

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE GENERAL PUBLIC MEETING

Held at Dangar Island Community Hall on Saturday 15th March 2014.

Meeting Opened: 2:05pm

Actions in bold

Attendance: Bronek Karcz, Vanessa O’Keefe, Peter Wolfe, Frederico Paredes, Nina Tyrrell, Grahame Barker, Kim Wilson, Michelle Ramage, Ron Barrelle, Wally & Margaret Bower, Trevor Kanaley, Kylie Baker, Lyn & Ross Higgins, Graham Ley, Ron Mead, Domenic DiDato, Cybele Shorter, Rick Stockley, Ant Schinckel, Lisa Hayes, Kathy Merrick, Alec Pratt, Hans Pohl & Judy Nikola.

Apologies: Judith Doyle, Peter & Charlotte Godbolt.

1. Previous Minutes: Accepted by Ant S, seconded by Kim W. Minutes accepted by the group.
2. President’s Introduction and Financial Update: Bronek stated that the League constitution and Ausgrid were the main topics. He then asked Hans P for a financial update. Hans reported that there is \$12,113.86 in the term deposit account and \$4,399 in the cheque account. He stated that we are doing well and that activity has been quiet since the last General Meeting. There had been 15 reimbursements for the jetty signs.
3. Constitution Update: Vanessa informed members that she had been co-opted by the DIL committee to lead the program to update the constitution. Vanessa made a presentation outlining the reasons why the Constitution needs to be updated and the highlighted changes that are being proposed. A copy of the presentation slides is attached to these minutes. Several comments were made by members:

Ron B asked if nominations for the AGM could be advertised and specified 8 days prior to the meeting. The point was taken and it was agreed that the new Constitution should include the need to publically advertise nominations 7 days prior to the AGM.

Cybele S stated that within 7 days was not feasible, as postal ballots take longer. It was pointed out that for this reasons voting by postal ballot is not recommended to be a method included in the updated Constitution.

Ron B commented re third point under FUNDS– meant to read ‘no limit’.

Graham L asked if it was hard to find a third party professional for the purpose of dispute resolution? Ant S replied that this was easy.

Ron asked how do people who are not here find out about the proposed changes?. Bronek stated that copies of the changes were available at the meeting and will be in the next Mullet Mail including a summary on the DIL web site as part of the minutes of this meeting.. Cybele S suggested notifying people of the changes – “they won’t know to look at the web site”. Vanessa proposed a letter box drop. Ant said that for simplicity and notification, a mailbox drop should be done re changes made.

Bronek thanked Vanessa and Kathy M for their work and informed the members that

papers were available to peruse.

4. Parking in Brooklyn:

Bronek stated that this was an ongoing issue. He has had discussions with HSC and with members of Brooklyn, Milsons Passage and Mooney Residents Associations. HSC has formally responded by letter to the River Community Associations as follows:

“Council will shortly be commencing the preliminary consultation phase to inform the preparation of a new master plan. (For Brooklyn) It is envisaged that this early consultation will ask broad questions about the positives and negatives of Brooklyn as it is currently and any visions and aspirations for the area in the future. The issues raised in your letter will be relevant to this consultation process. (Parking, NBN/Telstra, Station Access and Waterfront access at Brooklyn) Council will need you and all other stakeholders

5. Ron M asked how a letter on League letterhead got sent to the Mayor? He stated that it included incorrect facts and asked how it was decided.

Bronek responded that he had written the letter as part of the League communication to HSC in response to the Council’s proposal to set up a 2P parking regime at Brooklyn which would severely disrupt Dangar residents. It was discussed and approved at a DIL executive meeting, born out of the Council 2 hour parking proposal that was done without consultation with Dangar Island residents or the League.

Bronek went on to explain the contents of the letter Ron M had raised:

The League had discovered a number of concerning issues during the investigation of the Council proposed 2P parking land. The Issues raised in the letter to Council are:

- 1) It was evident that there was an abandoned car in the car park area that needed to be removed. (Subsequently Council rangers removed the car.)
- 2) A storage trailer has been permanently parked in the proposed 2P area for months on end and should be investigated as it is obviously used for commercial purposes. (Council has not responded on this issue).
- 3) From Lands Department title plans it appears that a Brooklyn business has taken up a large portion of the parking land thus denying Dangar residents access to parking. Council was asked to investigate. (Council has investigated and found that the business proprietor has a lease to use this parking land for his private business)
- 4) A large pergola structure has been built on the Council parking land and this appeared to have been done without development consent. (Council investigated and found that the pergola structure was built without development consent. In conclusion, subject to the submission of required development documents, certification and the payment of a fine for breaching development regulations by the relevant business owner, Council has permitted the structure to remain.)

Bronek closed off by stating that he makes no apology for the letter and the League will always work in the interests of Dangar residents particularly when Islander’s parking rights

are put at risk such as in the case of the 2P proposal.

Jetty Signs: Judy N told the members that, following the February letter box drop of a letter proposing jetty signs to all wharves on Dangar, she had received only 15 replies out of the 60 wharves. She is hoping for a greater number prior to ordering the signs & showed the members the sample sign with the timber backing plate that Bronek had made. Cybele asked how much each sign would cost? Judy replied \$25 per sign if 60 ordered.

6. Ausgrid: Dean Starkey and Kylie Baker from Ausgrid gave a presentation to the members on forthcoming works for Dangar Island. They stated that Ausgrid had been keen to do work on the island for years but had encountered obstacles like road conditions and had to consider alternative options to deliver the new sub-station to the south end of Riverview Ave. They reported that much planning had gone into the proposed works and presented a detailed map showing the intended flight path of the helicopter that would deliver the sub-station and the 50 metre radius that will be affected. Work has been postponed to the 27th March 2014 to incorporate works on Long Island and Pittwater. They assured the members that Ausgrid are trying to minimise the amount of interruption. They continued to explain the process for the day of the proposed works, which is detailed in the letter which each resident will receive via their letter boxes. Kim W gave them her thanks for moving the 'kiosk' outside her house. Kylie stated that the workmen would leave untreated poles for the island residents, if necessary.

Wally B stated he would like one of the old poles for the Fire Brigade.

Ron M stated that several street lights were out on Riverview. Kylie said that the street light division would fix those. Kylie asked Ron to call the street light division quoting the number on the pole.

Updates:

a) NBN/Telstra – Bronek introduced Alec Pratt who has been investigating this issue. He said it was not a good situation as Telstra has no requirement to give us a new cable. Other organisations had been able to improve their services. He was looking for people who need telephone/internet connection. The plan is to establish a group of say 20 – 25 Island residents who cannot get ADSL connections and then the League can approach our local politicians on their behalf. Alec was also keen to involve Brooklyn residents.

Wobby Beach has just lost their line and the repair has easily cost over \$100,000.

The issue is trying to get Telstra to do something they don't want to do.

Alec provided his email address – apratt@aapt.net.au - and asked people to forward any details that they had regarding their inability to obtain adequate Internet services. Alec also asked people to contact him if they had queries how to approach this matter.

Graham L asked if they use a microwave link? Alec replied that he is not sure what would be offered. Small towns in NSW had NBN brought forward.

Cybele commented that Telecom technicians were aware that some points were sodden with water and that many lines were not functional. Alec found that comment extremely useful.

Rick S stated that he had experienced 3 – 4 weeks of no connection due to the state of the cable – there was nothing left to use. Alec urged Rick and other members to email him comments to help his strategy. Rick stated that he had been sent a 4g modem style internet connection to use when the line was down and that there was a line hanging on a star picket for 6 months. Alec replied that Telstra ought to replace the cables. Rick said that Wobby residents were told there were no new connections. Alec replied that it was a huge cost involving specialised concrete shrouding. He said resistance would occur related to dollars and we needed to get 20-25 people here and 20 at Brooklyn who needed connections.

Bronek asked the members to email Alec if they don't have ADSL or internet connection. Alec said that some have single wire connections. Rick suggested doing an island survey to include medical emergencies.

b) Peat Island: Bronek stated that DIL continues to fight to have Peat Island made into a recreational reserve as a gateway to the Hawkesbury.

Recently Government has backtracked on their Peat Island strategy and it is now evident that the all Peat Island Lands east and west of the M1 will be put into one parcel to be offered to developers. There are no details available at this stage and the River Community Associations (including the League are requesting information from the government).

c) Station Lift:

Bronek stated that Michael L was absent from the meeting but reported that 150 responses were given from people around the need for a lift and disability access.

Ross H asked if we need to push for a lift, why not a tunnel? Rick S commented that they would need to shut down the rail line. An escalator would be more economical. Antony commented that an escalator does not meet disability standards.

d) Mullet Mail:

Bronek reported that Michael L and Mel A are doing a good job. Current MM issue just released.

e) Ferry Wharf:

Bronek reported that there has been no response from HSC on the public wharf upgrade, no date/time.

Vanessa said there was nothing much to report. HSC is showing no great compulsion to do anything with a target date of 2017 – 2021. Vanessa stated that legislative requirements are lax. Regulations do not require ALL public facilities to have disability access rather some 90% Rick S stated that Bar Point wharf has just been upgraded and they don't even have a ferry service.

Vanessa said that Council were required to complete their strategic plan for review soon.

Graham L commented that the temporary access was better than the new steps.

Bronek stated that he had received no joy from HSC who acknowledged that they would have to do something.

Ron M commented that this was the first time HSC did the train steps.

f) Fire Hazard Bush Clearance:

Bronek reported that after the Blue Mountains fires a note was put out that people could clear within 10 meters of their houses. Bronek spoke to the Fire Prevention Officer at HSC and it was confirmed that the 10m clearance is only at proposal stage and is not accepted by some of the involved parties. It is unlikely to get approval.

Dangar residents must abide by the current (old) clearance rules, as there has been no change.

g) Tree Preservation:

Peter reported that consultation had been done through HSC with a proposal to extend the list of trees to be protected. Consultation is now closed and DIL will report back once new information is made available. Peter will continue to pursue this matter.

Cybele commented that there is a new 'Mr Tree' - ? Scott Wilkey. Ross said that there is a new arborist.

h) Diary Dates:

Bronek advised the date of the next League Public meeting -t June 21st 2014.

The 21st June meeting was flagged to be very important because the vote on the new League Constitution will take place at the meeting.

Vanessa will continue to liaise on this.

Ross H said an important date is 3/4 May. Peter reported that this is the anniversary of the opening of the Hawkesbury River Railway Crossing and that ABC would be covering it. He is in the process of organising an exhibition. He stated there would be two opportunities to get on the river – The Banksia would be running services and Riverboat Postman will run a longer cruise. There will be park activities on Dangar and he called for volunteers to help out on the 3/4 May.

Cybele said that there will be a fire brigade fundraiser on 19/4.

Bronek commented that there is a set of dates in the back of the Mullet Mail.

Any Other Business:

None

Meeting Close: 3.40pm