the shopping centre ramp? Why are they not recognised by a suitable plaque?

Response:

The Town does not have this information at hand however it may be available via the landowner.

Q28:

- a) Is there a detailed register of artwork? Is there a value of such works?*
- b) What ongoing maintenance and insurance protection is there for the art collection?*
- c) What is the maintenance program for the 3 timber structures in front of the Memorial Library facing north and looking over the BIC Reserve?*

Response:

The Town maintains a register of artwork with the current value being approximately \$90,000. The artworks are covered by the Town's contents insurance.

These assets are visually inspected every 12 months and a condition assessment undertaken every 4 years.

Q29: On page 15 of Thrive #9 the community is informed that there is "New LED Lighting along Thompson Road and Nurstead Ave near the Success Hill Train Station" that has recently been installed. Has the "New LED lighting in Thompson Rd" been installed yet and has the new street light (in the picture on page 15 of Thrive #9) been turned on?

Response:

Lighting was initially planned to be completed by Western Power late last year however due to unforeseen circumstances the works were pushed back to February 2021. When the February fires occurred, all non-essential works were rescheduled by Western Power. Western Power has recently made contact with the Town to advise they are now in a position to reschedule these works after completing the much needed repairs from the bush fires.

Question 30 has not been included as it is not a question but considered a Statement.

Q31: The New Playground and Jetty for Sandy Beach Reserve, (page 13 of Thrive #9) does raise a few questions, like will the area be well lit for both day and evening use say during the summer hot months? (It does not appear so in the graphics). Being such a remote location, (at the most distance from almost everywhere in Bassendean), will there be emergency phone links (like Freeway phones) and CCTV to ensure user security and support?

Response:

The current Sandy Beach Playground design does not have provision for Freeway like phones, CCTV or additional lighting.

Q32:

- a) Is it planned to add to the Mary Crescent Reserve. (Page 17 Thrive #9).*
- b) Why is the maintenance of the existing Flying Fox installation at the same reserve and other playground facilities, leaving so much to be desired, such as broken paving?*

Response:

- a) The Town of Bassendean, Eden Hill CAN and Greening Australia are working together with the local community on a draft concept plan for the reserve. The draft design includes increasing native vegetation through habitat and verge plantings, realigning pathways for greater connectivity and transforming the sump in the middle of the reserve into a seasonal wetland. Further workshops will be held this year so community members can take the learnings and apply in their own garden at home.

- b) The flying fox at Mary Crescent Reserve is repaired and other playground facilities are regularly inspected and addressed as required.

Q33: When will Whitfield Street/Extension St be made 'bike safe'

Response:

The Whitfield SAS has been developed, designed and reviewed by industry experts and is deemed to meet the current standards. Additionally a road safety audit will be conducted in the coming months as is standard practice for these types of works.

Ms Fran Phelan, 15 River Street, Bassendean

Why were there no physical advertisements/signs about this meeting being held?

The CEO apologised for the lateness of the Annual Electors Meeting and limited advertising, compared to previous years. There have been issues across many local governments attributed to the retrospective application of new accounting standards and regulations that have caused delays to the audit timeframe and finalisation of the Annual Report. The Town however has met its minimum obligations in terms of advertising the meeting.

Has there been a resolution to the issue of access to the Success Hill area from Lord Street? My worry is that during fire, there is only one access out.

Luke Gibson, Director Community Planning advised that Council has adopted a local Integrated Transport Plan for the entire district. Council's desire for a certain outcome for Lord Street is for a local road treatment boulevard effect with trees in the centre median. Advice from the state government is that the road is reserved as an 'Other Regional Road' under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. The Town recently discussed with Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage whose advice was that the road is in fact reserved for a regional purpose and their expectation is it is constructed to a regional standard which typically involves two lanes each way with a divided median and turning pockets. That advice has only recently been provided and we expect to continue liaison with the Department going forward.

The Mayor commented that access to Success Hill obviously hinges on Lord Street which will form part of that conversation which is only in its infancy at this stage. In an emergency, there is capacity for exiting at the Walter Road intersection but also the PSP that goes under Lord Street has the ability to accommodate vehicles.

Is the Town addressing the mosquito problem? They are terrible at the moment.

The Mayor advised that the current weather conditions are ideal for mosquito breeding. It was expected to be a problematic season and the Town continues to work to manage them.

The CEO commented that the Department of Health has advised that the mosquitoes should subside by the end of March.

Mr William Bosworth, 136A West Road, Bassendean

What value has the Town gained from the monies spent on Whitfield Street? What did it end up costing and what value is it in terms of traffic count?

The Mayor responded that the project for Safe Active Streets was funded by the Department of Transport to provide a pedestrian/cycling link between the shopping area, schools, Sandy Beach. The project is complete in terms of construction. The long term vision is to make the streets more pedestrian and cyclist friendly.

Phil Adams, Executive Manager Infrastructure advised that the project cost was 1.8 million, funded by the Department of Transport. Behavioural change and community education are required to get drivers of vehicles to be more aware of pedestrians, cyclists, scooters etc. Analysis and reports will be undertaken by the Department of Transport to measure the value of this project.

Mr Bruce Keay, 11 Earlsferry Court, Bassendean

Why is there no mention or report on the windup of Town Planning Scheme 4A?

Luke Gibson, Director Community Planning advised that the Town has recently acquired 27 Hyland Street. This was the first step necessary to progress the windup of the Scheme.

What is the situation with the land on Hamilton Street?

Luke Gibson responded that the Town still owns that site and Council will need to determine what it does with it.

7.2 Motions

Motion 1

GME-1/03/21 MOVED Don Yates, Seconded William Bosworth, that the Electors of the Town of Bassendean seek to change the procedure to elect the person to occupy the position of Mayor to a popular vote at the same time and with a similar method as the selection of candidates to fill Councillor vacancies, (such as a postal election system), an event usually every two years, allowing electors the opportunity to consider possible past performance of such Mayoral candidates and to select possible future directions for the community for the following two years.

CARRIED 8/3

Motion 2

GME-2/03/21 MOVED William Bosworth, Seconded Don Yates, that the Town of Bassendean reverts to a Ward based Councillor system.

CARRIED 8/3

Motion 3

MOVED Don Yates, that the Town of Bassendean wish to see more adherence of the Australian Standards wherever possible within the Town, including but not limited to addressing the following:

- AS 1158 Minimum 5 Lux footpath lighting, (not 3 Lux as passed by Council in Feb 2018);
- AS 2890 Minimum width and maximum steepness of ramps to comply with and corrected as a matter of some urgency;
- AS 5100 unsafe unprotected bridge piles to be secured (so avoiding a potential Granville-like failure);
- AS3996 stormwater grates are to be bike and pram safe wherever possible;
- AS1428 ramp safety failures - ramps that are too steep to be addressed;
- AS4678 retaining walls with serious faults and cracks to be accessed and insurance risks addressed; and
- AS4685 play equipment with inherent faults at multiple sites to be fixed, and shade cloth protection re-installed where missing.

LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER

8.0 MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed, the time being 7.09pm.