
Meeting Minutes of the 'Johns River Community Progress Association.

Saturday 27th October 2007 at Johns River Community Hall.

Meeting: Meeting was opened at 2:00 pm by President Robert Ferrero who welcomed those present including Mr Richard Wilson , Councillor with the Greater Taree City Council, and Mr Dick Wilby from Roads and Traffic Authority.

Apologies: Dick Wibly puts in an apology for Lewis

- The meeting today was opened with the announcement that Johns River Community Progress Association is now 'Incorporated' and that our meeting had meeting must stay on the agenda. This also means that only financial members of the Johns River Progress Association may vote on any issues that arise during these meetings.
- Target is *Post Bypass* which includes \$20,000.00 funding for a park, possible additional parking to get the current parked vehicles off the highway and also signage.

Robert handed the floor over to David.

David verbalised a summery/review of meetings from the years 1999-2005. These included:

- Impact on residents & environment of Johns River Railway option.
- New members 2002 option of construction on Stewarts River rd.
- John Hamilton announced Stewarts River rd intersection was under review due to concerning safety issues.
- 2002 Gate way to Johns River was under discussion.
- ARUP Survey was completed to review the effects of the bypass.
- 2005, meeting was held at Kew. Discussions of the safety measures were met as well as environmental impact. The Business impact study was found to be negative. Plan was displayed at the Information Centre at Kew.
- Currently, we have been given yet another opportunity to submit opinions and ideas.
- Petition drive was submitted for new proposal for change in planned intersection to provide further traffic calming solutions and a Service Centre.
- All issues have been heard by the Roads & Traffic Authority.

David then hands it over to Robert.

Robert introduces Dick Wibly from RTA.

- He talks of how fortunate we are with our grade separation.
- A 'Seagull' is planned for Hannenvale.
- He committed himself to retrieving the Post Bypass survey from ARUP.
- He applauded the initiation of the Johns River Progress Association.
- He will get information from Carroora to help us.
- Will negotiate info structure of the highway and bypass.
- Dick refers to his boss, Bob Higgins who is committed to using physical Traffic calming devises to help slow the traffic down.
- Contract with Alliance is now due to start in Kew on Monday the 29th.
- Dick puts in an apology for Lewise, who couldn't make it.
- Signage- He suggested to look at other towns signs to get an idea for what we would like to see for our town. There are RTA standards that apply to all signs.
- Calming traffic down.
- The issue of safe bus stops and routes were all taken into consideration during the planning stages.
- Reference to discussions of the re-naming of the pacific highway through Johns River was deferred to council as it is a council matter.

Dick asks for any questions:

Q. from Robert, asking for clarification of the intersection plan picture displayed on the website.

A. The picture displayed is only a concept picture and the RTA and Council have come to a financial and handover plan.

Q. from David, asking what had happened to Coopernook, their roads are horrible?

A. Unfortunately there was a lack of funding to reach Coopernook, but it will be finished next year.

Q. from Joanne Godwin, asking what had happened to Coopernook ?

A. The issue didn't come up and unfortunately this issue fell short.

Q. Wendy Bawn, expressing concerns of wether there were two entrances Yaralin Close and Middle Brother Mountain.

A. There are in fact two.

Dick hand the floor over to Robert.

Robert speaks about the CLG and its last meeting where under discussion were

the planned plants to beautify the town post bypass.

- Two species of plants and natives were selected for
- Lily for the roundabouts.
- There will be plants and a barrier in the medium strip.
- The sound barrier will be charcoal green on the new highways side and the decision on the colour towns side is yet to be decided. The options are: Light, Dark or Charcoal Green.
- The Alliance group includes RTA, THIESE, PARSONS.....
- Other plans include: lights around the roundabout, rest areas, fencing etc.
- Other things the public may have noticed lately is the signage from Telstra and Country Energy along the highway.
- There will be blasting after Christmas on the north side of the bridge, but we will get notice of this beforehand.
- If you have any queries or concerns you can call 1800353650. If you are getting excessive dirt on your house for example they will allow for the area to watered more frequently, etc.

Robert hands floor over to Chris Bawn who thanks Robert and David for such a fantastic display and presentation.

Dick Wibly voices his commitment on help for any further displays.

Chris

- Chris notes where council own land where previously was thought to be Crown Land.
- Notes that the signage is vital to attract the tourists as we are the gateway to the Manning Valley and the Hastings.
- Beautification of the village- toilets, rest area, park. Chris shows a piece of crown land that could be a possible area to apply for.
- Low maintenance plants for our streets.
- Town theme, eg- Environmentally Friendly Town.
- Stewarts River rd bus stop beautified and safer interchange.
- Curb and guttering to be later discussed.
- Speed change for Stewarts River rd from 90km/hr to 50km/hr.
- Speed change for the Village from 70km/hr to 50km/hr.

Dick Wibly goes on to mention that the current 70km zone will be pushed back past the bridge.

Tony Galati then mention that there were supposed to be retaining walls built at the shop and at the hall in past planning that never eventuated.

Chris

- We will look at that again as it beautifies the town.

- Release land/lots- claims have already been made on some of the proposed land.
- Parks- environmentally friendly safe park, eg, the recycled rubber floor mats you see at other parks.
- More garbage bins.

It is important that we have our say and that is what we have come together for.

Chris then hands the floor over to Robert.

Robert

Kew and Moorland mentioned they have not yet formed a group, perhaps we could help them in some way to form one.

Wendy Bawn questions whether we have a specific meeting on the beautification.

Robert answers, we will plan and work with both the RTA and Council. This is what our wish list is for, but funding is limited.

Robert thanks Dick for coming and mentions how happy the association is to have him.

Chris Bawn thanks Dick for coming all the way from Newcastle to help us.

Joanne Godwin voices her concerns to Dick about prior submissions she had made to the RTA for walking access on the Stewarts River Bridge.

Dick Wibly answers, he will look into that for her.

Robert introduces Richard Wilson from Greater Taree City Council.

- He wished to address his interest in our views and the help with the conversion of highway to village.
- Change of name from the pacific highway to approved name, to do this we must choose 3-4 names for council to approve, which then gets displayed for public view and for comment before any change is made.

The local community carry a lot of weight when it comes to this content.

- Speed limit changes to propose to council, post bypass.
- Land release- Department of Lands needs proposals before December next year. 12 months after the LEP then submit for rezoning.
- Rubbish bins proposal to Director of Planning, possible temporary ones now and permanent ones during the landscaping phase.

Richard asks for any questions to be brought forward.

Q. from Robert. Two weeks ago there was a meeting held where it was

mentioned that there was a possibility of a group being formed to help us.

A. He want sure, he would look into it.

Chris Bawn asks if there are any other questions or comments.

Tony Galati asks Dennis Cook to address concerns he had mentioned to Tony.

Dennis Cook

Diamond Head National Park Fees are now about to double, he feels this is wrong.

Robert addresses Dennis's concerns

We could write a letter to see what kind of deal they can do for locals.

Chris proposed that since we pay rates in the manning we should then be exempt.

Q. Dennis asks Richard Wilson why are manning fees, and beach permits double from those of the Hastings?

A. He will look into it.

Robert thanks everyone for attending and closes the meeting at 3:40pm.