

Gidgegannup Progress Association Inc. - June 2017

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Next Meetings: 19th June, 17th July (AGM) 2017 at 7.30pm

AGM: Monday 17th July, 2017

1. Minutes of the Meeting of, 18th July, 2016
2. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
3. Chairperson's Report
4. Election of Committee Members: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Two Committee Persons
5. Any Other Business
Closure of Meeting

NBN TOWERS

The Development application for the Joseph Road tower has not yet come out for comment. Several applications for towers are coming before the City of Swan with recommendations they be approved. It appears that neighbouring residents make submissions re. the impact on their amenity from these towers and Councillors are voting to refuse them. The applications then go to SAT where it appears that they are then being approved.

Delays are occurring due to the process being lengthened as above. This is unfortunate as residents cannot now access ADSL as there is a long waiting list and are being informed that they cannot be put on to satellite as they will be receiving a wireless service. Extremely unfortunate for these people as they are virtually back to a situation of some 20 years ago with very poor services.

Shire of Mundaring have approved towers in Parkerville and Stoneville, which should have some impact on Gidgegannup residents. This was despite opposition citing health issues and visibility. Note that under Common Law property owners do not have a right to a view. Most objections are cited as loss of amenity but this is extremely difficult to prove.

TOODYAY ROAD INTERSECTION WORKS

We queried the continuation of the intersection works with Jessica Shaw MLA. Her response:

I understand that the upgrades for O'Brien, Country and Roland roads are in the forward estimates. I have, however, gone to the Minister for Planning for clarification. I pushed hard for these projects to be included

over the course of the election. I myself have nearly been cleaned up on Roland Road/O'Brien – I really want to see these upgrades done for the safety of the community.

Des Snook from Main Roads response to queries re. next TLC meeting:
We look like having the final intersection works for 2016/17 completed in June. So it would be better to hold the meeting in, say, July and we could do an assessment of the completed works and talk about 2017/18. By July I should also have a better picture of the funds we have available for 2017/18

Meeting organised for Thursday, 13th July, 2017.

Main Roads Wheatbelt are forming a Community Reference Group (CRG) re. the upgrades to the Toodyay Road from Dryandra Road to Toodyay. This will be separate to the TLC

TOODYAY ROAD LITTER

This was very successful. Bags containing rubbish now being collected from roadside. Some concerns were expressed re. length of time to collect and rubbish starting to blow around again. Felt not supportive of those who had spent the morning collecting the rubbish. Main Roads have now picked the rubbish up.

It appears that 40 hard working volunteers picked up 1.5 tonnes of rubbish

Comments from those who attended include disappointment at the lack of participation by local school children, despite being advertised on the Community Facebook page.

Also, more than 100 tyres were retrieved. It was noted that numerous high value 4WD tyres were later collected by members of the public for their own use. Questions raised as to why tyre recycling is not promoted in this state, why discarded tyres cost money to dispose of instead of having a recycling/reuse value (as for cans and bottles). These values don't need to be large, but they add up. Suggested figures included \$ 5 for small vehicle tyres, \$ 10 for 4WD tyres and \$ 15-20 for trucks etc. Attaching a value would reduce dumping.

Cr Darryl Trease is a member of the Metropolitan Waste Advisory Committee (MWAC) which investigates, writes policy and consults to the State Government regarding waste management. He offered to raise this issue at their next Meeting and report back to the GPA.

TOWNSITE MAINTENANCE

The City is undertaking maintenance of the verges in the townsite and on some other local roads ahead of the Farm Field Day so as to make it more appealing to visitors.

Resident commented at impact damage to roadside trees. These were unsightly and contributed to disease risk of the tree. Road workers need to take more care.

FUNDING OF LOCAL PROJECTS;

GPA had emailed Jessica Shaw MLA re. unfinished local projects and whether there would be funding for them to continue. One was the Toodyay Road, reply as above.

OTHER LOCAL PROJECTS:

WEST GIDGE BFB FIRE STATION

I am working with the West Gidge brigade on their proposed fire station and am in discussions with the Minister's office. I've actually had several meetings with them now.

GIDGE REC CLUB EQUIPMENT/INFRASTRUCTURE

The Gidge Rec Association applied for funding under WA Labor's Community Improvement Fund to complete the lighting project, and also for a ride-on lawnmower to maintain the grounds, gym equipment and office supplies and equipment. I made a commitment during the State election to provide this and will be contacting the Rec Association in the coming weeks regarding the fulfilment of that commitment.

CITY OF SWAN LOCAL LAW REVIEW;

Staff are currently analysing and preparing comment on all submissions and these will be considered as part of the overall local law review. This will form part of a report for Council consideration.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS O'BRIEN/CLENTON/BERRY ROADS;

Accidents are being reported on a fairly regular basis on these roads.

Report from resident: I was at a property on the junction of Reserve and Berry Roads last weekend and the hoons were terrible (as usual) so I rang the Police. The Police often do a patrol and then word gets around and we have peace for the rest of the day.

Then I visited a property on the Clenton/Berry Road junction only to be told that there was a motorbike crash there the morning before. A motor bike rider coming too quickly up Clenton Rd, despite the 300m visual t-junction ahead, couldn't stop in time and ploughed into the trees.

The bottom s-bend on O'Brien Road 2 vehicles have gone off it into the gully twice in the past 3 weeks. Swan replace the signs and just as quickly they are mowed down again.

This culminated in a motorbike fatality on Clenton Road near the Peter Brock carpark last Sunday.

This was after several groups of motorcyclists were heard repeatedly and noisily doing the circuit of local roads. There were 4 other metropolitan motorbike accidents that weekend. People are still riding dangerously despite deaths.

Unfortunately, not all, but a great many motorbikes drive on these roads with little regard to the danger to themselves or to the residents. We can't blame local roads even if they don't conform to today's standards (eg 80kmh speeds require 100m visibility), it's the behaviour of people who persist in riding dangerously which is the problem, not the lack of vegetation pruning or road bends. It was felt that a major accident involving a group of motor bikes and push bikes was only a matter of time.

Residents also expressed ongoing frustration with the inconsiderate road behaviour of push bike riders who ride up to 5 abreast, occupy most of or the entire lane, are obstructive to vehicles wanting to pass, ride on the centre white lines, are accompanied by escort vehicles, slow travel speeds making overtaking difficult, lack of visibility – dark clothing, no flashing lights on their bikes, road shading – difficulty in overtaking large groups.

Maybe some mechanisms need to be put in place to control this? Road signage on local roads? It was felt that there are more than enough signs already, the GPA had written to Cycling Associations, appealing to common sense and respect for other road users was futile. Cyclists did not contribute financially to the roads they ride. They must be the only sport which uses the roads as their personal playground. A monetary contribution in the form of a registration fee for bike/rider while enjoying the public roads was viewed as appropriate.

Mundaring Police station is to gain a new officer/s under Government initiative to put more officers in the Outer Metro districts.

RURAL WATCH UPDATE;

Recent crime figures from Sgt Jeff Taylor in Mundaring indicate a significant reduction in reported statistics for the Gidgegannup area.

There have been a couple of recent sightings involving Marron poachers and a possible suspicious entry to a property in the northern part of O'Brien Road. Please take your normal precautions and remain aware of activity in your local area.

Mundaring Police request that immediate reporting any suspicious behaviour or incidents direct to Police on 131 444 is more likely to result in a positive outcome, particularly as Police may well be on patrol and able to respond quickly in the right circumstances.

Police would like our help in reporting any sightings of a 6 Tonne reddish brown truck which has been associated with burning of copper cables in the Brigadoon / Gidgegannup areas. Again, please report directly to the 131 444 telephone number.

Also, a tilt tray style of tow truck has been seen in Gidgegannup, with 2 men inside and carrying a black commodore ute (in good working order) on the back. It has been linked to illegal access of local properties.

DRONES and OBSTRUSIVE SURVEILLANCE OF NEIGHBOURS

There are reports of residents being under surveillance from drones, some of which have overtly filmed inside shed and garages giving concern about security. Other instances include children apparently being filmed in pools.

It was suggested that shooting down a drone would quickly resolve the issue and provide valuable target practice. It was suggested that CASA could prosecute as drones are under their guidance as they are an air travelling device. This relied on evidence and could not always be proven as not all drones recorded live-feed and picture quality was very variable. It was felt that laws protecting personal privacy needed to be strengthened to protect the community.