

# **Gidgegannup Progress Association Inc. - November 2016**

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Next Meetings: 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2016, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 at 7.30pm

## **JOSEPH ROAD ROAD-WORKS**

Residents having ongoing meetings with City. They appreciate the work done to date by the City which has resulted in the track now being reasonably safe and accessible as a fire escape road.

However, the culvert remains hard up to the neighbour's fence and the City persists in wanting to access that farmer's land for drainage sculpting as water still washes over 40m of road surface.

The neighbour (Mundaring rate payer) does not want the drains in his land. Landowners believe that the best result is for the road to be centred within the road reserve and the dogleg deleted.

Otherwise, \$ 150,000 will be spent on this culvert and the problems still not resolved.

## **LOCAL RURAL PLANNING STRATEGY**

This has now been adopted by the City with minor amendments.

## **MOBILE PHONE TOWER - BLACK SPOT FUNDED**

The construction of this tower in north Gidgegannup has been postponed from Q4 2016 to sometime in 2017 pending sourcing of extra funds to meet a cost over run. Ken Wyatt's office is following up. All planning has been completed but no one has been able to supply a definite date for installation. Meanwhile, local mobile coverage quality and capacity continues to decline.

## **TOODYAY ROAD INTERSECTION WORKS**

Update from Main Roads:

The project progress at Stoneville Rd has had to be delayed due to complications relating to the passing lane. Planned works meant shortening it, which would have made it below the standard length, resulting in it having to be removed.

Main Roads is aware of the community concern, and that the removal of a passing lane would have been unacceptable. Therefore, they are re-designing the project to resolve the issues and maintain the passing lane ensuring that it meets minimum standards and is a satisfactory compromise for the community. The upgrading of the Stoneville Road and Reen Road intersections has been delayed to occur in 2017/18.

The following intersection improvements will occur on Toodyay Road in 2016/17 with the \$10m which has been provided:

- Lilydale Road
- Preedy Road
- Old Coach
- Stanley Road
- Reserve Road

Construction will commence in October or November 2016 and be completed mid-2017.

All these intersections are part of the package of works for the overall project to improve Toodyay Road. They were planned to be constructed in the next few years. Main Roads are just bringing the works forward to 2016/17 while they resolve the design issues associated with the Stoneville Road / Reen Road intersections.

The MRD intend to upgrade all Toodyay Rd intersections to Red Hill. OBrien Rd and Roland Road intersections plans are being finalised and works scheduled for 2017/18.

The next TLC meeting 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

### **RATES**

The Swan Valley Progress Association emailed the GPA with a Notice of its AGM.

At their AGM on 4 December 2016 one of the main issues on the agenda is the CoS rate increase of over 8% for a large number of UV properties in the Swan Valley.

They enquired as to whether UV properties in Gidgegannup had been similarly affected and were wondering whether this is an issue with the GPA.

There has been much rates pressure in the City. Henley Brook values have increased significantly with the extension of the Great Northern Hwy. It was believed that Gidgegannup Farms are rated on the same rural rate in the dollar as the Swan Valley.

Several members commented that their rates costs was similar to 2015 because, although the rateable dollar amount had increased, the value of land had decreased.

### **FERGUSON REPORT**

The State Government response was tepid. The Volunteer Association of Bush Fire Fighters confirmed its position of wanting a Rural Fire Service (RFS) separate to DFES. Other volunteer fire fighting associations are happy for a RFS to remain under DFES administration.

Swan and Gidgegannup is now a politically swinging seat. This is a favourable time to lobby your local politician on this or other issues.

### **BUSHFIRE ALERT SYSTEM**

There is a whole of Government emergency alert system about to be implemented. It is larger than the current system and is map-based. This does NOT override your own personal Bush Fire Plan. Now is the time to check your Plans and self-reliance and provisioning for bushfire events. Alerts CANNOT be guaranteed to be on time, in time or that help will arrive.

### **WESTNET SATELLITE NBN SERVICE**

Westnet are now offering fast NBN to their customers and those eligible for satellite NBN connection. It is estimated that only 3% of NBN subscribers will be eligible for satellite connection.

Activ8 and other ISPs were offering service on the first Sky Muster satellite and Westnet now have NBN connectivity via the second satellite just launched.

### **PUSHBIKE RIDERS**

Members commented that they nearly collided with several pushbike riders on Reserve Rd last Saturday 15.10.2016. They were in dark clothing, concealed by road shadows and had an escort of 2 vehicles and 1 motorbike all of which were moving at very low speed up a steep hill and overtaking was impossible. Another member commented that he had observed riders riding 3 abreast, support vehicles pulling out 4 abreast, riding and driving at 10kmh. Apparently it was not uncommon for bike riders on Mundaring Weir Rd to ride 10 abreast all the way from Kalamunda to Mundaring Pub. A female member when driving in the City, had had her vehicle kicked, been prevented from overtaking and had been hit in the head by the male bike rider. Locals are fed up with the large number of inconsiderate bike riders using our local roads and disobeying road rules. There was support for Licensing of bikes to contribute to roads, though it was likely that cost of collection would exceed revenue. Something needed to be done to address their attitudes. The Code of Conduct not being practised?

The GPA will write to local pushbike riders clubs and the association about this issue.

### **VEHICLE SPEED THROUGH GIDGEGANNUP TOWNSHIP**

Members noted excessive speeding continues through the townsite, including the school zone. Roadwise confirm that they are progressing forward with the mobile speed radar unit loan documentation and will let us know immediately the unit is available for Toodyay Road.