



TOWNSCAPE REVIEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

SECTION 5.9(2)(c) LGA 1995

MINUTES

Committee Brief

Guide the process of reviewing the Townscape Improvement Plan for the Shire of Plantagenet that will:

- *Serve as an overall framework for streetscape upgrading projects over the next ten years; and*
- *Lead to the enhancement of the visual and practical amenity of the area.*

Meeting of the
Townscape Review Steering Committee
held in the Committee Rooms, Lowood Road, Mount Barker WA 6324
3.00 pm Wednesday 10 June 2009

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Mr Peter Thorn (Chair); Mr Roger Bartley (Deputy Chair); Cr K Clements; Cr J Mark; Cr D Nye-Chart; Cr A Budrikis (Deputy); Mr Peter Duncan (Manager Development Services); Ms Karen McKenzie; Ms Larissa Seah. 371/07

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

3:04 PM Mr P Thorn – Chairman, declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

Present

Mr Peter Thorn

Mr Roger Bartley

Ms Karen McKenzie

Ms Larissa Seah

Cr Ken Clements Deputy Shire President -Town Ward

Cr Deb Nye-Chart East Ward

Mr Peter Duncan Manager Development Services

Ms Cobie MacLean Administration Officer (Planning)

Mr Rob Stewart Chief Executive Officer

Mr Ian Bartlett Manager Works and Services

Mr Vincent Jenkins Planning Officer

Apologies

Cr John Mark (Leave of absence)

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr K Clements, seconded Mr R Bartley:

That the Minutes of the Townscape Review Steering Committee Meeting held 4 February 2009 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Mr Thorn queried whether the \$50,000.00 cash in lieu funding request had been approved. Mr Duncan advised the Minister for Planning had approved its use as requested.

4 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

4.1 MOUNT BARKER GARDENS

The Council's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Rob Stewart discussed the following three (3) matters:

1. Department of Housing garden competition and Best Street Competition.

Mr Stewart has had a meeting with an officer from the Department of Housing (DoH) regarding a garden competition in Mount Barker. The officer seemed very keen at the time however the matter needed to be referred to this committee. Since then the matter appears to have gone very quiet and nothing has progressed. DoH was keen to put money in for State Housing but was wanting the Shire to put money in as well for garden and street prizes.

Mr Thorn suggested encouraging native plant gardens for State Housing with the possible backing of Bandicoot Nursery and Banksia Farm.

2. Verge bush gardens.

Mount Barker does not have many verge gardens as currently most of the roads are fence to fence bitumen. It may be a possibility that in conjunction with Council Policy and upgrading of streets we could encourage native or bush tucker gardens on verges.

With upgrading of town streets we would be able to make the roads narrower with nibs and parking spaces, shade trees and garden areas. The Shire is not looking at town street upgrades at the moment but when ready to upgrade them it would be good to be ready with policies and ideas. We could incorporate things like shade and foliage as well as encourage people to look after their part of the verge.

Would like to see feedback from the Committee as to whether the verges should be native, bush tucker or traditional.

Mr Stewart strongly supports the idea and the northern end of Mount Barker Road would be a good place to start and use as an example of what could be done. Some assistance could be given by garden maintenance in the first place with the establishment of these verge gardens. Property owners should be encouraged to water and maintain them and possibly use grey water for the watering of these gardens.

Ms Seah noted that the verge will always be the responsibility of the Council but if property owners looked after them they would be much prettier.

Mr Duncan reminded the Committee of the '2006 Townscape Improvement Suggestion Document'. During the meeting of 18 March 2008 the committee prioritised the list of streets to be upgraded. Mount Barker Road is to be looked at during the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 financial years.

Mr Duncan noted that adjoining landowners would not have the capacity to tear up the bitumen and they would need to wait until their street was upgraded by the Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved Mr R Bartley, seconded Cr D Nye-Chart:

That at such time that the Council is doing town roadworks that consideration is given to appropriate verge treatments including native bush gardens and bush tucker gardens.

CARRIED

3. Claret Ash in Lowood Road.

The Claret Ash at the southern end of the row of trees near the Administration Building has been quite ill for some years. It appears to have suffered root damage during the construction of the new building. It appears that it may have turned a corner. It is not the healthiest of trees but it is improving. Mr Stewart is seeking advise on the options of removing and replacing with a younger tree or to leave it to heal naturally.

The Committee agreed to leave the tree to heal naturally.

4.2 MONDURUP STREET/LOWOOD ROAD – ROADWORKS

Mondurup Street was prioritised to be considered in the 2011/2012 financial budget at the Committee meeting held 18 March 2008 in conjunction with '2006 Townscape Improvement Suggestion Document'. The Council has received \$237,000.00 in black spot funding to upgrade this intersection. With this funding the project needs to be completed by the end of 2009.

Mr Bartlett was keen to proceed with a round-about suggestion for this intersection however a round-about would not physically fit in the space available.

Currently the Council is waiting for Main Roads WA approval. Once this is received we can start relocating power and telephone cables prior to starting work hopefully in September 2009.

Mr Bartlett advised the Short Street submission for one way traffic flow has been forwarded to Main Roads WA for a decision of the Minister.

Paving in Lowood Road from the Post Office to the corner of Marion Street is still in the budget and should be carried out shortly.

Mr Thorn noted that the light poles out the front of the Fire Station are on a lean and asked if this could be fixed. Mr Bartlett stated that he would bring this to the attention of Western Power as they are responsible for power poles and they would straighten them next time work was done in the main street.

Mr Stewart advised the Shire is in discussions with the owner of the vacant lot between the Post Office and Mount Barker Tyre and Exhaust in Lowood road to improve the property for public parking. Until the tenure is resolved we cannot do any more but negotiations are still progressing. There is overflow parking available at the Town Hall and also behind the Fire Brigade.

5 NEXT MEETING

3:00 PM Wednesday 7 October 2009

6 MEETING CLOSURE

3:50 PM The Chairman declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON _____ **DATE:** ____ / ____ / ____