



MINUTES

Community Development Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Tuesday 15 August 2022

at 4:00 PM

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 4:00pm.

1. Acknowledgment of Country

The meeting was opened by Councillor Coleman who gave the Acknowledgement of Country address.

2. Present

Mayor Statham (arrived at 4.15pm), Councillor Coleman (left the meeting at 4.15pm), Councillor Bryce, Councillor Mahoney (arrived at 4.20pm), Councillor Goodwin (arrived at 4.30pm), Rachael Young, Glenda Anthes, Nathan Mas and Leanne Walding.

Staff present: Kylie Blakemore, Greg Thurling, Criss Portilla and Matthew Johnson

3. Apologies

The Mayor advised that she would arrive a little late due to another meeting commitment and Gaye Macfarlane

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 20 June 2023 meeting were endorsed by 3 people present and were reported to Council on 24 July 2023.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes.

The only matter arising was that Council resolved on 24 July 2023 to approve the Committee's financial assistance recommendations in full.

6. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

7. Staff Reports

7.1. Opera Event at the Union Theatre

The committee discussed the planned Opera Gala event to be held at the Union Theatre on 3 and 4 November 2023.

A verbal staff report was provided on planning undertaken to date for this event including engagement of John Wregg and the performers, ticketing, marketing and a draft budget. Early promotion (to be approved by Gaye MacFarlane and the artistic director John Wregg) and ticketing are being undertaken now. The new seating isn't yet installed but is scheduled for early October in time for the event. Kitchen renovations won't be completed before the event.

We need to sell a lot more tickets than last time to break even so staff are looking at ways of keeping costs down and doing a very broad marketing campaign across the Blue Mts, Central West and Greater Sydney region to boost ticket sales.

Calls for Expressions of interest are to be sent to local cafes to quote for catering the event.

ACTION

That the report on the planned Opera Gala event to be held at the Union Theatre be noted.

MOVED: Glenda Anthes

SECONDED: Leanne Walding

CARRIED

7.2. Disability Action Plan Update

A staff report was provided on progress with the development of a new Disability Inclusion Action Plan to be completed by 30 November 2023.

The Disability Inclusion Act 2014 aims to improve the lives of people with disability and building a truly inclusive community, through planning and coordination across all levels of government. Council is obligated under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act to develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan and to submit it to the NSW Government by 30 November 2023. Council's first DIAP, adopted in 2017, expired in July 2022.

It aimed to facilitate people with disability having better access to Council services, facilities and information.

The focus areas/domains of the new DIAP are:

- Building Liveable Communities
- Creating Meaningful Employment opportunities
- Promoting Positive attitudes and behaviours
- Enhancing systems and processes to improve access.

Consultation with the community and service providers is about to commence.

ACTION

THAT the report on the progress with the development of a new Disability Inclusion Action Plan be received.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Leanne Walding

CARRIED

7.3. Cultural Programs

A staff report was provided by the Cultural Development Officer on currently underway and planned cultural events and programs.

Waste 2 Art Regional Exhibition

- Lithgow artists swept the winners tally at the Waste 2 Art regional competition opening awards event at the Platform Arts Hub, Blayney, on 22 July with multiple wins and prizes across various categories totaling \$1,500, as well as high praise for Lithgow entries including Prue Mogg, Kathy Avgoulas, Zig Zag Primary School and Jessica Leffley. The exhibition closes on 20 August.

Lithgow City Council Art Collection

- Selections of the collection are on exhibition at Seven Valleys Visitor Centre Gallery until 30 September with further exhibitions to be held at Eskbank House Museum and Lithgow Libraries.

Art Donations

- A Wallerawang Power Station Print by emerging local artist Caitlin Graham, commissioned by Green Spot to record the dismantling of the old power station is to be donated to Council's art collection for public display at Wallerawang Library. Time and date of official handover is to be confirmed.
- Antony Symons' body of work relating to the making of the Marjorie Jackson statue in Cook St Plaza, is to be bequeathed to the Lithgow Art Collection on behalf of its custodians. Discussions are to be held as to how many artworks, drawings, sculptures, templates and notebooks will be included in the donated collection, where they will be housed and displayed and maintained.

Live and Local Music program

The Lithgow Live and Local Music program is coming to an end with over 30 local musicians registered in the program and engaged at various events and venues over the past 12 months.

- Final workshops and events will be held throughout July and August 2023 through Seven Valleys Tourism.
- The acoustic guitar maintenance workshop at the Union Theatre had a small group who greatly appreciated the expert tips by Steve Wright.
- The last round of Workshops will be held on 19 August along with a Song writing workshop by Abbey Smith from Smith & Jones and live performance by Hollow Point from 11:30am – 2:30pm at the Union Theatre.
- The Lithgow Live and Local Community Forum held at WSU transformation Hub was well attended by over 20 people and the group brainstorming session led to some lively and constructive discussions and sparked ongoing collaborations between local musicians, venue owners and patrons, including weekly jam sessions at Hometown Café and regular catch ups with musicians to work together on coordinating events and future grant applications.
- Feedback from the community forum, performances and workshops will be included in the final report and recommendations to Council to be presented by Seven Valleys Tourism and the Live Music Office to help foster and support live music in Lithgow LGA.

Beatles Fest

- Some seed funding has been approved by Council to support this event to be held on the October long weekend. Promotions are in full swing. The organisation of all events and promotions appears to be going well.

Union Theatre

- Inquiries for venue bookings are picking up including discussions for hosting the Lithgow Comedy Festival's closing event in March 2024 and other touring productions.
- WSU hosted a successful art exhibition in the Union Theatre gallery over 2 weeks showcasing their recent Heat map project artworks. This coincided with other bookings in the main hall which worked out well for all parties, which is a great use of the space and creates a vibrant atmosphere.
- The Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show Dreams had a great turnout of over 150 people and said they loved the venue and will be back next year.

- The Union Theatre website development is in progress, the Facebook page is live, and emails will be sent to everyone who signed up for news of future events after the 2022 Opera Gala.
- The Mayor noted that Kylie Blakemore is leaving Council and expressed appreciation for her work with Council.

ACTION

THAT

1. The report by the Cultural Development Officer on currently underway and planned cultural events and programs be received.
2. A vote of thanks be made to Kylie Blakemore for her great work with Council, especially in relation to the Union Theatre.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Glenda Anthes

CARRIED

7.4. Community Resilience Officer Report

A report was provided by Council's Community Resilience Officer on recent activities, including the Wolgan Valley.

Council's Community Resilience Officer Greg Thurling provided a report on recent and planned activities since he commenced with Council including supporting residents in the Wolgan Valley. Greg has now been employed for two months.

Greg has spent significant time familiarising himself with the position, reading a wide range of documentation relevant to the position, and meeting and introducing himself to many stakeholders and others working in the sector such as representatives from the NSW Reconstruction Authority, National Emergency Management Agency, Australian Red Cross, Penrith, Blue Mountains, and Mid-Western Councils, local and state-wide NGO's and service providers operating in the area, and local community associations formed after the recent bushfire events.

He has been particularly involved with the Wolgan Valley and their unique set of issues, and has visited the area and met with affected residents and business holders to see first-hand what they are dealing with. Greg has also been in contact with suppliers of emergency road works traffic light systems that will operate in remote and mountainous terrain, should the system currently being explored by Council prove inoperable in the difficult terrain, and is also working with Telstra to further progress the installation of a mobile phone cell tower in the Valley.

In coordination with NEMA, Telstra, NBN Co, and Tech Hub NSW, Greg helped to organise two Telco Roadshow events, one in Lithgow town and another in Capertee. The purpose of the events was to bring telco representatives directly into the community to hear from and speak face to face to community members that are affected by poor communications, and put forward plans and options on what is happening, or may soon happen to ameliorate the current and ongoing issues.

Greg is also working on a Pre-Event Recovery Plan for the Lithgow LGA, an initiative involving Council, the NSW Reconstruction Authority, and the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC). Once completed, the multi-hazard Pre-Event Recovery Plan will offer Council a valuable go-to resource that outlines and gives quick access to information on how key state and local

service providers and other stakeholders will coalesce to form operational working parties in preparation for, response to, and recovery from local emergencies.

Greg will also be working on development of Council's Climate Change plan/policy.

Recommendation

THAT the report on recent activities by the Community Resilience Officer, including the Wolgan Valley be noted.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Leanne Walding

CARRIED

7.5. Eskbank House Report

A report was provided on recent programs and events at Eskbank House

A report was provided on recent programs and events at Eskbank House including planned capital works.

Council has been successful in winning a \$120,000 Caring for State Heritage Grant, matched \$ for \$ by Council, to undertake much needed capital works and repairs including:

1. Replace deteriorated wooden handrail to the stables loft.
2. Replace roofing materials to the Stables and Garden House buildings.
3. Replace downpipes to main house, Pottery Pavilion, Workmen's Cottage to improve drainage.
4. Replace gutters to Stables and Workmen's Cottage to improve drainage.
5. Rebuild wooden doors to Workmen's Cottage using same style/profile and existing hardware.
6. Install Under floor ventilation in the main House to address dampness.
7. Upgrade of the exterior toilets.

Works have been designed and specified by a heritage architect and should be completed within the current financial year.

School Holiday Programs

1. A number of school holiday programs have been held including Nature Journal sessions in the Museum grounds.
2. The Intergenerational Garden session led by a Horticulturist, demonstrated to volunteers the proper technique for dividing plants, a technique then passed onto the participants in the school holiday session.

Events, Exhibitions & Festivals

1. The Museum recently participated in the National Heritage Trust Heritage Festival by presenting an exhibition of Textiles held by the Museum.
2. A Connecting with Nature Through Native Bees session was recently held.
3. Winter Pruning in Mary's Garden session, was presented by a contracted horticulturist.
4. Highlights of Council's Acquisitive Art Collection are currently on exhibition at the Museum

Visitors

1. Visitors to Eskbank have included school groups, large tour bus groups, small groups including Nursing homes and disability support groups.
2. Upcoming bookings include school groups, car clubs, garden clubs and large tour bus groups.

ACTION

THAT the report on recent programs and events at Eskbank House including planned capital works be noted.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Leanne Walding

CARRIED

7.6. Community and Culture Events

A report was provided on other current and planned programs and events being undertaken within the Community and Culture Department.

Update of Village Improvement Plans

Village Improvement Plans aim to strengthen Council's partnership with the rural villages of Rydal/Hampton, Tarana/Sodwalls, Hartley, Cullen Bullen and Capertee and promote community cooperation and engagement by implementing a shared direction for the future, based on prioritised and practical solutions derived from identified issues within the community.

The current plans have been in place for a number of years and Council staff will be undertaking community consultation and needs analysis in the current financial year to update the plans. Measures to increase community resilience will form part of the new plans.

Union Theatre seating and kitchen upgrade

The seating supplier has re-affirmed that delivery of the new seats will be around 11 October. If that date holds, the seating will be ready for the Opera Gala and Lithgow Musical Society performance dates in November.

Final design work is still underway for a fire-retardant shutter between the kitchen and theatre followed by submission of a Development Application for the kitchen renovation. Quotes are being sourced to install lighting and visual content projection onto the front building façade that can be used to promote events at the theatre and elsewhere.

Blast Furnace and Lake Pillans grant funded works

Lake Pillans – The design for carparking, pathway enhancements, landscaping, lighting and associated works has been received and will be exhibited shortly for community comment.

Blast Furnace – design of the performance stage and the lighting concept plan are complete. The proposed works will soon be submitted to the Heritage Office for consent.

Grant application for further works along Farmers Creek.

A Growing Regions Fund grant application was submitted recently to further extend the shared pathway network and to undertake other embellishments with a focus on the Oakey Park area, replacement of the narrow asphalt pathway along Sandford Avenue and replacement of the narrow footpath along Inch Street between Eskbank House and Tank Street. Success or otherwise won't be known until early 2024.

ACTION

THAT the report on current and planned programs and events being undertaken within the Community and Culture Department be received.

MOVED: Councillor A Bryce

SECONDED: Rachel Young

CARRIED

8. General Business

Lighting Queen Elizabeth Park and Main Street

Councillor Goodwin discussed his ideas for lighting Queen Elizabeth Park, Main Street and elsewhere to activate these spaces of a night for the community and to attract visitors. He has witnessed how this has been done to great effect in other towns and cities.

Funds will be required for development of a design which could then be progressively implemented as further funds are found.

ACTION

THAT staff investigate the availability of funding for a design concept.

MOVED: Mayor M Statham

SECONDED: Glenda Anthes

CARRIED

9. Meeting Close

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5:30pm.