



## Primrose Sands Community Conversation Meeting

Primrose Sands Hall – 25 February 2021

### Councillors in Attendance:

Mayor Kerry Vincent, Deputy Mayor Natham Reynolds, Crl Geoffrey Jackson, Crl Beth Nichols and Crl Melinda Reed.

### Council staff in Attendance:

Robert Higgins - RH (General Manager) and Jackie Rafferty – (Team Leader – Community & Corporate Administration).

### Guest Speaker:

Ben Duffy - Acting Inspector of Police for South East Division

Public attendance: 60

### Introduction by Mayor Kerry Vincent

Advised of upcoming events over the weekend:

- Sorell RSL Art Exhibition by Saakia Itchins
- State Junior Life Saving Championships at Carlton Park Surf Life Saving Club
- Netball and Football at Pembroke Park
- Jazz by the Seat at Okines Lagoon Park

Kerry V introduced Ben Duffy to the group. Ben advised that he is affiliated with the new South East Police Division that tends to majority of the East Coast, down to the Peninsular and oversees the operations of the Hobart Airport. Ben also advised that Sorell now has 14 Police Officers stationed in the town. Ben responded to a number of questions and topics including:

- **Hooning in various areas around Primrose, in particular Tamarix Road**  
Response: We get some reports of hooning and this has been a discussion in our division as it is a constant problem. Police do have the authority to confiscate vehicles and destroy them if deemed appropriate.
- **Reporting of incidents**  
Response: Really important to report incidents to the police with any anti-social behaviour. There is a community perception that Facebook is a means of reporting, which is useless to the police. Reports can be made on 131 444 or phone Crimestoppers. Evidence is very important and information given to police about constant offenders is how the police get their job done. Statements and dash-cam footage is useful.



- **Crime Rates**  
Response: Primrose Sands is considered an area of relatively low crime compared to other areas such as inner Hobart and Glenorchy.
- **The presence of Marine Police to monitor unacceptable water activities**  
Response: There a number of Police officers involved in maritime services in areas such as Dunalley, Orford and Swansea. Maritime Police will have days where they operate in certain areas.
- **Speed Limit Changes from 100kph to 80 kph – issues with tail gating and reckless driving.**  
Response: Unfortunately we have seen a rise in fatalities in the past 12 months. Take details of the offenders and pass information onto Police. Consistently reporting issues and concerns will assist Police in monitoring patterns of behaviour and increases their ability to act on the situation e.g. Blitz on roads, unmarked Police cars.

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Mayor Kerry Vincent and General Manager Robert Higgins responded to a number of questions and topics including:

- **Increase of CCTV coverage in the area to assist with inappropriate anti-social behaviours**  
KV Response: We do have cameras in some locations and Council are budgeting for more cameras each year.
- **Issues around limited parking for boat trailers**  
KV Response: This is a valid point and Dodges Ferry boat ramp is one of the busiest in the state. We need to consult with the community to develop a plan and look at efficient designs. Access is an important consideration for emergency services.
- **Gypsy Bay boat ramp – issues with silt build up**  
RH Response: Dredging should have been completed 1 year ago, however due to the contractor pulling out, this put the project on hold. A new contractor has been sought and works will begin 12 April 2021. We know this has been a long time coming - COVID, contractor availability, permit conditions, threatened species breeding programs etc. have all drawn out this project much longer than any of us would have liked.
- **Dogs – Monitoring dogs on beaches / access times**  
RH Response: We inspect areas 2-3 times per day but not outside operational hours as Council does not have the resources to support this. In regards to peoples view on dogs accessing beaches, this can be a contentious issue. For example, Council changed dog access at Blue Lagoon a few year ago to restrict dog access. Beach users were in favour, but some dog owners reacted. The review of the Dog management Plan takes place every 5 years and we are unable to generate a solution for everyone. *The Dog Management Plan can be found on Council's website.*



- **Dog parks - How successful are they in the Municipality?**  
KV Response: Dog parks have been a successful introduction for dog owners and they are well utilised in the Sorell and Dodges Ferry areas. For more information about dog exercise areas go to Council's website - [Dog Exercise Areas and Responsible Pet Ownership Information Brochure July 2019 – Sorell Council](#)
- **Dog attacks**  
KV Response: Dog attacks are reported each month in the Council meeting agenda with approximately 2-3 dog attacks reported consistently each month.
- **Animal Management staffing**  
RH Response: Sorell Council currently employ 3 staff that cover the entire Municipality. Sorell Council has been proactive on the dog management front compared to other Councils.
- **Sorell Bypass**  
KV Response: To commence in May/June 2021 but will not be opened until the airport and Midway Pont projects are finished (in approximately 2 years). For more information about the bypass go to: [Sorell Southern Bypass – Transport Services](#).
- **Sorell School Re-development**  
Clr Natham Reynolds advised – To commence June 21<sup>st</sup> 2021. For more information about the project go to: [Sorell School - The Department of Education Tasmania](#)
- **Pembroke Park Basketball Stadium**  
KV Response: Construction of the stadium has commenced at Pembroke Park and works will remain ongoing for the majority of 2021.
- **Traffic Survey**  
KV Response: The State Government and Sorell Council engaged the services of EMRS to conduct a Hobart Traffic Survey which revealed a number of reasons why people travel to Hobart. The results include - education/training, medical services, financial services, recreation and social activities.
- **Community swimming pool**  
KV Response: The Clarence pool is close in proximity to Sorell only 25-30 minutes away. Pools are extremely expensive to run, costing about 400k-500k per year. A local community member is exploring the possibility of building a pool at Dodges Ferry for public use.
- **Sale of Council Land**  
KV Response: Sorell Council own a number of vacant land parcels throughout the Municipality. The cost of keeping Council vacant land per year equates to approximately \$80,000 (land tax). Funds that are generated from land sales can contribute towards community projects e.g. future concept plans, playgrounds etc.



- **Pedestrian crossings and footpaths**

A number of questions were asked regarding the need for footpaths in the area to link the community and possibly a pedestrian crossing installed near the shop for families and children to cross the road safely.

- **Changes to Sorell / development of office and retail space in Sorell Council**

KV Response: Sorell will undergo a face change over the next few years with a variety of businesses coming to set up shop. Currently working with the Business Council of Sorell to see what business owners are planning once the Bypass is complete as this will reduce the number of vehicles coming through the township of Sorell. The development of office/business space in Sorell will see a two story building for professional offices and the development of a child care centre in close proximity to Council.

- **Frogmouth Lane parcel of land**

KV Response: The sale of this parcel of land situated close to the northern section of the beach will not go ahead. This was identified through the community engagement process in developing a Sorell Open Space Strategy. Feedback forms are available for the community to put down their thoughts and ideas regarding this parcel of land. Any development would be subject to approval and secured funding.

- **Sharps container drop of locations**

Drop off locations include Dodges Ferry Chemist and Service Tasmania in Sorell. Sorell Council is also an option

- **Possibility of a Hospital in Sorell**

KV Response: Have been in discussion with a number of stakeholders including Nexus and a doctor from Launceston to set up day surgery in Sorell. A suitable location to establish a surgery would be the land across from Council. Unfortunately at this stage “it would be a long shot”.

- **Possibility for an alternative entrance and exit to Primrose Sands**

KV Response: Not likely to happen any time soon.

- **Abatement notices**

KV Response: Council’s Senior Compliance Officer has recently conducted fire hazard inspections on vacant land in the Municipality and notices have been issued. *For more information on the Fire Hazard Abatement Policy go to Council’s website – [Fire Hazard Abatement Policy](#)*



- **Stormwater complaints**

KV Response: Council receives complaints each year regarding stormwater runoff and overland flow from private property causing an issue to an adjoining private property. In such instances, Council's intervention powers are very limited and it is likely to be a private civil matter between the property owners, and should be resolved between those property owners.

Stormwater remains an ongoing issue for our fast growing community. Council will continue to find practical and sustainable ways to manage our stormwater infrastructure and work with the community to educate them on their responsibilities.

Please visit our website for more information on stormwater –  
[www.sorell.tas.gov.au/stormwater](http://www.sorell.tas.gov.au/stormwater)

### **In General:**

- **Customer Service Channels**

At Sorell Council, we are committed to working in partnership with our community to consistently deliver programs and services that are within our capacity and resources, with a focus on exceptional customer service.

You can contact us in person, by email, via phone or mail:

- Email - [sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au](mailto:sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au)
- Website - [www.sorell.tas.gov.au](http://www.sorell.tas.gov.au)
- Mail - PO Box 126, SORELL TAS 7172
- In Person - 47 Cole Street, Sorell
- Phone - (03) 6269 0000 (Weekdays from 8.15am to 4.45pm, excluding public holidays).

- **Questions put to Council for further consideration and follow up**

- Is it possible for the trees along Tamarix Road to be trimmed to ensure easier and safer access for the public (to keep walkers including children off the main road area).
- Will the footpath along Tamrix Road be extended?
- The footpath to the RSL needs requires some attention.
- The entrance to Primrose Sands requires attention to assist in fostering pride in the township.
- A resident stated that hard waste is consistently left out in front of properties.
- Backyard fires was raised as an issue in the Municipality.



- **Primrose Sands Beach Feedback Forms**

Council land at the northern end of Primrose Sands Beach has been identified as an ideal open space to be developed for greater community use. Residents attending the meeting were given the opportunity to provide written feedback regarding the potential development of this site. The following facilities and improvements were identified by those who provided responses:

- Public toilets
- A playground suitable for children
- Exercise equipment
- Bench seats and picnic tables
- Parking to cater for single cars and cars with boat trailers.
- BBQ
- Shelter / shade
- Showers / tap to wash off sand.
- Disability / wheelchair access to the beach
- Viewing platform
- Improved signage
- Lighting
- Security cameras

Other considerations include:

- Speed limit changes to Petrel Street – reduced to 30kmph.
- Better policing of beach front to discourage cars parking on beaches.
- Playground and toilet block amenities need to be located away from parking areas to ensure child safety.
- Create a greater awareness of safety on the beach.
- Native landscaping of the area with some scrub removal.
- Fencing and child proof gates to enclose park area from cars,

*Additional comments:*

*I believe the general population respects open space development compared to undeveloped space.....I have always considered this space is prime for development.*

*As this beach is for beach, water and swimming activities, swings, slides etc are not needed.*

*Thank you for asking residents!*

*More parking so there are no cars parked on beach during Christmas holidays.*