

Norah Head Ratepayers, Residents & Coastcare Association Inc.

eNEWSLETTER

Association Meeting CANCELLED

Location Norah Head Hockey Club Building

Time 7.30pm

Secretary Gary Dean | 0408 021 990

On Saturday 26th June 2021 the NSW Premier announced a lockdown effective immediately and until Friday 9th July 2021 or such earlier time if the COVID situation improves. As such the July meeting of the Association has had to be cancelled.

Reclassification and Sale of Norah Head Community Centre

The June eNewsletter advised the local community that Central Coast Council had identified many of its assets that could be disposed of and the funds from those sales directed to assisting with the Council's poor financial position. Norah Head Community Centre was one of the assets on the Council's list for disposal.

When this planned action by Council became known the Association facilitated a local community opposition campaign. A small working group of local residents was formed to implement the details of the campaign.

The Council received submissions from many local residents either individually or by petition expressing concerns about the planned sale of the Centre. The Association made its own submission. Representations were also made to Council on behalf of the local community by the local Federal and State Politicians.

Council had said that the Community Centre is "*...dilapidated, beyond repair and requiring demolition...*" The Association had always questioned whether that assessment was accurate.

Late last month senior Council Officers met with several of the local resident working group. An inspection was made of the Community Centre and the termite damage noted – it seems extensive. The meeting also addressed some options going forward. Whilst the working group remained focus on retaining the Community Centre, those local residents were willing to listen to those options.

Following that meeting the Association made representations directly to the Council's Administrator, Mr Rik Hart, stating, in part,

*“At the conclusion of the meeting there was general agreement by the local representatives about discussing those **options** with Council in a formal and constructive manner when more detail becomes known. This will, of course, take time.*

For this very reason further consideration of the future of the Community Centre should be deferred until the investigations of those options are completed and the outcomes known. This point was expressed firmly to the Council Officers present at the meeting.

It was suggested by your Officers that our views be conveyed to you direct.

For you to take this important step of deferring further action will, in our opinion, help restore the local community’s confidence and trust in Council and the process being undertaken.

*Accordingly, the Association is requesting that you defer any further consideration on the future of the Norah Head Community Centre until Council has completed the investigations of the possible **options** raised by you and those options canvassed with the local community.”*

The following reply was subsequently received by the Association from the Administrator,

“Dear Gary,

Thank you for taking the time to write to me regarding the various items on the proposed property sales and reclassification list.

Your concerns have been noted and have been included as a submission. You are correct, whilst Council and the community work through options for the Norah Head Community Centre, this particular site will be 'parked'. I am pleased to hear there is ongoing engagement between senior staff at Council and the Association on this site.

To provide a broader update, responses from the community will be collated and a report provided to Council in July. This will help inform Council's final decision in relation to the sale of assets and reclassification.

I have advised I will be first considering those assets marked as operational.”

That reply has been received as supporting the Association’s request and that a partial victory has been achieved.

The Association has since contacted Council Officers requesting details on the process for the further community consultation on the ‘options’

Central Coast Council – Draft 2021/22 Operational Plan

Council’s Draft 2021/22 Operational Plan was recently placed on exhibition and feedback sought from the public.

The Draft Plan included a number of infrastructure items for Norah Head. Disappointingly there was no project funding allocated for the continuation of the *Norah Head Village Masterplan* initiatives.

The Association make a submission to Council seeking funding for the continuation of the 'Bungary Road Shared Pathway' in its 2021/22 Operational Plan.

Public submissions will be considered by Council at its meeting on 29th June 2021.

Council's decision on the Association's submission will be included in the August 2021 eNewsletter.

Minutes of the June 2021 Meeting

Attached is a copy of the draft Minutes of the June meeting of the Association.
