



Community



Conversations



## Midway Point Community Conversation Meeting

Midway Point Community Hall – Thursday 31 August 2023

Councillors in Attendance:

Mayor Kerry Vincent (KV), Deputy Mayor Charles Woolley, Crl Melinda Reed, Crl Janet Gatehouse, Crl Natham Reynolds, Crl Carmel Torenus and Crl Marisol Miró Quesada Le Roux.

Council staff in Attendance:

Robert Higgins - General Manager (RH), Sharon James - Engagement & Partnership Coordinator (SJ).

Public attendance: 13

### Introduction by Mayor Kerry Vincent

Kerry welcomed the community attendees and introduced Sharon James who has joined Sorell Council as Engagement and Partnership Coordinator.

Matters raised by residents:

- Thank you to Council  
A resident thanked Council for taking action after requesting for trees to be planted at Flyway Park to reduce the number of balls and debris that came over their adjoining fence.
- Question re: playgrounds as developments  
KV responded that Council is able to require subdividers to commit up to 5% of the site area for open space/playground use or the equivalent as a monetary contribution. The scale of the subdivision and its position relative to other facilities / open space networks influences which option is implemented. Recent examples of this for larger subdivisions include the Pawleena Road constructed playground / open space area and the 200 lot Sweetwater Estate that will be providing an open space facility. RH commented that State Government Recreation / Active Space grants have recently opened and Council is considering a variety of options for submission including further development of the lower level of Flyway Park.
- Singapore Street repairs  
Resident (Wayne) noted the counters had been put in and wondered what the results were. KV advised the counters provided valuable insights into numbers of vehicles, speed and can also classify vehicle types by weight.

Resident also commented on the state of footpaths and if maintenance work was scheduled. RH to check asset maintenance list and update resident directly. He noted the 23/24 capital renewal projects for Midway Point included Brady, Reynolds and Suncrest Streets.



- Works/maintenance schedule

RH gave an overview of the Dept. of State Growth's Park and Ride project, forthcoming development application and associated requirement to remove Fenton Street park / playground. The Dept. of State Growth has committed a financial contribution to re-instate a playground elsewhere in Midway Point - with a view to upgrading the area adjacent to Neighbourhood House/First Avenue multi-use courts. SJ advised community consultation would occur on developing a concept plan once more information is available. RH also advised that landscaping improvements are still to be constructed by the Dept. to the north-west and north-east of the signalised junction.

- Waste questions

A few residents attending are involved in the Community Action on Waste (CAW) group. Questions were asked about Council's proposed waste changes and potential issues this may cause (e.g. f/nightly garbage collection impact on families with disposal of nappies, FOGO / composting alternatives). A resident commented in support of Council's strategy and how far behind Tasmania / Australia is compared to New Zealand. It was noted that some Councils (SJ to check details) offer a rebate on use of cloth nappies which may be an idea for Sorell Council to consider.

KV spoke to home composting considerations (e.g. knowing how to do it right – mix and type of organics, awareness of greenhouse gas emissions), explained how FOGO would take time to implement and would not happen until a processing facility was secured (up to 2 years). There was also conversation regarding biochar (a product produced from turning green waste into charcoal using a kiln to combust the waste at high temperatures). A pilot trial of this process is underway with City of Hobart and Sorell Council is also looking to trial this process.

Discussion over Mac Point toxic rubbish being taken to Copping. KV confirmed that Copping facilities can take contaminated rubbish, but this is heavily controlled by the EPA.

- Power security

The recent electricity outage in Midway Point raised a question of whether there is any consideration for another separate line in. This is a matter for TasNetworks, unlikely to be currently in consideration but RH will make enquiries.

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- **Causeway update**  
KV advised work to complete has been extended to 2027. Both KV and RH are in regular contact with Pitt & Sherry as well as the State Government to keep informed. There are issues with the section from the Golf Club to McGees Bridge and the Federal EPBC is mandated to assess issues related to endangered species and middens. It was also noted that the Northern Sorell Bypass was not going ahead confirmed by the State Government in 2014.
- **New Park & Ride / bus services**  
General discussion regarding the new Park & Ride and capacity, a resident asked if the number of bus services would be increasing to support this facility and another pointed out that the cost of bus fares made it unaffordable to use the services. A resident also commented that Redline has started to use articulated buses on roads in Midway (Singapore St), which was a concern given road width/condition. KV mentioned the implementation of a new 'common' ticketing system which would be recognised across all public transport services was still experiencing technical issues – more information would be sought on when that would be rolled out in our municipality. KV also advised Redline's contract with the Dept. included flexibility to take on extra routes and that the current contract is probably in year 4 of 5. As it is nearing renewal, KV/RH would seek to renegotiate for increased services and pricing options (e.g. OPAL).
- **Roadside rubbish collection**  
A resident said she collected regularly along roadsides in Midway and asked if there was more support available for collection by Council plus advice on how to clear Box Thorn correctly (SJ to request DP contact). KV commended her on her work and others in the municipality (Primrose Sands were doing great work in this space also). KV suggested she get in contact with Lorraine (@Sorell) and SJ to action contact details and provide directly to resident. The resident requested if the rubbish bin at end of Midway Point causeway could be changed out to a more secure bin and collected more regularly (the one located there is not suitable for the conditions). RH said he would investigate if this was in our collection jurisdiction and provide an update. Another resident talked to issues experienced when living in Coles Bay and being stopped from collecting rubbish along a section of Highway by the State Gov road authority.
- **Question re: hoarding**  
A resident asked if there was a process or rules relating to hoarding that was managed and implemented by Council. RH advised Council did have a role in this area albeit there are limitations in compliance proceedings and agreed to provide additional detail to resident after meeting.



- Cat management trial  
Residents appreciated the work of the trial and hoped it resulted in better outcomes for wildlife. SJ advised the survey would be closing in a few weeks and encouraged people to complete it if they haven't already. Neighbourhood House rep said they would also repost advert to their socials to promote. Once the survey details are analysed, TassieCats and Council will update the community on next proposed steps.
- Upgrade to schools  
KV advised the Lady Gowrie early learning centre construction work is nearly completed. Council will liaise with Lady Gowrie regarding appropriate traffic advisory signage.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.