

Minutes

Suffolk Park Progress Association Public Meeting
Tuesday 8th November 2011, 7pm, Suffolk Park Community Hall

“Community Strategic Plan”

Present:

Suffolk Park Progress Association Committee: Karin Kolbe (President), Greg Duggan (Secretary), Margaret Wiles (Treasurer), Eric Bridgeman, Patsy Brosnan, Prue Regan and Donald Maughan.

Guest Speakers: Donna Johnston, Ian McGlone, Jason Pudsey, Tony Jansen, Helen Brown

Plus over 30 SPPA members and Suffolk Park residents

Apologies:

Cr Jan Barham, Margaret Suffolk Mc Bride, Di Mahoney, Marleen & Barrie Peters, Francoise Teclemariam

1. Welcome

The meeting commenced at 7pm with a welcome from SPPA President Karin Kolbe.

Karin outlined the agenda and then introduced the main guest speaker, Donna Johnston, Media and Communications Officer, Byron Shire Council

2. Byron Shire Community Strategic Plan 2022 - Donna Johnston

Donna explained that the Draft Community Strategic Plan (CSP) for the next 10 years was currently on exhibition. Feedback is being sought via paper surveys (included with rates notices), listening posts, and an online survey at www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au. Submissions closed on 10th November.

Feedback is also being sought at meetings of community groups like this one, and Donna said this was the biggest turnout she had seen so far.

Within the 10 year CSP there is a 4-year Delivery Working Plan, and 1-year Operational Plans. The CSP is a NSW government requirement, and 90 councils are currently going through this process.

The CSP is divided into 5 themes:

- Corporate Management
- Economy
- Society & Culture
- Environment
- Community Infrastructure

Donna invited comments from the meeting attendees, and recorded these. They are summarised below.

Top two CSP priorities:

A. Community Infrastructure

- Traffic – additional access road for Suffolk Park – requires a study to determine what is required for the population. Consider an emergency road.
- Clifford and Broken Head T-junction – can a roundabout be built? Safety issue – very dangerous (especially right hand turn to Byron).
- Pedestrian crossing required to link west to east.
- Byron bypass – link Suffolk Park to Industrial Estate– ease traffic for the residents of the Shire, especially those in Suffolk and Sunrise.
- Examine other transport options
- Better connectivity between cycleways and pedestrians pathways
- A continuous cycleway / footpath along broken head rd from Clifford St to link up with the one near the Caravan Park / Golf course.
- Brunswick Heads to Byron Bay cycleway.
- Priority facilities for families – refer list from Suffolk Park Progress Association.

B. Maintenance

- Toilets – increase maintenance/cleaning.
- Upgrade of park/recreation areas – including increased maintenance. Including car parks along Dunecare areas.

Additional CSP priorities:

- Heritage Study – resource the study seriously.
- Consider residents first versus the visitors.
- Greater support for local tenders versus outside companies.
- Education and compliance program for the beach areas (deter vandalism, drinking, fires etc) – increased Ranger numbers.
- Rangers to work 8 hours 6am to 10am. 4pm to 8pm.
- Support Community Garden in Suffolk Park.
- Green waste collection to be introduced.
- Plan for food security and energy security.
- Reconstitute the Quarry committee.
- Roads – require to be fixed not patched – especially beachside

The suggestions from SPPA public meeting held 16 August 2011 we also re-stated and noted.

3. Suffolk Park Football Club – Ian McGlone

Ian explained that Suffolk Park Phoenix FC is a new club aiming to compete in the Far North Coast 2012 season. This is a great opportunity for the community to have its own sporting identity that will include junior and senior men's and women's teams, playing on the sports fields in Beech Drive.

Anyone interested can contact Ian by email suffolkparkfc@gmail.com , Suffolk-Park-FC on Facebook, or call 0457 360 198.

4. Suffolk Park Community Web Site – Jason Pudsey

One idea put forward at our August public meeting was for a Suffolk Park community web site. Jason has created a mock site to show what this could look like. It can be seen by following this link:

<http://693526944788724399.weebly.com/index.html>

The site could include Google ad space or ads purchased by local businesses to fund its operational costs.

On the Community Events page you will see some mock entries to show the types of information that could be shown, as well as an example of a survey

There are also example pages for Local Groups, Skills Swap, and Meet your Neighbours.

For such a site to be viable it will need an editor to work on it about one day per week. This could be a voluntary position, or a paid one funded by advertising revenue. The editor or someone else would need to canvass local businesses to sell the advertising.

Anyone interested in running and editing this web site should contact SPPA in the first instance.

5. Community Garden – Tony Jansen

A group of interested community gardeners led by Tony have been working with council to identify potential sites for community gardens in Suffolk Park. Graham Williams, sustainability officer at Byron Shire Council has been most helpful.

There are a few possibilities, but the first garden is likely to be established on a small block of vacant community land in Bottlebrush Cr, behind the pre-school centre. It can accommodate about 12 individual allotments and one communal space, and so far 8 people have expressed interest in having an allotment.

People interested in the community garden can contact Tony at tonyj@surfsolomons.com, or on 0479033414

6. Dunecare – Helen Brown

Helen gave an update on the activities of the Suffolk Park Dunecare are group.

Suffolk Park Dunecare has been going for more than 20 years. They are all volunteers, and more are needed. Work is usually on the first Saturday of the month – see local papers or Byron Shire Council website for details. Two grants of \$20,000 have been received to work on the dunes.

The Dunecare group has been clearing feral Bitou bush along the walking track from the end of Alcorn St to the Tallow Creek Bridge, and replanting with native trees & bushes. A new beach access track has been put though near the bridge and the old one closed, which means that the cycle path is now sand-free.

The group has been assisted by up to 40 enthusiastic volunteers from Byron High.

On a less happy note Helen said that some of the good work has been undone by vandals who have broken trees and lit fires on the dunes. She asked that anyone seeing such activity report it to the Council Ranger (6626 7000 in business hours), or to call the police (6685 9499).

Margaret Wiles told the meeting that Helen had been listed as one of NSW's "Hidden Treasures" for 2011.

7. SPPA News – Karin Kolbe

Optus Tower at the Golf Course

A DA has been approved for Optus to erect a monopole mobile phone tower in the north-west corner of the golf course. This will be hidden by trees and is well away from any dwellings. The DA was supported by SPPA because it will give Suffolk Park residents and emergency services a viable choice of mobile phone carriers for the first time, and the site is a good one.

The tower can be shared by multiple carriers, and both Optus and Vodaphone will use it initially. It importantly offers the possibility of relocating the Telstra mobile transmitters which currently sit atop the water reservoir on community land very close to scores of houses in Byron Hills. The SPPA will continue to press the case with both council and Telstra for these transmitters to move to the new tower at the Golf Course.

Byron West Development

The proposed Byron West development, which is currently on exhibition, will significantly worsen the traffic and transport problems of the greater Byron Bay area. The particular knock-on effect for Suffolk Park residents will be increased difficulty in getting from their homes to work or do business in the Industrial Estate

The SPPA has drafted a letter objecting to the development being approved unless and until there is a funded plan to address the traffic and transport needs of the area. When finalised, this letter will be posted on the SPPA website. The meeting was asked to show their support for such a letter and no one opposed it.

The Byron West development has been taken over by the NSW state government as a “State Significant Site”, and so it is out of Byron Council’s control. Donna advised that council Staff will be making a submission to council on 24th November.

Anyone can make a submission; the more the better. The plans are on exhibition until 30th November. For more information go to: www.westbyronproject.com.au

S94 Funds for Suffolk Park Infrastructure

Following a notice on motion from Mayor Jan Barham and support from SPPA, council unanimously passed a resolution on 20th October to hold a public meeting **on 21st February 2012** to discuss how to best spend the Section 94 developer funds that are available for Suffolk Park. (See below).

Before that meeting SPPA will work with council to establish how much money is actually available, and to see what plans may be in existence for infrastructure e.g. a Clifford Street Roundabout.

This will be a very important meeting for Suffolk Park, so keep the date free. SPPA will provide additional information closer to the meeting.

Notice of Motion No. 8.3. Suffolk Park infrastructure needs COR405527 #1149286. 11-842 Resolved:

1. That Council hold a community meeting on 21 February 2012 with the Suffolk Park residents to:

- a) consider the infrastructure needs of the area*
- b) clarify the priorities for the accumulated developer contributions*
- c) inform on the progress of the Clifford Street/Broken Head road intersection safety upgrade and or options and seek information from the community about safety concerns*
- d) consult on parking, bikeways, pathways and access issues*
- e) advise on local infrastructure improvements to the commercial area including pavements, landscaping, bike racks, seating and bus shelters*
- f) consider the interest for a Sustainable Streets program and or community garden for the area.*

2. That Council investigate if there are plans/designs held by Council that address the commercial area to provide information to the meeting.

3. That Council investigate the option for a pedestrian crossing on the northern side of the Beech Drive roundabout.

(Staples/Tabart) The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

Community Survey

The SPPA committee is planning to run an online survey to get wider community input to prioritise the issues raised at the August Public Meeting (“Are we a Suburb or a Community?”). The results of this survey will help to inform the S94/Infrastructure meeting on 21st February.

8. Other Business

Helen Revis spoke about the **Suffolk Park Art Group** which meets every 2nd Friday night 7pm at the Community Hall – next meeting will be 25th November. Just bring a pencil & paper or art materials and join in. For more information call Helen on 6685 4670. (*and thanks again to Helen for the tea & biscuits*)

Gregg Miller advised that the **Rural Fire Service** will once again be running its **Australia Day Event** at Gaggin Park. This is a major fund raiser for our volunteer fire fighters, as well as a fun community gathering. Be there on 26th January 2102.

9. New Members

Four (4) new members’ joined the Association on the night.

The committee would like to welcome Pat & Jim Rankin, Lorraine Cannel, and Tony Jansen.

The meeting finished at 9pm.

Greg Duggan Secretary 9th Nov