

BATLOW DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE**ZOOM MEETING 1st July 2020****MEETING COMMENCED: 5.00 pm**

PRESENT: R Billing, T Billing, M Gordon-Hall, C Smit (SVC), B Hyams, H Tietze, K Dawson, C Dawson, Dr J McGirr, P Holton (SVC), N Shaw.

APOLOGIES: K McLaren, A Dickinson, C Agate, T McDonald, D Wiltshire.

MINUTES:

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the **Batlow Development League (BDL)** meeting held on 3rd June, 2020 be accepted as read.

Moved: K Dawson/Seconded : T Billing/Passed Unanimously

TREASURER'S REPORT:

It was RESOLVED that the Treasurer's Report of the **BDL** accounts to 1st July 2020, **as tabled by C Agate** be accepted.

Moved: C Dawson/Seconded: T Billing/Passed Unanimously

K McLaren is working Batlow CiderFest accounts and C Agate on BDL accounts in preparation for auditing by the end of the month.

CORRESPONDENCE

N/A

BUSINESS ARISING**Batlow Cannery Site.****C Smit (SVC)**

A Contradiction in previous recommendation re: Cannery Site, that is the site be retained as a community asset. The site is currently owned by SVC. Secondly that SVC work with BDL for a master plan for the whole site.

P Holton (SVC)

Response from P Holton:

BDL minutes for May and June went to the June council meeting. P Holton prepared recommendations to go to council. He recommended that council note the recommendations of BDL and receive a future report of the implications of those recommendations. Also, a business plan is not as appropriate as a master plan. P Holton recommended that council seek funding for such a plan. The site needs high level assessment of safety, limitations, opportunities and community view point. P Holton recommended to council that they do the work to assess the site below the surface.

The lease of the site was entered into before P Holton joined SVC. The site was in the process of being cleaned up before the Dunns Road fire and therefore does not fit the criteria for Laing O'Rourke clean up from State Government.

Discussion re: lease and impact of bushfire on site and other expressions of interest.

1. Size of leased area and term to be confirmed by P Holton
2. Master plan is urgent. Council have resolved to seek funding (June meeting) for this.

Recommendation:

BDL seeks to ask Council to urgently assess the site for contamination using the current resources that are available through the Laing O'Rourke clean up in consultation with our State Member Dr Joe McGirr.

Moved: B Hyams/Seconded: T Billing/Passed Unanimously

Other:

Speed limit on Yellowin Road and removal of electrical sub station was highlighted in the council meeting. SVC to follow up.

Business arising (June meeting):

Batlow Tumut Rail Trail:

Noted as s mayoral minute to be involved in overall trail and walking track plan.

Hides Park Sound Shell:

BDL has submitted an application for \$30,000 to add to council funds to have this completed.

Library:

New library is progressing well.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Council papers not being posted to BDL. P Holton to attend to it. Perhaps an electronic copy.

Confusing signs on Batlow Road

80 km/h on way up to Batlow and 100 km/h on way down to Tumut. Seems to be a traffic control contractor issue. Monitor and report to Laing O'Rourke if need be.

Crossing and works on Batlow Road.

P Holton reported the RMS do not support the crossing where it is due to sight distance and they consider it being located uphill from the IGA. This would be significantly more expensive due to height difference of pavement and kerb, and take up more car spaces and potentially not be used by citizens from the Senior Citizens Village. The Road Safety Officer is looking into it.

K Dawson stated utilising a 40 km/h speed limit has been discussed for a long time. The Road Safety Officer is on board with this but RMS have said no with no explanation. Dr Joe McGirr thought both the crossing and 40 km/h speed limit has been agreed to by RMS and will follow up with them. K Dawson suggested not a crossing but a 40 km/h sign and flashing lights. R Billing questioned the funding for the crossing. Is it in the money for the Batlow CBD upgrade? P Holton confirmed it is and that due to the increase in scope for the new site of the crossing it is unlikely that any other works would be completed as part of the CBD upgrade. Trying to establish a location and design for a crossing would be a lengthy process with RMS. Due to this would we like to:

- a. Proceed with a crossing in a location to be determined by RMS, location unknown.

- b. Invest the funds allocated to the crossing into other beautification works which were unable to be undertaken due to the cost of the crossing. These works would include outstanding landscaping, stencil work between the RSL and pioneer Street and further street furniture.

The Road Safety Officer reported to council that the average speed of cars coming down Batlow Road is 65 to 70 km/h. P Holton to arrange a meeting between BDL and relevant council staff to discuss on site.

Buildings yet to be demolished in Batlow:

B Hyams stated concerns about safety of the Old Packhouse from fire damage, asbestos and a previous chemical spillage of 24-D. If not looked at now it will become a problem for the town, SVC and the owner, as it is contaminated. Discussion resulted and a letter is to be written to council as a matter of urgency.

Recommendation:

That Snowy Valleys Council meet with Laing O'Rourke and the owner of the Old Packhouse in Memorial Avenue, Batlow, to discuss the future of the building.

Moved: B Hyams/Seconded: N Shaw/Passed unanimously

Petrol Station on Batlow Road.

The burnt building will be cleared to ground level. The removal of the tanks is the owner's responsibility, to be completed by insurance or otherwise it will sit vacant as a contaminated block.

Former Packhouse Offices.

R Billing: this is another building of concern. It is technically a dangerous building with broken glass in windows falling onto the pavement/flagpole. P Holton suggested a complaint be lodged with council asking that the Building Inspectors undertake an investigation.

Further discussion re: Old Packhouse.

Who is responsible for this building? P Holton to organise a notification to Laing O'Rourke re: the chemical spill on site.

Pioneer Street.

Planter boxes have been damaged and no plants planted as yet. A snake was reported underneath a plant box. P Holton to report back but understood the plant boxes will be repaired and planted out in spring. B Hyams said power lines to go underground should be included in CBD plan. C Smit stated funding was not available.

Other General Business:

R Billing has been approached and questioned by several people about an article in The Tumut and Adelong Times (16.06.2020) where the Mayor had quoted that the council spends a substantial amount in Batlow:

"Across Snowy Valley's LGA the council spends an average of \$2095 per person each year. In Batlow that figures jumps substantially, with council spending close to \$2900 per person each year, which is \$800 above the average."

It was resolved that BDL write to the Mayor for clarification.

Recommendation:

That BDL write to the Mayor seeking an explanation regarding his quote in The Tumut and Adelong Times on the 16th June, 2020.

Moved: N Shaw/Seconded: T Billing/Passed unanimously

Meeting with Maj. Gen. A J Hocking (National Bushfire Recovery Agency)

This was a productive meeting attended by R Billing and T Billing along with a number of other residents. There is a need for mental health to be looked after long term, especially in schools. He reassured us that the Federal Government is keen to have community led recoveries.

Batlow Showground.

C Smit – Batlow oval being resurfaced along with new fencing around the oval. The Show Society obtained a grant for this work.

Dr Joe McGirr.

Has also had conversations with Major General A J Hocking. Some thought as to how Batlow will go forward is needed and be community led.

CiderFest.

CiderFest will receive DNSW funding to the value of \$30,000 for 2021. (\$27500 for promotional activities and \$2500 in kind research). This is a continuation of the Regional Flagship Event Funding in response to the damage done to the region from the Dunns Road fire and to promote tourism to the region.

Meeting closed at 6.45pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th August, 2021, by Zoom