

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY 07 SEPTEMBER 2016
GEORGETOWN HALL

Mayor Devlin opened the meeting at 9:03am.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Warren Devlin (WD)	Rebekah Hill (RH)
Cr Tony Gallagher (TG)	Paula Ransom (PR)
Cr Warren Bethel (WB)	Robyn Marlow (RM)
Cr Will Attwood (WA)	Eric Tan (ET)
Cr Troy Barnes (TB)	Ken Fry (KF)
Michael Kitzelmann (MK)	Clayton Fry (CF)

Community Members: Total of 5 people attended from the Georgetown Community

APOLOGIES

Ronny & Colleen Henry

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY, EWAMIAN PEOPLE

We respectfully acknowledge the Ewamian People - the traditional custodians of this land where we meet for the Community Consultation Meeting in Forsayth. We pay our respects to the Ewamian People, especially the Elders, past and present and acknowledge their traditional customs and laws and recognize their continuing connection to this Country. We look forward to a long and continuing relationship with the Ewamian People and value any opportunities in strengthening relationships and partnerships through collaboration by respecting their Country.

CHARLESTON DAM / RESERVOIR

MK – With the Charleston Dam, we are presently working to provide scientific evidence that there's no need for a fish ladder due to the absence of fish there. Council is expecting an answer by the end of October on whether or not we will receive grant funding for the dam. This decision has been delayed due to the federal election.

KENNEDY HIGHWAY, HANN HIGHWAY, GDR (WRUP)

WD – Council is currently working on the Gulf Development Road as a part of the Western Roads Upgrade. Funds have been committed to the Hann Highway - \$8 million up front to match the \$43.2 million from the Federal Government. If we continue to lobby and work with TMR, \$20 million of that will be ours. There will be 3kms of single lane getting done straight after the wet at the Kennedy Highway north of the Lynd Junction.

RM – How much will be sealed road?

WD – There should only be about 30 or 40kms of unsealed road. We would like to stretch the money out as far as we can.

WIND FARM AND HYDRO PROJECT

WA – Genex entered into an agreement with Owen Kennedy to take over Oaks Rush to accommodate their workers.

MK – Genex is realigning some land use to work around the Old Kidston Town being heritage protected.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS

WD – Council is supportive of the Gilbert River Agricultural Precinct. There is a meeting scheduled for next Wednesday to outline the strategic direction of GRAP so as to attract federal funding to do the feasibility studies. The MOU period with Ifed has now lapsed.

KF- Ifed has down sized their development plans and changed some of the crops that were initially decided up to grow.

WA - They haven't used the Ifed name in 6months.

MK – John Braby is taking a lead, Stuart Peters is now a silent partner and Keith DeLacy is out. Ifed is now only a \$600 million project which is down about 70%.

CHANGES TO CONTRACTING PRACTICES

MK – Council has simplified the contracting tender applications to be about three pages of paperwork rather than a thick stack. We've simplified the number of people as there were previously 163 people on the preferred supplier list. There's been a team established in the admin building to administer all tenders so now there's a one stop shop.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MK – The 2015 Football match was well regarded, unfortunately it's too late to do it again this year. Instead council is going to host a Family Fun Day on the 8th October with activities and races for kids and families. There'll be live music and Midway will be building boats. Council is planning on making a proper football match an annual event onwards from 2017.

TB – There's a current application in with Sport and Recreation for lighting that is the right lux for such an event.

TG – The Peace Monument Opening Celebration is coming up on the 5th October. Council should advertise in the papers and see if Landline will come out and do a story on the Monument.

MK – The Ewamian People will be there to perform a traditional welcome to country smoking ceremony. A fair few dignitaries have been invited and council is hopeful that the Premier will attend.

ET – The Plaque Dedication Ceremony in Sydney went well with about 400 people attending. There has been a lot of positive feedback from people and the Oceanic Director of SGI Australia was asking, "How did you get this peace monument?" because it's renowned on the world stage. Some directors from SGI will be attending the Celebration in Georgetown. In March and April a team from ABC came out to visit me and make a film about the Peace Monument. They said they won't put it on TV until after the official opening though.

TB – The students from Georgetown State School and the Etheridge Learning Facility got a standing ovation for their poetry performances. Byron Tincknell did the opening in Japanese and numerous people commented on how naturally he spoke.

SUGGESTION BOX

- Replace barbed wire fence on hill at Greens Park with something nicer to look at and less dangerous to mower operators.
- Suggest emptying suggestion box monthly
- Semi water trucks a decent float
- Upgrade Depot
- Cash in sick leave

GENERAL BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

RM – Can we please get a wheelie bin placed near the tanks at the ceremony and both gates fixed up to open properly? The first gate is alright but the bottom one needs fixing.

Also what's happening with the dog situation? Is there supposed to be a limit to dogs in town?

MK – We are in the process of having authorised officers take action.

RM – What about the feral cat problem?

MK – There will be a private individual doing the cat trapping. The feral dogs have been dealt with well which is perhaps why feral cats are such an issue at the moment.

RM – When elections were happening there were a number of councillors in this room that promised they were going to make sure there would be an aged care service within the shire. I'm just wondering how that's going and if those words still stand?

WA – Council is continuing to look into available services. I am on the Hinterland Hospital Committee and will bring up the issue at the next meeting that the HACK system is no longer servicing Georgetown.

RM – Maybe we could look into getting Meals on Wheels happening again – Ampol & Travellers Tavern used to deliver. Also seeing what funding is available for family to be carers. Stanthorpe council provides a mowing service for the elderly – could we do that here?

MK – Take these concerns up with the nurses at the hospital as ultimately this is not council's core business, it's Qld health's.

RM – Do we have a health inspector that comes out?

MK – Yes twice a year.

RM – The flies and mosquitoes are quite bad at the moment.

RM – Can the Cemetery Road please be fixed up before the funeral tomorrow?

MK – I'll check if the boys can grade it today.

TG – The Cemetery Road needs attention; if it can't get done we should program it in for next year if possible.

KF – Talked about the options for water use on the Gilbert and the need to get someone who knows what they're talking about to do the science on the options. Not everyone will be able to double crop but a large percentage of people would want to. There would be a large outlay for machinery so people won't want it sitting in the shed idle for 6months of the year. Ken would like to congratulate Council on the direction they are taking with development.

WA - Paula Ransom has started in an admin position at Northern Gulf. Her hours are 9am – 2pm Monday to Thursday.

RM – Maybe there could be another suggestion box placed at the Terrestrial.

WD – The road from Einasleigh to the Lynd/Oasis is not safe – there's still a guide post in the middle of the road and corrugation but it's not our road so we're waiting for the go ahead to fix it.

MK - .Last year we closed the road. Beurocracy is the problem and the message doesn't get across until things are extreme and you have to close the road. Council does work on the road but TMR decides what we can do. The dust is not safe as people can't see. The Kidston group is contributing a substantial amount to development costs.

Kellie Butler is working on cemetery mapping of old graves. Robyn has a copy of Georgetown's cemetery records in storage in Stanthorpe.

KF – It would be good for council to get a hold of the PPCo Report (Parsons Brinkerhoff, Water Management of the Gilbert River Bed Sean Aquafer, document number: 86L014BPR001ACH). There was a drill hole test done in the 1980's that found when the water leaves forest home, 95% of the water doesn't make it to the bridge. It'd be interesting to know how much water is available in the river. I think that report was done by a chap called Jeffery Benjamin.

CONCLUSION

Mayor Devlin closed the meeting at 10:50am.