

NORTHERN MIDLANDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES FOR THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY MARCH 30TH 2015 IN THE SUPPER ROOM, LONGFORD TOWN HALL STARTING AT 3PM

1. **Present:** Michael Salhani (Chair), Kevin Turner, Michael Geeves, David Gatenby, Duncan Payton, Robert Harrison, Russell Fyfe, Mary Knowles
2. **Apologies:** Ian Goninon, Fiona Dewar, Des Jennings, Matt Smithies
3. **In Attendance:** Clr Michael Polley, Clr Dick Adams, Lorraine Green
4. **Confirmation of the Record of the Previous Meeting: March 3rd 2015** Resolved as an accurate record.

5. **Priority Initiatives:** The Priority Initiatives Framework held below was worked through and updated.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES	STATUS as of March 3rd 2015	THE WAY FORWARD
1.The Translink Precinct		
1.1.Translink signage	<p>Duncan Payton, Paul Godier and our Chair visited the Translink precinct to determine the location of the precinct boundary signs at either end of the precinct and the intersection business listing signboards.</p> <p>DIER Tourism Signs Consultant responded October 2014 that the signs we propose are classified as a Promotion Sign under the tourism information signs category and are not appropriate for this purpose within the state road network. Recommends installation of black on white sign 'Translink Industrial precinct' under current directional signs either end of the precinct on Evandale Main Road</p>	<p>Noted that the boundaries of the Translink precinct are at the northern end =- at the end of the x3 roadside blocks, and southern end – at the end of the Roberts Woolstore site.</p> <p>Noted that NMBA Board is to seek landowner approvals and erect the signs: anticipated on completion within the week.</p> <p>Item to be deleted from agenda once the signs are installed.</p>
1.2. Stormwater issues	Committee noted that a draft report on the stormwater issues was presented at the Council's February 3rd 2015 workshop.	
2.Powranna/ Burlington Road		
2.1.Council develop site development plans for the two precincts, seek to secure funding for the sealing of Burlington Road & attract new businesses to the precincts	<p>Council contracted SGS Economic and Planning to undertake this 'Northern Midlands Rural Enterprise Precinct' project. Committee members agreed to recommending up to \$3,000 of the committee budget be allocated towards this project.</p> <p>Noted that Council adopted the Northern Midlands Rural Processing Centre Report and the Report Recommendations at the February 2015 Meeting – agenda item has been circulated to committee members</p> <p>Committee noted that stage 1 of the Burlington Road upgrade (near the main road intersection to pass the entrance to Tas Quality Meats) was completed by the end of January 2015.</p>	<p>Noted that K Turner and D Payton have met with DPIWE rep to informally discuss the future status of the research farm; with the outcome being that the Department has plans for the farm well into the foreseeable future.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the need for parcels of land – (up to 5 hectares) to be available in the vicinity of the research farm for ready sale and development.</p> <p>Recommendation to Council: That Council explore</p>

		<p>opportunities with the State Government and relevant private landowners for site specific plan development at the western end of Burlington Road, including the Cressy Research Farm.</p> <p>Noted that Council has secured the Bridge Renewal Grants Program funding for the replacement of the Powranna Road Bridge</p>
3.Support existing NM businesses		
3.1.NBN rollout	<p>Chair circulated to committee members in February 2015 the Deloitte's report: Facebook Global Economic Impact.</p> <p>At the committee's request, in December 2014 Council wrote to the Federal Minister for Communications asking for the plan and timeframe for the NBN rollout in the Northern Midlands, and wrote to Ministers Hutchinson, Shelton and Hidding, to request their support in bringing about the timely installation of the NBN service in the Northern Midlands. Letter received Feb 4th 2015 from Dept of Communications advising the new NBN Co rollout plan indicates the communities of Longford, Perth and Evandale have been included in its planned build within the next 18 months.</p> <p>Discussion at the March 3rd 2015 committee meeting of the pros and cons of requiring new developments to have NBN infrastructure accommodated</p>	<p>Noted that GM is meeting with new NBN manager in near future to discuss the NBN rollout across the Northern Midlands.</p>
4.Heritage Tourism		
4.1.Longford Village Green improvements	<p>Discussion at the 12/5 meeting of the need for a basic upgrade of the Longford Village Green information booth. Noted that the Longford District Committee is progressing the upgrade of the Information Booth</p> <p>Noted that the Longford Visitor Appeal Study in underway and committee Chair has met with the consultant to provide input</p>	<p>Noted that Longford Visitor Appeal Study Report is well advanced with the initial draft report received by Council March 30th 2015.</p>
4.2.Offering owners of heritage buildings a rate rebate on the condition that they open their property for public visitation one day/weekend annually.	<p>Heritage Tasmania (HT) contacted and supports the concept that has some similarities with the annual Open Door program weekend HT manages in Southern Tasmania. HT able to offer advice on the development of the concept & can promote events through their e-bulletin.</p> <p>Noted that Council made a submission on behalf of the ED Committee to the Legislative Council Inquiry into Built Heritage Tourism</p> <p>Matt Smithies, National Trust Managing Director, met with the committee in October 2014 and Matt is drafting an MOU between National Trust and Council (for consideration by this Committee in the first instance) relating to an open Historic Properties Program..</p>	<p>Noted that Matt Smithies had just submitted the draft MOU relating to the proposed private heritage properties 'Open Door Program.'</p> <p>Action: Lorraine to circulate the draft MOU to committee members and item for discussion at the next committee meeting.</p>

<p>4.3.Celebrating Longford's motor racing history</p>	<p>Council has registered the business name 'Longford Revival Festival'</p> <p>Noted at March 3rd 2015 meeting that Council has provided in-principle support for the 2015 festival on the weekend of March 20-22nd. Council is seeking resolution of compliance issues with Opcon.</p> <p>M Salhani and L Green met with J Talbot to discuss the proposed establishment of a Longford Motor Racing Historic Society/Group.</p>	<p>Noted that a response is awaited from John Talbot re the establishment of the Longford Motor Racing Historic Society.</p> <p>Recommendation to Council: That Opcon be invited to a Council workshop to provide an opportunity for a debrief on the 2015 Longford Revival Festival, and that the members of the Economic Development Committee be invited to attend the workshop for this item.</p> <p>It was noted that the Longford Visitor Appeal Study has recommendations relating to the celebration and commemoration of Longford's racing history.</p>
<p>4.4. Symmons Plains</p>		<p>Noted that R Harrison has confirmed Dick Caplice GM Motorsports Tas will present to the committee on the future vision for the Symmons Plains Racing Precinct at the May 5th 2015 meeting, at 3pm.</p>
<p>4.5. Leveraging off the Woolmers- Brickendon World Heritage Listing</p>		<p>It was resolved to invite Woolmers General Manager Damian Saunders to a future meeting to discuss, amongst other items, how to link the estates to the Longford community</p>
<p>5.Northern Midlands Economic Development and Tourism Strategy</p>		<p>Noted that at the February 16th 2015 Council Meeting, Council passed motion: "That Council obtain costings to conduct an Economic Development and Tourism Strategy in 2015/16 budget deliberations"</p>
<p>6.Other</p>		
<p>6.1.Tyre Recycling Facility</p>	<p>Duncan Payton reported at the November 24th 2014 meeting that three developers have shown interest in establishing tyre recycling facilities – no firm proposals yet from any of the developers.</p> <p>Discussion at the February 2nd 2015 meeting as to whether any tyre recycling facility can be commercially viable i.e. is a private solution viable?</p> <p>Recommendation to Council in February 2105 - : that the Committee advises Council this the tyre recycling facility is a waste and environmental issue and on that basis Council should approach the state government. D Jennings reported at the March 3rd 2015 meeting that he has discussed the issue with the State Growth Coordinator General, Senator Abetz and Eric Hutchinson, and is continuing to progress the matter</p>	<p>Russell Fyfe reported Jim Hole, Manager Eldan Recycling (worldwide suppliers of recycling equipment) will do a presentation at the May 5th meeting, 3.45pm start, on their company's tyre recycling equipment and possible recycling solutions for the Tasmanian Tyre Stockpile.</p> <p>Action: Lorraine to ensure Councillors, NMBA Directors, State Growth reps and local State and Federal MPS are invited to this session.</p> <p>Recommendation to Council: That Council request the State Government identify the sites of tyre</p>

		<p>dumps statewide, and the quantities of tyres within each dump.</p> <p>Action: Kevin Turner to schedule a presentation at a future meeting by the City Mission on their plastic recycling social enterprise venture.</p>
6.2.Council Priority Projects	<p>Briefing paper ' Snow Driven Economic Growth' tabled and reviewed at committee's October 2014 meeting. Des provided a report at the November 24th 2014 meeting on the progress being made with securing funding partners for the project brief. Committee notes that at the January 19th 2015 Council Meeting, Council committed \$4,000 to the Ben Lomond economic growth feasibility study – giving a total budget of \$20,000: the project will now proceed.</p>	<p>Noted that in the light of the new Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Funding Program, the project brief has been expanded and matching funding sought from the new funding program. Outcome anticipated April/May 2015.</p>
63.Perth Bypass	<p>Committee noted the outcome of this agenda item at Council's August 2014 meeting; namely that Council gave in-principle support to the full construction of the bypass, requested a number of key issues be addressed, requests consultation with the Perth community and District Committee, and requests establishment of a locally based representative committee .</p> <p>Noted at the March 3rd 2015 meeting that the state govt determined the composition of the Perth Bypass Reference Group: includes 2 Perth community reps.</p>	<p>Noted that the public display dates for the Perth to Breadalbane Duplication, Midland Highway have been set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devon Hills Public Session: Friday May 1st 6.45-7.45pm Devon Hills Fire Station • Public Display Session: Saturday May 2nd 10am – 2pm Perth Community Centre. <p>Action: Lorraine to ensure the public displays are promoted on Council's website, and in the Country Courier and Examiner in the Council sections.</p>
6.4.Economic Development budget	<p>\$4,582 of the \$30,000 economic development allocation was expended in 2013/2014: (\$3,772 on the Translink TV promotional campaign and \$810 on the Translink prospectus). The balance - \$25,418 has been carried over into 2014/2015. Committee recommends up to \$3,000 be allocated towards the Northern Midlands Rural Enterprise Precinct project – remaining balance \$22,418.</p>	<p>At the March 16th 2015 Council meeting, Council approved an allocation of up to \$2,000 for review of the proposed horse trails</p>
6.5.National Stronger Regions Fund	<p>At the March 3rd 2015 committee meeting, D Jennings advised the Translink Stormwater project maybe the preferred project for Round Two of the National Stronger Regions Fund.</p>	<p>.</p>
6.6..Equestrian opportunities	<p>M Salhani met with Sandra Butorac, new President Equestrian Tasmania, to explore opportunities for more state events in the Northern Midlands. M Salhani and L Green met with Michael Morris, Longford Equine Centre. Also met at showgrounds with Sandra Butorac, Susan Elliot (Northern Tas Quarter Horse Association) and Sallee Cauchi (Longford Show Society).</p>	<p>At the March 16th 2015 Council meeting, Council approved expenditure of a maximum of \$2,000 from the economic development budget to fund a consultant to review the proposed Longford Horse Trail to identify opportunities and restraints , and report back to Council.</p> <p>L Green reported J McClintock can undertake this consultancy if the timeframe for commencement is August 2015.</p> <p>Recommendation to Council: That Landscape</p>

		Consultant, Jeff McClintock be contracted to review the proposed Longford Horse Trail to identify opportunities and restraints , and report back to Council.
6.7. New Item: Future direction of the Economic Development Committee	Kevin Turner appointed as committee Vice-Chair at the Feb 2 nd 2015 meeting.	K Turner and L Green circulated the draft revised terms of reference prior to the meeting. Recommendation to Council: That the revised Terms of Reference for the Economic Development Committee be adopted by Council.
6.8. Consultation with NM businesses	At Council's December 2014 Meeting it was resolved that Council facilitate meetings with local businesses in each of the towns to explore business opportunities and other matters of interest. D Jennings advised at the March 3 rd 2015 committee meeting that this is being considered within the proposed Northern Midlands Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.	

Meeting closed: 4.25pm

Meeting dates for 2015:

Tuesday May 5th, Monday June 1st, Tuesday July 7th, Monday August 3th, Tuesday September 1st, Monday October 5th, Tuesday November 3th, Monday December 7th all meetings at the council chambers starting at 3pm (Council Chambers booked for these meetings)

Information Items:

- Launceston Airport and Translink Precinct Master Plan including investigation of a rail hub at Western Junction
- Voluntary committee members R Harrison, M Salhani, R Fyfe and M Geeves have registered as volunteers with the Council: effective until November 2015.

Completed Projects:

- Business healthy checks

Pending projects

- Panshanger Road/ Woolmers Lane precinct
- Big Cow Plan for the Midlands