

MINUTES OF THE MIDDLETON BEACH GROUP MEETING HELD AT
THE SURF CLUB ON FRIDAY 26TH JUNE 2009, COMMENCING AT 5.00PM

PRESENT: K Clark, J Clark, Y Hinkley, C Hinkley, J Mouritz, B Madden, D Gaze, B Gaze, K Geldard, S Potter, M Arnold, V Arnold, P Locke, P Locke, H Reynolds, J Reynolds, T Flowers, A Wenzel, B Bickford, A Bickford, Cr Dot Price, Robert Fenn, Kevin Ketterer – City of Albany.

APOLOGIES: Mayor Milton Evans, Cr J Bostock, Jon Doust, Kim Buttfield, John and Judi Palandri

DISCUSSION WITH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Jane Mouritz welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced City of Albany officers Robert Fenn, Executive Director Development Services, and Kevin Ketterer, Executive Director Works and Services. Issues discussed:

- Esplanade Developers letter
Jane reported that she had written to the developers suggesting some temporary site improvements as well as liaison with the City of Albany re temporary use of the site as public open space until the next stage of development commences. Jane read the response from Robert Fenn on behalf of the developers. Main points:
 - developers want to keep the site ‘development ready’
 - fence needs to stay and will be maintained in good condition
 - will mulch the area in spring
 - City of Albany not interested in public use of the site – not priority use of ratepayers’ funds..

Issues discussed arising from the letter:

The fence had still not been repaired. Mr Fenn replied that a contract for repair has been awarded but contractors are busy with other work. It will be done in July.

Trish Flowers regards it as unacceptable for the site to be as it is. She is concerned about the future of the area – there are 1500 available beds but little else. She is afraid that tourists will leach from the area and thinks that Council should help find an interim solution.

Mr Fenn responded that development could start at any time but people need to be patient and understand the complexity of the development. He said he failed to see what else COA could do, because it is private property.

The view was expressed that the developers had failed to communicate directly with the community and were choosing to go through COA instead.

Kay Geldard said there was a need for the developers to ‘give us some vision; give us some hope’ . Mr Fenn remarked that this view had been put to the developers but ignored. He added that big projects with long lead times will always attract flak from the community.

Dot Price suggested there could be cultural differences that caused these developers to wish to communicate through Council. Mr Fenn noted that the company has put in 3 years of solid work but seem not to wish to go to the public until they have an actual project.

Dot Price said that current community frustration is a fair call and she felt Council can do something to help this. She said that she had come to understand that documentation and regulatory requirement do take a long time.

On the issue of sand drift, Mr Fenn said that the requirement to control this will be enforced. He understood that a local firm had been engaged to undertake the necessary work.

Jane mentioned need for the group to meet with TPG re the site. She summarised some things that she believed could be done:

- improved communication with the community
- an accessible concept plan to convey the developer’s vision
- a better fence
- earlier mulching.

- Middleton Beach infrastructure issues

Jane invited Mr Ketterer to talk about how he saw Middleton Beach, COA plans for the area etc. Mr Ketterer said that he was impressed with how the area looked. He was open to direct consultation and preferred to respond directly rather than via public meetings. Discussion with Mr Ketterer followed.

Barry Bickford said that he has approached COA on several occasions re maintenance of the storm drains but has had no response. He read out his most recent letter drawing attention to the condition of the drains and suggesting a long term solution was needed. Mr Ketterer said that he will

respond to the letter when he receives it. Barry tabled several items of correspondence to COA on this issue.

Ken Clark asked that the group be regarded as a partner in planning for the area; Mr Ketterer referred to 'Working Together' groups for consultation which he regarded as a better avenue for COA than working with many *ad hoc* groups. Mr Fenn added that there are hundreds of potential community projects but no mechanisms for getting them in to COA framework. Groups need to make approaches on business plan lines and he also suggested getting into the 'Working Together' process. (Contact: Fran Bosworth, ext. 9302)

Pat Kerruish asked if there was provision for footpaths in Garden St and Golf Links Rd. Kevin responded that there is a 15 year Pathways program and \$1/2million per annum budget for footpaths; he will provide the Group with a copy of the Pathways Plan. Mr Fenn mentioned that the Plan has been adopted but can still be commented upon.

Jane raised the walking path entry on Hare Street damaged in recent rains – this is on the list previously submitted to COA.

Pat Kerruish mentioned the poor state of the steps from Marine Drive to Ellen Cove – this is already on our 'list' too.

Murray Arnold mentioned the issue of sedge and fresh water on the Ellen Cove beach area, which the Bickford letters also referred to. Mr Ketterer was unaware of the issue but will respond.

We were advised that a quick way to get a result on minor repairs and maintenance was via the works request form on the COA website: www.albany.wa.gov.au. Andrew Wenzel will provide a guide to navigating the council website on our blog site: www.middletonbeachgroupblogspot.com

Councils next 'Expo' will be Saturday 25th July – locals are encouraged to go along as this is a good way to learn what COA is doing..

Mr Fenn and Mr Kettering then left the meeting after Jane thanked them for their attendance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

Moved Henry Reynolds, seconded Dot Price. Accepted.

BUSINESS ARISING

- Vision and Mission Statement – prepared by Kay Geldard and Andrew Wenzel. Moved Trish, seconded Murray that we adopt it with very minor changes
- Arts and Cultural Opportunities – Patti Locke and Suzie Potter
Patti presented a report on a meeting with VAC staff member re Public Art Projects, outlining issues that would need to be considered.
- Traffic Management Meeting with Police – Jane Mouritz, Graham Stockwell, Val Arnold and Peter Locke
Peter reported on this meeting – the gist was that the police won't act until contacted. Police are aware of the issues but need people to tell them when something is happening. Stickers distributed with number to ring – 131444 – but need to report number plate of offending vehicle. Suggested we ask Kim Buttfield to represent this group on the Road Wise committee as she is already a member. The issue of extension of 40kph area to go to the Road Wise group.
- Restaurant Licence Letter of Support – letter written by Henry Reynolds. The application has been approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Community Financial Assistance. Kay Geldard spoke to her research, listing several Council funding sources. We don't need to be an incorporated body but do need a bank account. Useful to have some objectives to go with the Vision Statement when applying. Decided to continue as we are for the time being, without incorporation or bank account..

Pedestrian Crossings/crosswalks – Kim Buttfield has informed that Main Roads currently have an online survey for pedestrian crossings. Go to www.mainroads.wa.gov.au - the link is on the right hand side under Main Roads News.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday 16 August at 5.30pm. Jane to arrange some entertainment.

The Middleton Beach Group Meeting with Albany Police and Traffic Coordinators
Held on 18th May 2009

Present; Sergeant Andrew Smith – Officer in Charge Albany Police Station,
Sergeant Nigel Fiander – District Traffic Coordination Officer
Middleton Beach group Delegation – Peter Locke, Val Arnold,
Graham Stockwell and Jane Mouritz

CALL 131444; The most important message was that the police need YOU to let them know when things happen that need their response.

- If you observe bad behaviour, hooning or traffic concerns at Middleton Beach, please call 131444 and you will be put through to your local police station.
- Get a number plate or evidence on camera
- Anonymous complaints are acceptable but will take lower priority

It was evident that the police are well aware of many of the concerns expressed by Middleton Beach residents in regard to hoon behaviour and loud vehicles , and they have a number of strategies in place to improve the situation. They were interested to hear that it seems to have worsened in the past 12 months and urged that people let them know WHEN it is happening.

They do make regular patrols through the area but, if given complaints and evidence, can be watching out for the offending vehicles wherever they are patrolling in the region.

Issues regarding the car park, street scaping and traffic calming through design are City of Albany responsibilities – raise these with Kevin Ketterer at next meeting.

The Roadwise group meets monthly in Albany to discuss local community issues relating to traffic – it was agreed that several representatives from The Middleton Beach group should be invited to participate in these meetings. This will be arranged.

A sticker will be arranged for all with the Police Call Number – 131444.

Middleton Beach Group

Our Vision: A Leading World Class beach precinct

What we are:

- ✚ A pro-active community group including local residents, property owners and businesses, visitors and users of the Middleton Beach precinct.
- ✚ We formed in January 2009.

What we aim to do:

- ✚ Provide a forum for those who visit; work and live in the Middleton Beach precinct to have positive and constructive input into the future development of the area.
- ✚ Work with the City of Albany, developers and all beach users to improve the area for all who live, work in and visit the Middleton Beach precinct.
- ✚ Be actively involved in maintaining and improving the Middleton Beach precinct; environmentally; physically; socially, culturally and economically.

What we are not:

- ✚ Just knockers or whingers
- ✚ A separate Progress Association
- ✚ Another group working in isolation;

What the Middleton Beach Precinct is:

- ✚ The precinct includes Middleton Beach from Ellen Cove to Emu Point; including Eyre Park to Middleton Road and up to Hare Street.

MAP

JOIN US: we meet at the Middleton Beach Surf Club (where else!) usually on Sunday evening.

Go to <http://middletonbeachgroup.blogspot.com/> to find out more including meeting dates.