

Lower Barrington, Acacia Hills & South Spreyton Community Information Evening Notes

Meeting held Tuesday 31 October 2023 at 7:05 pm
Lower Barrington Hall

1 Welcome and Introduction

Mayor Haberle welcomed attendees, noted apologies, and requested that Council Staff and Councillors introduce themselves.

1.1 Attendees

Councillors	
Mayor Kate Haberle	Deputy Mayor Penny Lane
Cr Phillip Richards	Cr Phil Dickinson
Cr Simone Haigh	
Council Officers	
Gerald Monson, General Manager	Michael Mouat, Manager Operations
Community Members	
John Watson	Bruce Hutchinson x 2
Leanne Bourne	Christine Williams
Janet Dunbabin	Catriona Roberts
Mike Heard	Terry Dooley x 2
Ina Ansmann	David Broos x 2
Dominic Bailey	Tanya Bailey
Amanda Hicks	Jann McKay
Kerri Connors	Ross Ford

1.2 Apologies

Councillors	
Cr Don Thwaites	Cr Linda Cassidy
Cr Terry Hughes	Cr Rodney Blenkhorn

2 Update from Previous Meeting

Updates regarding the community requests from the previous Lower Barrington, Acacia Hills & South Spreyton Community Information Session held 28 March 2023 were made available with the agenda.

3 Local Government Reform

Background

The Tasmanian Government has commissioned the Local Government Board (the Board) to undertake a broad review into the future of local government in Tasmania.

The Board has identified seven (7) key areas for the Review based on the services that local government currently delivers:

- Community wellbeing.
- Economic development and local promotion.
- Environment.
- Finance and administration.
- Governance, accountability, and representation.
- Infrastructure provision and management.
- Land use planning and other regulatory services.

Update

Kentish Council hosted a community information session in relation to local government reform on 20 July 2023 at Sheffield Town Hall.

The Board hosted nine Community Hearings during August 2023 – each hearing provided a dedicated session for both Councils and communities to present to the Local Government Board any area of interest to the Future of Local Government review.

The Board also hosted a dedicated hearing for organisations and peak bodies with statewide policy interests.

All hearings were open to the public and were live-streamed (where possible).

The Latrobe and Kentish Council Joint Submission was sent to the Board on 28 July 2023. Submissions can be viewed on the Board's website.

The Latrobe and Kentish Councils presented their submission to the Board's Community Hearing held on 22 August 2023 at the Paranapple Centre, Devonport.

The Board is due to deliver its final reform recommendations to the Government at the end of October 2023.

Mayor Haberle gave an overview of the history, consultation, submissions, issues, and discussed the impacts on staff as part of being a joint Council and the positive impacts a merge would make, especially on the Finance Team. Mayor Haberle read out the latest release from Minister Street advising further details would be provided in 2024. Assurance was given that Kentish Council would engage with the community before any decisions were made.

4 Tasmanian Planning Scheme

Councils are required under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (the Act), to publicly exhibit their draft LPS for 60 days. The Act provides that any person can make a representation (submission) on the draft LPS within that 60-day time period. Council must then consider the representations received and provide a report to the TPC on those representations. The TPC will undertake a statutory assessment of the draft LPS, the representations on the draft LPS together with other matters it is required to consider by the Act.

The period for lodging submissions closed on 7 July 2023. A total of 64 submissions were received. The submissions have been lodged with the Planning Commission. Council's strategic planner has reviewed the submissions and prepared a summary of the issues raised. They are currently being workshopped with Councillors and a report will be prepared for November Council meeting. Council will then lodge with the Planning Commission, its report on the submissions received.

A series of hearings for those property owners who have made representation will then be scheduled and they will have the opportunity to speak to the Commission regarding the content of their representation.

Mayor Haberle informed attendees that 64 representations had been received and explained the process moving forward.

Community Comment:

The information on the website was somewhat confusing. Can we call Council to confirm what changes may occur?

The General Manager encouraged people to discuss any concerns or issues with Council's Statutory Planning Officers. The General Manager also spoke about the interactive map.

Community Comment:

100% unified/same State Planning Scheme across Tasmania.

The General Manager advised that approximately 80% of the Planning Scheme is unified but that each area may have specific reasoning for different zonings.

5 Works Update

Works Update

The Operations team have commenced preparatory work for the annual resealing program. The proposed reseals are listed below. Please note that the dates are indicative only and may be subject to change.

ID	Task Mode	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish
1		Kentish Council- Bituminous Surfacing	31 days	Wed 25/10/23	Wed 06/12/23
2		Preparation work/ Asphalt Work	3 days	Tue 17/10/23	Thu 19/10/23
3		West Kentish Road - Sheffield	1 day	Tue 17/10/23	Tue 17/10/23
4		East Victoria St/ Main St Jcn - Sheffield	1 day	Wed 18/10/23	Wed 18/10/23
5		Bridle Track Rd/ Sheffield Rd Jcn - Sheffield	1 day	Thu 19/10/23	Thu 19/10/23
6		Pioneer Cr - Sheffield	1 day	Fri 20/10/23	Fri 20/10/23
7		Reseal Work	6 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 06/12/23
8		East Victoria St - Sheffield	0.5 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 29/11/23
9		Landon St - Sheffield	0.5 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 29/11/23
10		Annie Pl - Sheffield	0.5 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 29/11/23
11		Hope Ln - Sheffield	0.5 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 29/11/23
12		King St - Railton	0.5 days	Wed 29/11/23	Wed 29/11/23
13		Sunnyside Rd - Railton	0.5 days	Thu 30/11/23	Thu 30/11/23
14		Beulah Back Road - Beulah	0.5 days	Thu 30/11/23	Thu 30/11/23
15		Sheffield Rd - Sheffield	1 day	Fri 01/12/23	Fri 01/12/23
16		Blackberry Hill Rd - Sheffield	0.5 days	Fri 01/12/23	Fri 01/12/23
17		Barrington Rd- Barrington	1 day	Mon 04/12/23	Mon 04/12/23
18		Melrose Rd- Melrose	0.5 days	Tue 05/12/23	Tue 05/12/23
19		James Rd - Acacia Hills	0.5 days	Tue 05/12/23	Tue 05/12/23
20		West Kentish Road - Sheffield	1 day	Wed 06/12/23	Wed 06/12/23

Other planned works in coming weeks include:

Replacement of failing culvert – Jarmans Road, Nook

Parking area and drainage – Historic watering site, Sheffield Road

Reconstruction of failing surface and drainage improvements – West Nook/West Kentish Road intersection (adjacent United Fuel service station)

Shelter installation – Sheffield Dog Park

Mr Mouat advised attendees that Council was aiming for the listed works to be completed by Christmas. Mr Mouat advised that many of the listed items have commenced or have already been completed. Works in the area are set to continue into the new year and property owners would be notified if their property will be impacted in any way.

The General Manager gave an update on the Wild Mersey Mountain Bike bridge and Mayor Haberle stated how the Wild Mersey Mountain Bike Trails were working well and bringing people and economic benefit to the area.

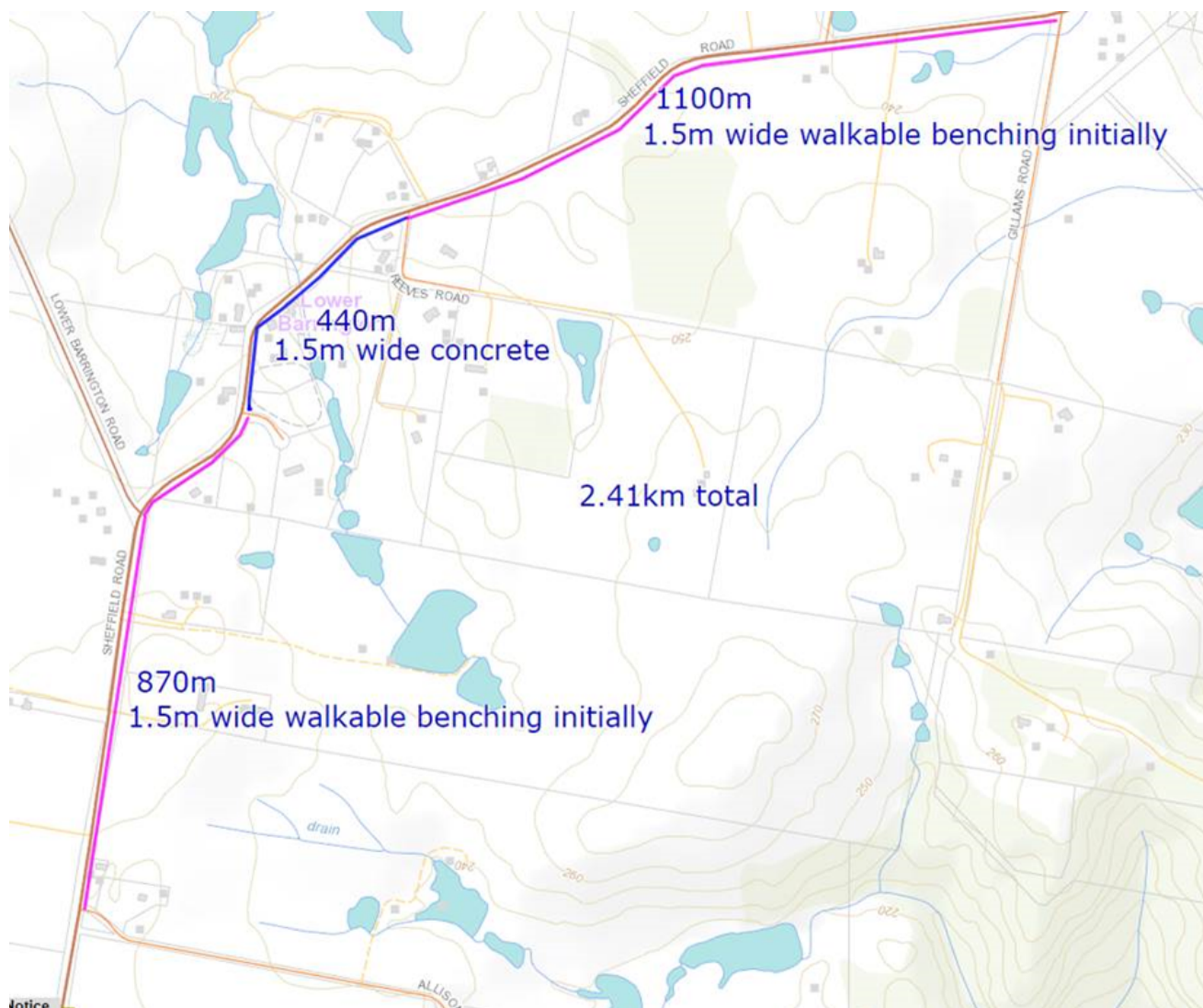
6 Lower Barrington Footpath

Council received a submission from residents in Lower Barrington about potentially constructing a footpath through the township and within the Department of State Growth (DSG) Sheffield Main Road corridor. Council's Manager Infrastructure and Assets has been liaising with State Growth to determine if it is possible to include a 1.5m wide corridor required for a future footpath in conjunction with proposed road upgrade works.

The Department have advised that they are happy to design their works to accommodate a future footpath corridor, however their project does not go through

Lower Barrington proper, where there is most interest in a path. It commences 100m north of Reeves Road and ends 100m short of Cooper Place.

Council's Manager Assets and Infrastructure believes it is hard to justify a 440m concrete footpath and has suggested that a gravel track may be an alternative option.



Mayor Haberle spoke on the matter giving background history and the possibility of a 440 m gravel track being part of the roadway which would then be monitored to gauge usage.

Community Question:

Could there be a bicycle track/lane that links rural areas to towns?

Community Question:

Is there a time frame for the completion of the DoSG's road works?

Response:

No, but we will always relay information that is provided to us.

7 Kentish Park

Kentish Park has been closed to camping since early 2022 following safety concerns and the requirement to comply with competitive neutrality principles.

There has been extensive discussion with State Government representatives over a 3-4 year period to seek a permanent exemption to competitive neutrality, without success. The Tasmanian Economic Regulator adopted a position where providers of free camping could only do so if they demonstrated a meaningful attempt at full cost attribution (cost recovery). Council was not expected to turn a profit, but it was expected to demonstrate an ability to break even.

After failed attempts to reach a 'common sense' agreement with the Regulator and State government representatives, it was agreed to exercise Council's rights to transfer the land title for Kentish Park back to the Crown. Council has also informed Hydro Tasmania of their intention to terminate their lease to Council.

Mayor Haberle provided an update. A media release has been issued and can be found on the Council website. Safety in the area was paramount and Parks & Wildlife understood this premise. Lake Barrington has a great future ahead with many events scheduled throughout 2024 so Council continues to have an interest, but Kentish Park is now under the management of Parks & Wildlife.

Community Question:

Is it a good idea for everyone to send emails with wishes for the area?

The General Manager advised that The Advocate newspaper are interested in the comments and that the staff at the Sheffield Visitor Information Centre are receiving many more enquiries as the warmer season approaches.

Community Comment:

The upgrades that have been made, such as the pontoon, are popular and there is an absolute wish to continue being able to use the area while camping.

The Mayor and General Manager recently discussed this matter at length with Minister Guy Barnett.

Cr Richards spoke about the history of Kentish Park and that it has been a great facility for the area over the years.

8 Mural Fest

Mural Fest 2023 is being held between Monday 6 November and Saturday 11 November in Mural Park at Sheffield from 9am to 4pm. Nine finalists have been

announced with four of the finalists from Tasmania, two from Victoria, one from NSW, one from Queensland and one from New Zealand.

The awards ceremony will be held on Saturday 11 November at 5pm.

Mayor Haberle provided information on the upcoming event and spoke about the additional events that will sync with the week-long event to encourage everyone to be a part of Mural Fest.

9 Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO)

Tasmania's waste management is undergoing a significant transformation with the construction of the state's largest composting facility by Dulverton Waste Management. This facility will allow for more efficient and cost-effective disposal of organic waste, including food and garden waste from residential areas, and assists with extending the landfill lifespan. Additionally, the composted product serves as a valuable resource for gardens and agriculture.

To encourage better waste management practices throughout Tasmania, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) implemented a landfill waste levy in 2022-23. As an added incentive, they will also waive the fee for any waste diverted from landfill.

These factors have encouraged Kentish Council to reconsider the benefits of a Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) collection.

The Cradle Coast Waste Management Group, with Kentish Council as a member, has facilitated the tender process for a FOGO service to assist northwest councils in making an informed decision.

Consequently, a FOGO service is set to be nominally implemented on 1 July 2024 for all tenements currently receiving a kerbside waste service (garbage and recycling) throughout the Kentish Council area.

While reduced compared to previous costings, there will be a fee for this service. Kentish Council will also collaborate with other Northwest Councils and the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group to maximize education opportunities and streamline the implementation process.

Overall, Tasmania's push towards the FOGO service represents a significant step forward in sustainable waste management practices. By diverting organic waste from landfills and promoting composting, the state aims to reduce its environmental impact and create a greener future for all residents.

Mayor Haberle provided some background information on the FOGO service and the processing facility at Dulverton. Mayor Haberle spoke about the impact of the increasing landfill waste levy and how FOGO will assist to reduce the volume of waste to landfill.

Cr Richards spoke about the state-of-the-art machinery and volumes of waste that can be processed at the Dulverton facility and gave insight into his role on the Dulverton Regional Waste Management Authority as Council's Representative, along with Cr Thwaites. Cr Richards encouraged people to contact Dulverton to join a tour of the facility.

Community Question:

Does everyone have to be part of it?

Response:

The General Manager advised that it would be one in, all in and there had been good discussion at Council concerning this choice after thorough research.

Community Comment:

Rural area residents will probably not use this system because green waste is already being processed well on their own property.

Community Question:

If a property asks to not have a bin, could they have a small percentage reduction on their rates notice?

Response:

Mayor Haberle advised that every Council has discussed this issue thoroughly and the decision has been made.

Community Comment:

The reason out of town people are averse to this system is because the collection is moving to a fortnightly pickup.

Community Question:

What is the size of the bin, what can fit in, and what can go in?

Response:

Cr Richards advised that an education campaign will be rolled out to assist with what rubbish goes in each bin.

Community Comment:

The Garden Club are ready for the system and are looking forward to it beginning.

Community Comment:

Will Council benefit from any future dividends?

Response:

Cr Richards spoke to the fact that this cutting-edge, award-winning facility is a win for this area.

9 Other Issues Raised by the Community

Mayor Haberle reported on the platypus crossing in Lower Barrington and read the letter issued by the DOSG. An aerial map of the area was shown, and congratulations were given to the residents of Lower Barrington, the Mount Roland Land Care Group, and Council Officers for bringing this matter to attention in order to reduce the risk of losing this precious wildlife animal in our rural area.

Community Comment:

That information be given to the residents that will be near the signage, and that they are given good communication from the DoSG.

Cr Richards provided further information about the traversing of the animals in a specific spot and how to identify it, assisting with culvert placement.

The General Manager spoke about similar issues with crayfish traversing the road and the solutions that are being trialled in our region.

Community Question:

Is there any information we can offer on the change to fees for services such as the Fire Levy that is impacted through land value?

Response:

Mayor Haberle spoke about the subject being put on hold for further consultation, with discussions to be held at the upcoming LGAT conference.

The General Manager gave background to the subject, including how and when Council set rates.

Community Comment:

The widening of the DoSG road – the lack of information relayed by the DoSG about the changes that may occur has been frustrating.

The General Manager assured everyone that any information Council receives will be passed on. Residents can also contact their local members of Parliament to make them aware of the issue.

Community Question:

James Road footpath across the bridge area re-discussed. Is there a possibility for the road speed limit be reduced, to slow traffic, reducing the roadkill, reducing the impact to the road, making it safer for people – including school children – who walk the road area etc.?

Community Question:

Could a road counter be placed to monitor speed data?

Community Comment:

The road verges are in a poor condition.

Community Question:

Could the road be a lower speed?

Response:

Mr Mouat responded that a request for a road speed reduction is a complex journey.

The General Manager advised that if a community gathered to make a supportive submission it may help with the case.

Mr Mouat made a note to assess a possible road counter.

Community Comment:

Barrington Road residents have written to Council to alert them that this issue is of similar concern in the Barrington area.

Mayor Haberle acknowledged that a RAW representative was in attendance tonight, and explained how the group supported local communities, such as the rural areas of Kentish. Mayor Haberle encouraged residents to please network with the RAW representative to see if the group can assist in any way.

Mayor Haberle spoke about the past year as elected Mayor of Kentish and how she has embraced the role. She thanked the Lower Barrington Hall Committee for the warm venue, and the generous supper they provided tonight.

10 Meeting Closed at 8:30 pm.

Action Items – Lower Barrington, Acacia Hills & South Spreyton Community Information Evening 28 March 2023

Cr Thwaites:	On a recent bus trip, resulting from a public request for better services. We drove down James Road where kids walk to a bus stop. There is a creek crossing, with a very narrow bridge. It is very dangerous to walk over, due to no path and sometimes too narrow for cars to pass. One suggestion to have a small bridge to the side for walkers. There are ample flat, wide grass areas that are mowed and looked after. A narrow bridge has been requested for children to walk over. Does anyone here live up that road and have thoughts to support the argument for this, or is it a one-person wish list request?
Community question:	Could you do a letter box drop and see what people want. I don't have children but can understand people with children wanting this.
Community comment:	This is not just an issue for children, people also walk down the road with dogs or for exercise.
Community comment:	I own a farm on the road and note that children and other people out walking with pets. It's an issue and happy to support this.
Mayor Haberle:	We will take this back to Council.
Update	To be considered as part of budget process for 2023/24.