



Gateway to the Manning!

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Summary of the Community Public Forum **2nd February 2008, 2pm at the Johns River Community Hall**

Opening and Setting the Scene for today

The public forum was opened and chaired by Glenn Ferrero – President of the Johns River Community Progress Association Inc. (JRCPA). Glenn welcomed those in attendance and indicated his pleasure with such an excellent turn out.

Glenn indicated the purpose of the forum and how important the community's feedback was in relation to Johns River Post-Bypass. He underscored that this was not a meeting of the Progress Association under the rules, but a forum open to everyone in the community, like the others held previously.

Glenn further thanked everyone who had submitted their ideas in relation to the streetscape, village design and objectives. There were 160 flyers delivered and 16 returned with positive feedback and suggestions. A 10% feedback rate was an excellent result.

Glenn walked through the slide show with a montage of various ideas in relation to the above. Today was important as we now need to understand what the 'objectives' will be in relation to the ideas that the community has out forward. The two delegates on the Greater Taree City Council (GTCC) Post-Bypass Committee, Chris Bawn and Bruce Shaw – will be taking these designs and Objectives to the meeting on the 8th Feb 2008 so that committee can now consult with designers and consultants in relation to making these ideas a reality.

Glenn also indicated that the Post-Bypass Committee has broadened their area of reference – which will now include the entrance and exit of the village (from the north and south) to the edge of the new road corridor in the west to the railway line in the East.

Glenn also indicated that the money given to GTCC from the RTA for the roadway after bypass should be spent in Johns River and not for GTCC use in other areas. These moneys should be used to assist the village with its design plans including the items in the 'Wish List' including village toilets, playground, new bus interchange and streetscape.

Tony Galati introduced his option for the village and indicated to Glenn that the options he was presented to the community were out of date. Glenn indicated to Tony that he was 'out of order' and that the proposals are very much in date. Glenn went on to explain that the Forum has a specific agenda and we need to stick to the agenda proposed – which was to look at the options proposed by the community.

Deena Lane indicated that we should encourage long distance coaches to stop in the village – Glenn indicated that they normally don't stop but if we could get a new Interchange Post-Bypass – then this could be a dedicated stop.

Road Naming

Glenn discussed the names that people have submitted through the letter box drop.

Bridge Names - Refer to the below summary

Bridge Names	Votes
John Oxley	11 (3)
John Stewart	1111111111 (10)
Doyle Whitten	11 (2)
No other suggestion put forward.	

Road and Roundabout Names – Refer to the below summary

Road Name	Votes
Johns River Road	111 (4)
Johns River Parkway	
The Village Parkway	
Johns River Drive	111 (4)
The Village Drive	
Old Pacific Highway	1 (2)
Johns River Way	1 (2)
The Village way	
The Boulevard	
Lumberjack Way	
River Road	
Stewart – Oxley Drive	11 (3)
Village Way	
Roundabout Name	Votes
Sid Tiedemen	1
Cobb & Co	1
Coach Road Roundabout	

Malcolm Bulley suggested that the main road through the village should be 'Oxley Stewart Road', and that the bridge name could be Doyle Whitten, as this was the guy who had Alan Bulley's place years before, and

the old highway bridge was often referred to as “Doyle Whitten’s bridge”. Glenn agreed to note these suggestions (in table above).

Objective to be set

Glenn then called for the assistance from the attendees to visit each of the 5 stations – which were broken up in to areas including – Beautification and Amenities, Signage, Village, Traffic Calming and Future Growth and Planning.

The community members then visited each of the stations and with the assistance of members of the JRCPA articulated their thoughts and suggestions for each of the critical areas mentioned above. Glenn impressed on the assembled about the importance of having an objective-based format for each of the suggestions made – as this is what GTCC are looking for with our submission and representations.

Glenn then brought the Forum back into order after a period of approx 20 minutes of feverish writing on the giant white post-it notes, as each villager went around to the various stations to add their ideas and comments.

Several excellent new ideas were generated and Glenn reconvened the Forum, putting each of the large white post-it notes up on the main projector screen.

He then walked through each of these to understand, clarify and gel objectives of each idea and suggestion. Glenn then asked the audience to vote on the suggestions and ideas. These votes on the relevant sections of the wish list are summarized below

The Village Votes

<p>BEAUTIFICATION</p> <p>TOILETS <i>includes Change Rooms & Showers</i></p> <p>Yes/No? 92% PASSED</p> <p>Toilet Location? HALL 94% <i>Should be visible, secure</i></p> <p>OTHER AREA 6%</p> <p>VISITOR INFO AREA Map of Area 98% YES</p> <p>PARKING: Station Street: 98% <i>South Side Parking YES</i></p> <p>SPORTS OVAL/FIELD/PITCH</p>	<p><u>WATER?</u> <i>Augmentation Systems Higher Rates Helps Village? Water Runoff from Road: RTA Action Buffers. Railway Line</i></p> <p>ENVIRONMENT ISSUES <i>Development Guidelines</i></p> <p>COMMUNITY BUSSES <i>Serving the community (Most weeks, Thursdays) All in One PLACE</i></p>
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<p><i>At Change Room Area 100%</i> <i>Javelin Tartan (Field)</i> ALL SPORTS</p> <p>MEDIAN STRIP PLANTING <i>Median Garden for Stopping Motorists</i> <i>Natives 80%</i></p> <p>BUS TURNAROUND Location?</p> <p>HALL SHOP EXISTING? 95% YES <i>Signage for Shuttle To Williamstown Apt Drop Offs Big Busses Large Areas</i></p> <p>ENCOURAGE TOURISTS (99%)</p> <p>REST AREA (At Bus)</p> <p>HELICOPTER ACCESS <i>Keyed Access: Organized Services/SES Sign for Emergency Marshalling</i></p> <p>TENNIS COURT <i>On Hall Grounds School not available Tennis, YES. Location???</i></p> <p><u>FUTURE GROWTH</u> <i>Crown Land near Timberline – Council 355 Cmt. 1000m³ Followup Letter</i></p>	<p>FUEL OUTLET <i>Village Issue New Fuel Outlet 88% YES</i></p> <p>POST OFFICE <i>For Area 40% YES (Previous amalgamated, Transfer fee needed)</i></p> <p>TEA HOUSE <i>Open to Public</i></p> <p>RAIL STATION <i>State Rail ? NO 90%</i></p> <p>FOOTPATH Upgrade GTCC SUPPORTS See Website www.johnsriver.com.au</p>
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Discussions were held around the above with a brief summary below.

- Median Strip in the centre of the road – native plants therein – low growing plants and also Brush Box trees suggested.
- More Community Rubbish Bins in the village.
- Large Tourist Info signs – highlighting tourist drives and the scenic sites in the region.
- Traffic Calming devices must be designed in a way that supports our residents who are commercial truck drivers – such as low roundabouts, etc.
- Speed limit in village will be 50kms – village zone. Question – where will this speed zone start? Wharf Road or midway btn Royal Street and Wharf Road?
- Flashing School zones sign
- Encourage tourists to visit the village and stop revive survive
- Helicopter access to the ground and emergency services muster/coordination point.
- Tennis court for the village
- Release of Crown land near timberline for more building blocks.
- Timberline site – absolute disgrace – GTCC to take action against owner.
- Water and sewerage – will this be an issue moving forward?
- Community bus for residents of the village to go north and south.
- Fuel outlet important – Tea House – anyone welcome to start.

Glenn thanked all for their attendance and indicated that we had made some excellent progress today with defining key objectives – which will be taken to the GTCC Post-Bypass Committee by Chris Bawn and Bruce Shaw.

Glenn did indicate to members of the JRCPA that the Special General Meeting petitioned by Tony Galati and others would now commence.

The forum ended at 3:45pm.

The above summary is an accurate representation of the public forum proceedings.



R G Ferrero
President of JRCPA Inc.