



**Minutes of the 'Johns River Community Progress Association' –
Committee Meeting**

Saturday 6th October 2007 at Johns River Community Hall.

Meeting: The Meeting was opened at 2pm by Glen who welcomed those present.

Present: Chris, David, Glen, Rod, Bruce, Kerri, Tony.

Apologies: Ilma Van de Poll

The minutes of the previous meeting (The Inaugural Meeting) were read by all and confirmed that these minutes were a true representation of what was discussed at that meeting. Glenn confirmed that the minutes were accepted.

General Business:

1. **Insurance** - A discussion was held around the Association taking out and holding Insurance. This insurance would cover Public Liability and Professional Indemnity and would provide protection for individual members of the Association in the event of legal action. A quote for \$10M coverage was obtained with an annual premium of \$1700. A discussion was also held around whether the Association should come under Greater Taree City Council (GTCC) and their 355 committee. The members decided that we should not take out insurance at this stage and that we should not form part of the GTCC's committee – as this could limit our independence. We would also seek some general advice in relation to Insurance for the Association from connections we have in the Legal fraternity.
2. **Bank Account** – A discussion was held around the opening of a Bank Account for the general operations of the Association. Chris Bawn indicated that the Holiday Coast Credit Union has a community account that would suit the need of the Association. We would need four signatories (any two to sign) with each of these required to complete the Credit unions 'identification' requirements. All Committee members indicated that the account be opened at the Holiday Coast Credit Union.
3. **Membership of the Association** – A discussion was held around the membership of the Association. This would be split into two membership levels – General Members - \$10 Association fee and \$5 annual membership fee. Business Members - \$50 Association fee and \$10 annual membership fee. A Mailing list of current members has been compiled and is available to the committee. Members will also have the option of receiving correspondence either by email or hardcopy. A discussion was held around Business Members and which businesses in the community could be approached – summary below:

Boral, Camden Haven Air conditioning, Gibson's engineering, Johns River General Store, Deena Lane Studios, Tom Veestra Paining, Stephen Bulley, Charlie Hall, Daintree Gerand and Associates, Falls Forest retreat, Johns River Tavern.

4. **Furniture donated to Association** – The Association has been donated certain items of furniture for sale – in an effort to raise monies for the Association. Jack and Aileen Honeywill, residents of Algona road, donated the furniture and other items as they will be moving from the Community and cannot take the items with them.
5. **Discussion re GTCC Meeting** – A discussion was held in relation to the proposed planning meeting, which is to be held at GTCC on the evening of the 10th October 2007. Bruce Shaw, Rod Heath and Tony Galati will attend this meeting - and Chris Bawn is to prepare a brief for the meeting – in relation to what the JRCPA is looking to promote in the Village (wish list items). Rod and Bruce are to use this brief as discussions points on behalf of the JRCPA. Tony was attending the meeting to discuss his alternate road realignment proposal – which was presented to council the week prior.

David showed maps of the village with many tracts of council owned and Land Dept owned land therein. There are many areas in the village that could be designated as a park/rest area. Tony mentioned that the town could become a highway service town with the Tavern and New Service Centre co located (on the present Tavern site). There were general discussions by all in relation to the proposed closing of the through road in the village. Bruce Shaw indicated that this would not be a good idea as this would kill the village and damage existing businesses. Discussions were also held in relation to what was planned for the Kew village – considering that this will also be bypassed.

It was decided that we need further community involvement in the discussion process prior to making a decision for or against Tony's proposed realignment and service centre town status.

David indicated that a Sub Committee could be formed to focus solely on the Pre Bypass issues. David was also willing to chair this sub committee. It was decided by all that the sub committee be formed and that David would be chair.

It was further decided that the JRCPA would handle all issues pertaining to Post Bypass as an impartial group and that the JRCPA would act in the best interests of the Community as a whole.

There was also discussion regarding the handing of ownership from the RTA to the GTCC after the bypass has been completed. The JRCPA would then need to keep in close contact with GTCC to ensure monies are spent on this road (old Pacific Highway) and not directed to other areas.

A short coffee break was held. – 10 minutes.....

6. **Post Bypass Discussions** – We decided (refer to pint 5 above) that the JRCPA would focus on Post Bypass Wish list items – with the smaller subcommittee focusing on Pre Bypass Corridor issues. Tony indicated that we need to focus on the natural tourist attractions in and around the village and that our area has more attractions than most of the Manning Valley. We all agreed that we would need very effective signage and a

fixed Tourist Attraction Sign board in the village to assist visitors with access to these areas. Attached to this document – marked 'Annexure A' is the brief that was prepared for the GTCC Planning meeting – to be held on the 10th October. The items listed therein contain the main 'wish list' items which will be the initial focus of the JRCPA.

7. **Maintenance of local gardens/parklands** – A discussion was held in relation to beautification of local areas in and around the town. Tony indicated that he has maintained the section just east of the tavern for many years as the present owner, GTCC, has not maintained this for years. The Committee decided that there should be a maintenance schedule with residents of the village assisting to clean and maintain the areas in and around the village. Another suggestions was to ask GTCC to assist with any 'work for the dole' programs.
8. **Further Growth for the village** – A discussion was held in relation to further housing allocations in the community. This would support all local infrastructure and provide more money in the community. One consideration though was to look at water and sewerage augmentation. A discussion with Mid Coast Water and the State Planning department would be prudent to understand how we could obtain support from both these authorities to further develop the community.
9. **Eco Friendly Community** – Brian and Deena Lane submitted several ideas on the village becoming an eco-friendly community post bypass. The ideas are to be considered by the JRCPA at the next meeting. A letter to be sent to Brian and Deena thanking them for their ideas and inviting them to discuss these at the next available opportunity.
10. **Urban design Process** – It was agreed that the JRCPA would look at providing to the RTA and GTCC local design ideas – including streetscape and general look of the village post bypass. Chris, David and Glen would work on some ideas for certain areas of the village and would present these to the wider community for their feedback.
11. **Community Meeting including RTA and GTCC** – The committee have decided to have community meeting to give them an update as to the progress of the JRCPA and Bypass (in conjunction with Community Liaison Group). We would also invite members from the RTA and also GTCC for comments on the progress of both thus far. The meeting is proposed for Saturday 24th October commencing at 2pm. This would be after the closing date of final comments for the road corridor. David and Glen would work on a flyer to be delivered to the community and also be placed on the community notice board in the General Store.

Meeting closed at 4.35pm.

Confirmed:

Robert Glen Ferrero (Chairperson)

Date

'Annexure A'

DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR THE GTCC MEETING

Being raised on behalf of the Johns River Community Progress Association (JRCPA) by Rod Heath and Bruce Shaw.

10TH OCTOBER 2007

The Below items are to be used as discussion points at a GTCC Council Planning Committee Meeting proposed for the 10th October (commencing at 5.00pm).

It is noted on the Agenda issued by Council that this meeting will be tape recorded by council to assist with the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting. Persons in the Gallery may not tape record the meeting unless consent of the council has been given.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The JRCPA was formed to give the residents a voice in relation to their village both pre- and post-bypass. We have included our key items here which were discussed at the initial general meeting of the JRCPA, as well as the special committee meeting last week, and generally reflect the views of the residents of Johns River (including 'Wish List' Items):

BYPASS PLANNING ISSUES

The special **Bypass Corridor Subcommittee** has been formed to invite community involvement on issues primarily related to planning prior to and during bypass construction in the route corridor area and immediately adjacent affected areas. The subcommittee has no power to endorse any particular position or proposal, and seeks to ensure that residents get appropriate responses from the RTA, Council and Alliance bodies as is appropriate prior to the upcoming 19 October deadline for the close of public comment. A letterbox drop on this coming Saturday (13th October) will notify community of the need for their final input now.

THE VILLAGE FUTURE

The "**Village Future**" core issues involving urban design, amenities and improvements in the main areas of the village will be handled by the main committee as a whole. We've outlined these main issues as follows:

1. Signage – Moving forward and leading up to Bypass of the Village – The residents have indicated that very effective signage leading up to the village – from both north and south bound directions will be necessary to ensure the village and businesses in the village remain viable.

The Village is both **the gateway to the Manning and Hastings** and both RTA and Council(s) have a responsibility to ensure that this is achieved. This signage would also indicate services available in the town and links to Tourism and 'hinterland' attraction and services also. We do not want to see the town become a 'ghost town' – similar to Coopernook.

Another item in relation to signage would be to have a **Tourist information Sign** – highlighting the area, attractions, places to stay, etc. This would ideally be located in the village where passing traffic – post bypass could view. A central location could be at the local community hall OR it could be located in the rest area described in Point 2.

2. Beautification – Moving forward and leading up to the Bypass of the Village - the streetscape will be vitally important to attract visitors into the village and of course utilise services, amenities and shop locally.

To achieve this – a complete **Main Street Program** requires adoption to (a) create a new rest area with toilets and attractive and inviting surroundings – an ideal site for this would be just off the slip road – slightly south of the Wharf Road intersection – on land that is currently designated as owned by Lands Dept, about a third of which will revert to council ownership post-construction. Here people can '**Stop Revive Survive**', perhaps enjoy a short mini-rainforest walk (the existing forested region is arguably dense enough for such a trail) and then come through the village, buy something and then continue on their journey.

Beautification will also involve taking pride in the local gardens in the village - landscaping some areas and a general tidy up of overgrown/non maintained areas that are currently in existence.

Having a **theme for the village** will also attract visitors and looking at local heritage – timber, logging and dairy – various stands of native trees and shrubs could line the sides and centre of the through road into the village. There is sufficient carriage way to achieve this balance. A safety refuge island could also be placed in the centre to protect children from passing traffic. Curbing and Guttering of streets in the village would also assist with the beautification.

3. Speed Limits through the village – Leading up to and post Bypass – reducing the speed limit on Stewarts River Road from 90kph to 50kph to ensure safety of school children existing from buses and crossing the road.

In the main section of the village – reducing the limit from 70kph to 50kph and possibly impose a 40km/hr speed zone during 'school zone' times. Post Bypass – all road to be reduced to 50kph at all times.

4. Release of Land for future development – As a post bypass initiative – the release of existing Crown land – mainly to the south of the village for the expansion of the village. This would support the current primary school, local shop, tavern and community markets. There are also odd pockets of Crown Land along the existing road corridor at the western ends of Station and John Streets, highly suitable for parks development.

There are presently various blocks facing John Street that would be ideal for development. One consideration is water and sewerage augmentation. Discussions with GTCC, Mid Coast Water and the State Planning Authority would be required to ensure this becomes a top priority for the village.

There is also further land to the south of the old 'Timberline- Service Station site' which could also be released for housing.

5. Playground for Children – There has been a lack of a dedicated playground for the village for many years due to the removal of the old and uninsurable set of swings at the community hall. GTCC did indicate back in the early 2000's that money's were allocated in the budget for a new site. Unfortunately, those money's were not made available and council spent them on another area. The next battle here is land in which the 'park' could be located. As there is limited GTCC land in the village there will need to be

an arrangement between the Dept of Lands and GTCC to ensure a solution is found. The village has decided that a 'skate park' is **not** an option.

6. Public Garbage Bins in the village – at present there is a distinct lack of adequate rubbish disposal in the village. The village is looking for more GTCC bins so visitors to the village can place their rubbish therein – as opposed to filling up resident's bins. Suggested locations could be at the John's River Community Shop, the Community Hall (in park area) or located near the Tavern.

The above items were discussed in the first meeting of members of the JRCPA and considered to be the voice of the village. Each of the items above are considered important to the residents and the longevity of the village and a viable self sustaining community. Further details and concepts of design, etc are being completed and we would welcome the opportunity of meeting with GTCC and State Bodies to discuss these further.

Thank You.

JRCPA