

George Town Community Safety Group Committee Meeting
Tuesday 5th October, 2021
Confirmed Minutes

Meeting opened: 12.30 pm

Present: Cr Heather Barwick (Chair), Cr Chris Barraclough, Senior Sergeant Robert King, Karyl Bruinewoud, Simone Lowe, Craig Tyeson, Pat Marron, Ray Hibbs, Jon Herron, Les Pride

Minute Secretary: Louise Dickenson

Apologies: Jason Orr, John Glisson, Stuart Austin

Guest: Melanie Carroll from Relationships Australia

Topic: Suicide Prevention Training

The Chair introduced Melanie Carrol from Relationships Australia who had been invited to attend the Safety Group Committee meeting to meeting the members and gauge everyone's views and opinions around the need for suicide prevention training in George Town prior to a decision on funding made.

Relationships Australia is currently offering funding of \$5,000 to all Councils to assist in post Covid-19 communities health and wellbeing. The funding would require a Community Action Plan and completion of a survey to assess the need. An additional \$1,500 funding can be provided to develop the Community Action Plan which focus on the "needs and strengths present in our specific community".

The funding is flexible but consultation is required to identify the gaps. A Community Action Plan would need to include a survey (conducted online or an event) which Relationship Aust. have an example of. One example provided was Flinders Island Men's Shed which conducts knowledge transfer i.e.. Cooking classes, car maintenance etc.

The Chair advised that the Committee has received correspondence through Core who conduct the training and will be attending the next meeting. There is a need for training to be conducted in George Town, and possibly Bell Bay and country areas i.e. Tam O'Shanter. Also suggested that a person could be on call to assist those in need. The Council has provided informal support for the training to be conducted by providing a training venue and light lunch.

The Chair advised that Council will do this on behalf of the Committee.

It was noted that there are already many services available i.e. Royal Flying Doctors Service to those in need and that a single contact person may not be appropriate. There are many programs available through Veterans (Open Arms); Aboriginal communities; Rural Alive and Well; Department of Education. The development of a services expo or Aboriginal healing were examples of options for the funding.

Discussions took place on the early intervention stage; how to respond and post i.e. anniversary events and how the community can assist. Committee could look at Are U OK? BBQ; social engagements?

The Chair advised that Core provides a separate program to provide communities with the essential skills to assist and cope with mental health and awareness and aimed at 15 years of age and over with groups of about 25 persons. Core has recommended two sessions prior to Christmas.

Before funding is provided a specific Community Action Strategy needs to be completed which would be a community led project.

Suggested that awareness brochures from Core could be provided on Australia Day ceremony to promote:

- Self care and mental wellbeing
- Suicide prevent training

The Committee members provided suggestions on ways for the community to provide feedback ie. Rates notices.

The Chair thanked Melanie for her time and appreciated her presentation to the Committee.

Motion:

Moved: Chris Barraclough
Seconded: Craig Tyeson

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the 7th September 2021.

Carried

Moved: Les Pride
Seconded: Simone Lowe

Motion:

To accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the 7th September 2021 as an accurate record of that meeting to accept the confirmed minutes be received and noted by Council

Carried

Correspondence:

Nil.

Business arising from the minutes:

Access parking – Macquarie Street Streetscape Review

Access parking is on hold. Regent Square development is continuing. The car park will be operational in three weeks (weather depending) and there will be 83 car parking spaces (29 additional spots) and additional 2 accessibility spaces (there will be 4 in total).

Anne Street Footpath

Council has received quotes and evaluating them prior to engaging a contractor. The footpath will be from Cimitiere Street to Low Head Road and connecting with the trail commencing works early next year.

Industry Road – Removal of Trees

Removal of the trees is an ongoing maintenance issue and subject to budget funding.

Regent Square – Railing

The construction fencing to the rear of the playground will be removed as works are progressed and placed in other areas of Regent Square. Council has gone to the market for quotations on the structural components. Works have been delayed due to the weather, lack of contractors and supply of materials.

Walden Street – vegetation to be cleared

The vegetation will be cleared early next year. The Manager Infrastructure and Works will be in contact with the President of the Weymouth Progress Association to advise.

Neighbourhood House Issue – Showering facilities for homeless

The showers for the homeless is an ongoing issue and Neighbourhood House will continue to provide support to the homeless.

Notice of Motions

Nil.

Action List Update:

- 02/17 Access parking – Macquarie Street Streetscape Review
- 12/19 Anne Street footpath
- 03/21 Industry Road – removal of trees
- 05/21 Regent Square – railing
- 07/21 Walden Street – vegetation to be cleared
- 09/21 Neighbourhood House Issue – Showering facilities for homeless

See above.

General/Other Safety Business:

Nil.

Area Reports:

Bellingham Progress Association – Ray Hibbs

Mr Hibbs advised that there is no safety matters from Bellingham but has noticed that at George Town South Primary School, Victoria Street is busy and the area becomes a bottle neck of traffic. The Manager Infrastructure and Works advised that there are current discussions with a development and negotiations will need to occur for a solution to be provided. It was requested that the Manager I&W to investigate a short to medium term solution i.e. local traffic only signage.

George Town Neighbourhood Watch – Les Pride

Nil.

George Town Chamber of Commerce – Pat Marron

Mr Marron had reviewed the Community Road Grants which has unfortunately closed. The Chamber of commerce suggested that for the Road grant that signs are placed in strategic locations to remind cyclists to wear helmets.

The Committee decided to continue to list projects that may be eligible for application to the next round of grants.

Tas Police – Senior Sergeant Robert King

The Chair welcomed Senior Sergeant to the meeting. The Sergeant provided the crime report from September to October in the George Town area. The community have been encouraged to report if youth are on roofs in the CBD. The Police are trying to education the youth the risk to their own safety.

George Town Neighbourhood House – Simone Lowe

Ms Lowe advised that there was a near miss on Mt George Road on the opening on the mountain bike trails. This area will continue to increase in traffic: cars, cyclists, foot; and there was no parking available. It was advised that the trails are still under construction and Council will be providing a second carpark with toilets. The availability of car parking and tree trimming along the Mount George Road will be attended to by Council. Also of note, the underpass being constructed by TasRail is still progressing.

Weymouth Progress Association – Craig Tyeson

Mr Tyeson advised that the speed limit sign on Doctors Hill has been removed since the last meeting. The Weymouth environmental sub-committee have submitted a service request to Council to stop vehicles access Fannys Bay with 4wds. Suggested that more boulders be placed to hinder their access.

Beechford Residents and Property Association – Karyl Bruinewood

Ms Bruinewood advised and provided the secretary with a copy of the service requests from the Beechford community submitted to Council which included signage, tree maintenance; snake safety i.e. regular mowing and culverts. The Manager Infrastructure and Works advised that the specific requests will be followed up.

Cr Chris Barraclough

Nil.

Cr Heather Barwick, Chair

Cr Barwick advised and reminded the Committee members that Core will be presenting at the Committee meeting and would like as many members to attend.

There being no more business meeting closed at 1.46 pm

Next meeting Date:

7th December 2021