

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE LONGFORD LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SMITH STREET, LONGFORD ON WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2015, COMMENCING AT 7:02 PM

1. PRESENT

Mr Linus Grant (Chair), Mr Rein Wever, Ms Dee Alty, Mr Neil Tubb, Mrs Lesley McKenzie, Mr John Cauchi, Mr Harry Galea

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Dick Adams, Miss Amanda Mason (Executive Officer), Mr Anthony Morehouse (Guest)

3. APOLOGIES

Mr Des Jennings (General Manager)

4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ms Dee Alty/Mr Neil Tubb

That the Minutes of the Longford Local District Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2015 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Carried unanimously

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6.1 Progress of the Longford Local District Committee

Mr Grant advised the Committee he had made a request to Council for a briefing on the issues at items 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7 on the Agenda. Miss Mason has prepared a briefing on those items to present.

Mr Grant acknowledged there had been some frustration among the committee in the time that is being taken to progress matters. Mr Grant reminded the committee that they are an advisory committee and their role is to make suggestions to Council. There are essentially three layers, the Longford Local District Committee, Council Management and the Councillors. Whilst the time taken to progress matters can be frustrating, the committee is to acknowledge that this is the process to be followed and is to be accepted.

6.2 Longford Streetscape & Traffic Study

The committee noted the issues of traffic management, beautification of Longford and the streetscape have been ongoing for some time.

Earlier this year a project was suggested to link the Village Green with the Church Grounds. Preliminary actions were underway for that project to progress.

At the last LLDC meeting a motion was put that Council appoint an appropriately qualified person to develop a concept plan improving the streetscape of Longford

from the Illawarra Road roundabout to the southern end of the heritage precinct. Council endorsed that motion for investigation at its meeting of 17 August 2015. Council officers have since made enquiries and a report is being submitted to Council at its 21 September 2015 meeting.

The committee asked the following questions:

1. Can the linking of the Church and the Village Green progress in conjunction with the Streetscape study?
2. Why has the streetscape study been linked with the traffic study, and can the two be separated out?

Miss Mason was of the understanding the two were linked due to funding.

Cr Adams advised the committee he attended a workshop earlier this week with other Councillors regarding infrastructure, potentially there is funding there, if a plan is developed and ready, then funding can be applied for at short notice.

In regard to the traffic study it was noted that the LLDC had prepared a list of issues identified in the town previously.

Action

[Miss Mason to circulate the list for review by the committee members and updating if required.](#)

6.2 Signage

The Committee noted that discussions have been had between the General Manager and State Growth regarding simplifying and consolidating the signage to the entrance of Longford. This is a positive move forward.

In respect to the enquiry made at the last meeting about State Growth signage requirements, State Growth has a signage manual on its website for review at any time.

The Committee requested the Council signage committee be involved in part of the signage review project.

It was noted that the information previously gathered, such as the report prepared last year at the request of the LLDC will be considered during the process.

6.3 Investigation of standalone Visitor Information Centre

A brief chronology of events was provided:

- 5 February 2014 – LLDC moved motion that Council investigate the installation of a VIC in the Longford Memorial Hall
- 4 June 2014 – LLDC moved motion that Council identify funding, location and implementation of a standalone VIC as a matter of priority
- January 2015 – Ms Alty submitted to Council a business plan for a standalone VIC
- July 2015 – Ms Alty's report was received by Council and Mrs Lebski's report was received by Council
- At the July Council meeting Council made the following decision:

[Cr Knowles/Cr Goninon](#)

That Council:

- i) Seek the comments of the current volunteers that support the Visitor Information shop front at JJ's Bakery.*
- ii) If the Memorial Hall is a consideration for the location of the Visitor Information Centre, seek the input of existing and potential users of the Memorial Hall.*
- iii) Assess the cost to establish a trial Visitor Information Centre at the Memorial Hall.*
- iv) Review appropriateness of Council staff managing the centre volunteers, and the staffing capacity to undertake this role.*
- v) Seek comments from the Ross Wool Centre in respect to downgrading from the yellow "i" to the white "i".*

Carried unanimously

- This request was actioned and the following responses received:

- (i) Seek the comments of the current volunteers that support the Visitor Information shop front at JJ's Bakery.*

Comments of current volunteers do not support a proposed stand alone visitor centre at Longford;

The Committee noted the JJs visitor centre was established by the Northern Midlands Business Association, originally in a vacant room on Heritage Corner, as a standalone centre. Due to poor attendance, in about 2004 it moved to JJs.

- ii) If the Memorial Hall is a consideration for the location of the Visitor Information Centre, seek the input of existing and potential users of the Memorial Hall.*

On hold until (iii) complete

- iii) Assess the cost to establish a trial Visitor Information Centre at the Memorial Hall.*

The LLDC were requested to do this. Miss Mason has prepared list and circulated to the Committee and Ms Green

- iv) Review appropriateness of Council staff managing the centre volunteers, and the staffing capacity to undertake this role.*

The Visitor Information Centres at Ross, Campbell Town and Avoca are managed by entities independent of Council. The Evandale Visitor Centre is managed by the Evandale Community Centre and Evandale War Memorial Hall Committee of Management: a Special Committee of Council. The management model for the proposed Longford Visitor Centre will need to be determined and operate aligned to the other visitor centres in the Northern Midlands i.e. no direct involvement of Council staff.

- v) Seek comments from the Ross Wool Centre in respect to downgrading from the yellow "i" to the white "i".*

Not discussed as not relevant to this discussion at present.

- A report will now go to the September Council meeting seeking a decision from Council as to whether or not a standalone VIC should be implemented.

It was noted by the Committee that some of this information should have been presented to the Committee previously and it has not been.

Mr Wever advised the Committee he had attended some VIC on his recent visit to the Netherlands. Typically VICs over there are funded 1/3 by Council, 1/3 by sales and 1/3 by local business. A VIC needs something to sell along with the people who run it.

Action

The Committee proposed to request a meeting between the Longford Local District Committee (or representatives thereof), the General Manager and a representative of the Northern Midlands Business Association to discuss where this is progressing.

6.4 Play space

The Committee noted that Council at its 17 August 2015 meeting committed to contribute funds to the installation of a destination play ground at Longford. The project cannot proceed without external funding being obtained. Council officers are seeking funding from external sources. It was noted the proposed location is the Village Green, Wellington Street.

Concern was raised by some committee members at the lack of community consultation in respect to the playground. It was noted there has been community consultation with Mr Grant attending the presentation by the playground company. Further there was a display at the Village Green for the community and advertising on Council's website and social media.

It was further noted there is fund raising being conducted for additional disability access play equipment.

It was confirmed that a Planning Application would need to be submitted for the installation of the playground giving the community further opportunity to comment.

6.5 Heart FM

The Committee noted that Council at its 17 August 2015 meeting decided to contribute funds to convert a room in the Longford Memorial Hall for a room for Heart FM radio.

An enquiry was made as to why the Committee was not informed of this occurring until after the event.

6.6 Cygnet Folk Festival

The Committee noted that artists from the Cygnet Folk Festival will be touring Tasmania after the event and coming to Longford. More information will be provided to the Longford Local District Committee and the Longford Business and Tourism Association as available.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

7.1 P15-241 – Country Club Hotel

Committee to note P15-241.

Comment was made in respect to landscaping to be in keeping with the Longford streetscape.

Action

Ms Alty, Mr Grant and Mr Wever to pursue with Northern Midlands Council Planning Department in the personal capacity, noting the Committee, as a special committee of Council is not permitted to make representations on planning items.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Tourism Business Association

Ms Alty advised the AGM has been held, office bearers have been appointed and the association is in the process of becoming an incorporated body.

8.2 Equine project

An update was requested in respect to the equine project. It was noted by the Committee the project is progressing.

8.3 Christmas Parade

Ms Alty enquired as to whether or not Council could hold the Christmas Parade again this year. Mr Grant advised that the Christmas Parade was a project run by the Rotary Club.

Miss Mason suggested that Rotary contact her to discuss the parade and compliance requirements of Council.

8.4 Mr Ray Bean

The Committee noted with regret the passing of Mr Ray Bean and the contribution that he made to Council as a volunteer.

Ms Dee Alty/Mr Neil Tubb

The Longford Local District Committee recommends that Council erect a memorial to Mr Ray Bean in recognition of his outstanding voluntary service to the community over the years.

Carried unanimously

8.5 Browns Car Park

Mr Tubb noted concern in respect to the safety of the Browns Car Park and enquired as to whether or not there is any action that can be taken in respect to making it safer.

Action

Miss Mason to compile information on previous discussions regarding the Browns Car Park and circulate to Mr Tubb and new members of the committee for their information.

9. NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting to be held at the Council Chambers, Longford on **7 October 2015**.

10. CLOSURE

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:29 pm.

**MOTIONS OF THE LONGFORD LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
2013-2015 TERM
Still outstanding**

DATE	MOVE/SECOND	MOTION	STATUS
1 May 2013	Robert Henley/Dee Alty	That the priority project for the Longford LDC for the 2013/14 Budget is the rehabilitation and development of the Stokes Park precinct.	Under investigation
6 November 2013	Robert Henley/John Cauchi	That the fence line between the caravan park and Carins Park be planted with hawthorn.	To be progressed
5 February 2014	Robert Henley/Dee Alty	That the LLDC recommend that Council investigate the establishment of a visitors centre at the Longford Memorial Hall.	Report to 21 September 2015 Council meeting
4 June 2014	Dee Alty / Vanessa Thirkel-Johnston	The Committee recommends to Council that they identify funding, location and implementation of a standalone visitor information centre as a matter of priority.	Covered off in item above. Report to 21 September 2015 Council meeting
4 June 2014	Dee Alty / John Cauchi	The Committee recommends to Council that the system of signage in Longford be simplified and made coherent by: a) being in sympathy with the entrance to the town; b) being in sympathy with the historic precinct and social viability of the town; c) removing outdated signs; and d) signs be grouped in like colour and font according to the category of the sign.	Report to 21 September 2015 Council meeting re Longford Streetscape design. Also discussions had with State Growth re entrances to Longford.
6 August 2014	Dee Alty / Robert Henley	That the Committee refer the matter of traffic counts, load limits and other traffic issues to Council's traffic engineer to report back at the next meeting.	To be covered off in item above.
3 December 2014	Mr Robert Henley/Ms Dee Alty	That the Longford Local District Committee agrees with the principles of simplification of the signage system within Longford and that the standard white signs with black print be maintained outside of the heritage precinct area, and the heritage street signs be kept within the heritage area.	Report to 21 September 2015 Council meeting re Longford Streetscape design. Also discussions had with State Growth re entrances to Longford.
6 May 2015	Dee Alty/Lesley McKenzie	That the Longford Local District Committee recommends Council develop a system of standardised signage incorporating a style guide consistent with state requirements.	To be referred to Council signage committee.
6 May 2015	Mr Rein Wever/Mr Neil Tubb	The Longford Local District Committee recommends Council establish a bi-lateral agreement with State Growth for the maintenance of the appearance and condition of the roundabout and its surrounds.	Funding for development of an entrance statement to Longford is being considered in the budget. To be considered further when budget outcome known.

5 August 2015	Ms Dee Alty/Mr John Cauchi	<p>That the LLDC supports the general thrust of the Fox Report and urges Council to develop a challenging but realistic tourism plan for Longford, including in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvements to the streetscape, such as banners, to add vibrancy (key Fox observation); 2. Council provide support to maximise benefits stemming from a collaborative information/promotion link between the Longford Business & Tourism Association, Woolmers and Brickendon (Fox recommendation 15); 3. Adoption of a Longford Visitors Centre based on the Evandale model, subject to the 20 July 2015 decision of Council; 4. Development of a calendar of museum/exhibition events showcasing items unique to Longford; 5. Uniform local street and attractions signage throughout Longford and surrounds (Fox recommendation 6). 	Noted by Council. Plan endorsed by Council at 17 August 2015 Council meeting on auctioning Fox Report recommendations.
5 August 2015	Harry Galea/John Cauchi	That the LLDC seek the Council's support to appoint an appropriately qualified person to develop a concept plan improving the streetscape of Longford from the Illawarra Road roundabout to the southern end of the heritage precinct.	Report to 21 September 2015 Council meeting re the appointment of appropriately qualified person.
5 August 2015	Neil Tubb/Dee Alty	That Council officers establish with State Growth permissible signage for the eastern and western approaches to Longford from Illawarra Road.	State Growth have a manual detailing permissible signage on their website.