

Coffee and Chat Minutes 21st April 2013

3.00pm- socialising/ afternoon tea (cake and coffee) is ordered and served. Representatives from the Fire Services Commissioner were at the meeting to discuss the recent Donnybrook Road Grassfire with interested people.

3.20pm- People were asked to write down the top three things they'd like to talk about onto post-it notes. We then collated the information and the top 3 issues (Infrastructure/ community development, Transport/ Roads and Social Events) were selected and groups formed so people could discuss in greater detail and then one person from each group reported back to the larger group summarising what was spoken about and ideas for solutions.

3.30pm- group discussions (notes taken in each group)

1. Infrastructure/ community development

-Library- question on when library being built. Discussed possibility of Places Vic pulling out before it is built, so need to make sure that we get the Library on the contract for the new developers.

ACTION: ACA to bring up at meeting with Places Vic CEO being organised to occur. (also mention swimming pool too)

Discussed mobile library coming when Whittlesea township regional library is finished and when our northern town centre is built and has space for it to pull into.

ACTION: ACA to ask council about the upcoming service- eg when begin? Where will it stop? What kind of hours will we get (Day/ Night/ number of hours)?

- Schools- overflowing. Work is occurring to ready the Gammage Blvd school site for purchase by DEECD but it's not yet ready.

ACTION: follow up with Places Vic for an update

-Community Garden- Docklands have a wonderful large community garden courtesy of Places Vic and we are hoping to get something similar in Aurora. Places Vic have asked for a letter requesting space for a community garden. Shed set up at CFLLC community garden scheduled for May so please come along to help out at the community garden (last Sunday in May).

ACTION: ACA and community garden group to work together to write letter and sent to PV.

-Town Centre- last we heard still on track for 2014, construction supposedly started.

ACTION: confirm with Places Vic

-Public Transport Corridor- still listed as a PT corridor despite bike path and other landscaping. Rail way still a long way off , rail project dependent on work being done on other parts of the network so it can handle extra traffic.

ACTION: keep reminding our leaders we need this railway!

2. Social events

One of the major fund raising events for the Association's welfare -Trivia night held in March 2013 was a great success.



Regular Coffee and chats held once in every 2 months where free cakes and coffee provided and the surrounding issues exchanged between the neighbours

Wollert market is open every last Saturday of calendar month except few months- Aurora community association is potentially planning to hold stall each month

Drop ins on Fridays at CFLLC 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 9.00- 10.30am starting 3rd May. Residents (new and old) are welcome to come and say hello, ask questions, raise issues or just chat. Come down and say 'hi' and have a coffee with us!

The drop in sessions will be held till the end of the 2013 financial year (ie May and June). They will be continued after this if demand is there for the service.

ACTION: Other ideas for social events needed and will be further discussed in forth coming coffee and chats as per members and epping north/ wollert residents.

3. Roads/ Infrastructure

Still frustrated about the lack of a freeway interchange, Edgar's rd. extension, high street duplication and Oherns rd. improvements. Train line still needed and wanted, some residents would like to explore the light rail option for transport in the corridor.

Discussed the Bus problem at length and it was agreed we need more frequency of the buses and also to reach further into the estate and capture other estates in the area. It is really dependant on getting Edgar rd completed as no one wants to extend the bus service as it stands due to the length of time it already takes to get to Epping Station.

The Epping Station lack of car spaces was a big issue with some residents going to Lalor to park, South Morang, Thomastown or Reservoir. We also discussed that South Morang was full by about 7:30am and some people parked in the back streets in Epping.

Many residents have stopped using Miller St and heading towards High St due to the long wait times to get onto Cooper St and a lack of exit roads once they are on this road. Residents started to share their stories and it was suggested they write them down and send them to Council, put up on the ices of the Outer suburbs site or allow the ACA to use them in discussions with Politicians, etc.

Everyone agreed the lack of exit points from the Epping North/Wollert contributed to the congestion of the roads during the grassfires.

We need to look at short term solutions and long-term solutions to the transport problems.

ACTION: Write letters to bus company and Places Victoria get the bus more frequent during peak hours

3.55pm- come back together as group, representatives report back from each group (5 min max each) Groups reported on above info.

4.20pm- ACA announcements/ other business.



- Brief on meetings with political representatives (MPs and councillors)- have met with Craig Ondarchie, Matthew Guy, Danielle Green and newcomer Andrew Giles who will stand in Harry Jenkins seat at a federal level. Tried to meet with Bronwyn Halfpenny- will keep trying!
- Community Development Grants- up to \$5K, close 20th May- any ideas please let us know
- Also fire related grants available
- AGM wed 24th July and new rules due to legislative changes
- Membership re AGM- new members need to have been signed up before the AGM to have voting rights and also to be able to be on the committee. Nominations for AGM need to be received in writing prior to meeting.
- Winter newsletter- mid May needing articles, letter box drop end June (Cara)
- Letterbox Drops (Kerryn) - one for general meeting 15th may happening soon and also one for coffee and chat in June before AGM one in July.
- Solar PV tariff reductions (Cara) Cara asked whether anyone had had their feed in tariffs reduced because they had added panels onto their systems. None of the three solar PV people said that had happened to them
- FTTH VCAT (Ahmet)- still proceeding though it is slow going because of the verbose nature of their barristers. Next directions hearing is May
- Next meeting – General Meeting wed 15th May at Epping Views PS.
- Door Prize announced. –Sri won the prize donated by Boulevard Pantry
- 4.40pm- Socialising/ finish up cakes
- 4.50pm- event close