



Warrandyte Community Association

INC. A0042350W

PO Box 75, Warrandyte 3113

Successful Meeting with Manningham Council

Bushfires, drainage, the Community Centre, Planning and road safety for kids crossing roads were raised in a meeting between Manningham Council Councillors and Officers and the Warrandyte Community Association on 8th February.

WCA President, Dick Davies, said that the association was very pleased with the professional way Councillors and Officers handled these six monthly meetings which are an opportunity to explore issues of importance to both.

'None is more pressing than raising the level of awareness for fire planning, given the recent Kangaroo Ground Fire less than four kilometres from the Bridge', Dick Davies said.

The 'Be Ready Warrandyte' fire plan campaign is going well having completed a Bushfire Survey Findings Report and a Video produced with the Warrandyte Theatre Company to promote fire planning. The video and a 'typical' fire plan, tailored for Warrandyte, is available on the website www.warrandyte.org.au. Several other activities are planned. Potential funding beyond August 2013, when the current grant runs out, was also discussed.

The Be Ready Warrandyte project is funded by a Victorian Government Fire Ready Communities Grant to the WCA from the Department of Planning and Community Development, and supplemented by funds from Manningham Council, Nillumbik Council, the Warrandyte Community Bank and the Community Market Committee.

Council briefed the WCA on the proposed special drainage charge scheme for the Melbourne Hill Road area. WCA's understanding is that this is just the beginning of a process to develop a response to prepare for projected increased flood severity. Council advised that the community will be properly consulted and advised at every step of the planning process including on issues of environmental appearance and amenity. WCA will be informed of all further developments. Former Councillor David Ellis is handling this issue for WCA, which is acting as a communication channel and conduit to Council.

The draft management plan for the Warrandyte Community Centre refurbishment is completed and will be distributed. Three meetings are planned by end July. A 'Reference Group' will be formed which includes the WCA. The first meeting is on 19th March.

Plaques commemorating notable contributors to the original WCC have been restored and will be reinstated. WCA reiterated the desirability of having storage space for community groups such as WCA to store gazebos, banners, filing cabinets, display boards and similar items.

Dick Davies thanked Council for their proactive role of informing the community about the recent planning zone proposals from the Department of Planning and Community Development and for the high quality submission that MCC produced in very limited time. Teresa Dominik noted that there had been no further communication from the Department.

The planning proposal for a United Petrol Station on Yarra Street is on hold as the applicant has 'stopped the clock' and a VicRoads report is awaited.

Mothers are concerned about children crossing Warrandyte Roads at the Webb St bus stop and at Taroon Avenue.

Whilst an option for a pedestrian refuge has been budgeted Taroon Avenue intersection, Council has measured the pedestrian flow at Webb St and the volume is not high enough at present to justify a signalised crossing particularly as the other crossing is nearby. However, the count can be repeated after the Community Centre reopens when volume is expected to increase. Alternatively a speed limit reduction to 40 kph could be requested.

Melbourne Water held an onsite meeting at the Old Dairy site on the river bank which is derelict but of heritage interest. The preferred option is to safely remove the bulk of structures but retain some heritage features. Council preference is that the land be transferred from MW to MCC at no cost. There is an end November deadline to complete community consultation and plans.

Council agreed to review rubbish disposal in the parks. They have already installed larger dog litter bins which tend to be filled with general rubbish. Rubbish is overflowing following the monthly community market. WCA suggested more frequent emptying or larger skips is required.

Council policy on the shared path along the river bank currently allows pedestrians, bicycles, dogs and horses. Council is exploring an alternative horse trail along Gold Memorial Road which is delayed by a VCAT challenge.

On behalf of WCA, Dick Davies thanked Council for the time and effort by Councillors and Officers that go into these meetings which are much appreciated.

End:

18 February 2013