ST HELENS POINT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEETING 26th JUNE 2016
11am at Hillside Caravan Park Amenities Room.
AGENDA

MEETING OPENS: 11am


GUEST SPEAKER was Barry LeFevre Council Representative for BODC Mental Health Action Group, reporting on Mental Health Support in St Helens. He outlined the background and setting up of the group which arose from a forum last year at Neighbourhood House where it became obvious, from the unfortunate experiences shared by participants, that there was an urgent need for coordination of services. It was apparent that there was a widespread lack of knowledge of mental health help available and how to source it. This information needed a more effective distribution system. Addressing this, Neighbourhood House, on behalf of the Mental Health Action Group, has set up a directory which will be put on their website as well as that of BODC. This will state who the providers are, the area of health, contact details, days of visits and where their criteria fits (eg if you need a referral.) The GP, the community's first port of call, can also refer to this list.

For the future, Barry asked us to visualise a pilot program being set up in St Helens, the possible idea of using the old hospital (after the new has been built) as a hub, a mental health centre. Living in the community, practitioners could have three to five year contracts, giving the opportunity to develop familiarity, report and trust. This would also be more time efficient, saving on the length of time it currently takes to travel here from Launceston.

Barry's talk was followed by ten minutes of comments and questions, demonstrating the vital interest by our members. John Berridge thanked Barry for his informative session.

11:30 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (April 24th, 2016)
Moved Debbie Napier
Seconded Paul Wright

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE (In and Out grouped into topics for facility.)
1. April 30 Letter off thanks to Mayor Mick Tucker for being our guest speaker and answering the questions on notice.
   1.1. May 2 Reply from Mayor Tucker saying it was a pleasure and he would always answer our questions as accurately as he was able.
2. Letters of thanks for attending our April meeting to Councillors Wright, Drummond, Tucker and O'Fevre.
   2.1. Replies from Wright, Drummond & LeFevre stating their support.
3. April 30 Letter to Mayor Tucker requesting that edges of St Helens Pt Rd be mown to provide a safe haven for pedestrians, especially on the three dangerous crests.
   3.1. May 2 Reply from Mayor Tucker saying he had forwarded this letter as a service request.
   3.2. May 5 Reply from Kristina Freshney saying:
      1) The section of St Helens Pt Rd is maintained by slashing only.
      2) Council does not have the resources to undertake more regular maintenance.
      3) Individuals should decide if this route is safe for walking and take an alternate route if needed.
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3.3. May 18 Letter from John Berridge to Stephen Yam stating “There are three dangerous crests, the first two being between Moriaty and Fysch Court and the third just before Akaroa Ave. I was taken aback by the response which seems to indicate a lack of knowledge of these parts of St Helens Point Rd to which we refer. There are no alternative routes. All that was asked was the making safe the sides of the road on the crests where people using the road can get off and keep clear of the traffic. Would it be possible to have someone to investigate this matter. O would be very pleased to accompany one of your staff to show what we are concerned.”

3.4. Email commenting on above from Peter Werner: They seem to spend plenty of time mowing around St Helens Pt Rd from the caravan park down to Dawson Rd where there is at least one footpath. There is no defined footpath north of corner of Moriaty Rd /Hodge Crt and St H Pt Rd”.

4. Email from Peter Ronald re Unresolved matters from April Meeting

4.1. St Helens Welcome Sign to include “Gateway to the Bay of Fires”, Peter suggests we write a letter to the local Tourist Association for their support of the idea.

4.1.2. St Helens Point Rd Footpaths: request development of a footpath strategy so that “relevant sections can ultimately be constructed in a co-ordinated manner. An “arterial” approach would seem logical, whereby the linear residential development along the full length of St Helens Point road can be interconnected by shared bike/footpath. Maybe a follow-up proposal to the CEO along those lines would be helpful, rather than just letting the issue die.”

4.1.3. Community Grant ($19000) this grant will effectively put the funds already allocated by council back into “consolidated revenue”. …… An alternative would be to negotiate with Council for it’s existing budget allocation to be diverted to another project(s) for the benefit of St Helens Point residents; footpath design/strategy/construction, jetty maintenance, additional beach cleaning, foreshore landscaping/improvements, etc etc.

4.2. A Committee Meeting was held on May 8th, 2016, which included a discussion of Peter Ronald’s letter. Following this, a phonecall was made by John to Peter Ronald to inform him of our actions,

• that we would seek the support of the Visitors Centre & History Room for the erection of the sign “Welcome to St Helens, Gateway to the Bay of Fires.”
• that we would look into whether the BODC’s Management Plan included footpaths along St Helens Point Road and if not press them to include them.
• that the grant is only a possibility, not a probability thus is doubtful we can accept or decline. Grants are allocated for a specific project and cannot be negotiated.

4.2.1. Email sent to Visitors Centre & History Room seeking their support to have DIRE erect the sign “Welcome to St Helens, Gateway to the Bay of Fires”

5. Email to committee calling for a meeting on Sunday May 8th to discuss:

5.1. Peter Ronald’s ideas
5.2. Barry LeFevre as Guest Speaker for June meeting.
5.3. Response to SHPPA request to have St Helens Pt Rd verges mowed on dangerous crests.
5.4. Possible Funding Cuts to Rural Health Outreach Program
5.5. Agenda for June General Meeting

6. Email to Barry LeFevre to invite him to address the June meeting on the topic of the progress of Mental Health Support in our district.

6.1. Acceptance from Barry.

7. Concern regarding News report of Cuts to Tasmanian rural Health Outreach Programs.

7.1. Invitation on SHPPA website for people to write letters to lobby Minister for Health to continue funding.

7.2. Email from Barry Brears with response from Australian Department of Health

Dear Mr Brears
Thank you for your enquiry regarding funding provided through the Rural Health Outreach Fund (RHOF).

2 of 5
Funding for the RHOF will continue in 2016-17 to improve access to medical specialists, GPs, allied and other health professionals for people living in regional, rural and remote Australia. Services are prioritised according to a needs assessment undertaken by jurisdictional fundholders, in close consultation with local communities, State/Territory authorities and resident health providers. The Tasmanian fundholder for the RHOF is the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services and it is currently developing its 2016-17 service plan. The intention of Commonwealth funded outreach programmes, such as the RHOF, is to broaden the range and choice of health services available in regional and remote Australia, and complement existing services that are currently funded by each State and Territory.

Your sincerely
Rural Health Outreach Team
Australian Department of Health

7.3. Email from Barry Brears forwarded to Councillor Kylie Wright (who brought the original concern to our attention).

7.4. Email from Paul Wright with link to News item “Federal reduction threatens Tasmanian mobile rural health service” June 5th 2016, restating the problem, reporting support from Greens Senator Nick McKim who “wants major political parties to commit to restoring the funding” and in conclusion stated that “a spokesperson for the Federal Health Department said service plans for the coming financial year had not been finalised the specific services to be delivered had not been confirmed.”

8. Invitation from Polly Buchhorn to Break O’Day Green Army Project Graduation.
8.1. Action: Forwarded by email to all members.

9. Email from Peter Werner with resignation from the committee stating “more pressing commitments” but “would continue to support SHPPA and attend meetings”
9.1. Email to express our sorrow at having Peter Werner drop out of our team.

10. Email to Debra Taylor re idea for welcome sign to St Helens, Gateway to the Bay of Fires.
10.1. Reply stating Visitors Centre’s Role is only to provide information to visitors and suggesting people we could contact: “Organisations that may have a lobbying role are:
- the Tasmanian Visitor Information Network tasvin@bigpond.com
- East Coast Regional Tourism Organisation www.eastcoasttasmania.com/contact-us/
- Break O’Day Council admin@bodc.tas.gov.au”

11. Letter from Paul Wright outlining his ideas for the extension of the bike way/walkway which currently runs from Homelea to Lions Park and Talbot Street Jetty

12. Star FM announcement renewal request.

Correspondence discussed:
3:3, Clearing verges of three dangerous crests on St H Pt Rd. Barry LeFevre offered to take this matter up with John Brown for us. SHPPA to also write to him presenting our concerns.

7:4, Rural Health Outreach Program. Contributions from Paul & Councillor Kylie Wright and Councillor Janet Drummond, re cuts in finance, reduced visits, the prioritisation of reductions and current health board discussions.

9:0, Resignation by Peter Werner from position as Vice President and Committee member. President John Berridge thanked Peter for his valuable contributions to SHPPA as a committee member, the business cards he designed and the website he set up and maintained. John asked for a volunteer to take on the vice president position. Paul Wright offered to fill the role until the AGM. There were no volunteers from the floor to fill the vacant committee position so currently the committee is down by one.
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Treasurer’s Report $1644.17

Moved: David Brigdon
Seconded: Peter Werner

GENERAL BUSINESS:
Beth facilitated Time for reflection on our performance to date.

- What are our Achievement to Date?
  - Roads marked
  - BBQ approved
  - Participated in Cleanup Australia each year
  - Stieglitz Beach Track built up and made passable in all seasons.
  - Curbing and Guttering Aerodrome Hill Rd
  - Stakeholders in Parnella Heights Drive Landslide Problem
  - Slip lanes at Lions Park Corner
  - Speed signs moved to include all St Helens Point Rd built up area.
  - Seaweed clearing on regular basis
  - Lawns mowed regularly along beach area
  - Doggy Poo Bags
  - Heavily involved with Barway project.
  - Input in negotiating dog exercise areas
  - Obtained a Landcare Grant to plant trees & shrubs on O’Connors Beach foreshore. (Our thanks to Bill Napier for growing red flowering gums and for Cathy Crosswell and Sea Cadets Isabella and Jessica for assisting in the recent planting of these extra trees to fill spaces from lost earlier plantings.)
  - Built up a good working relationship with BODC and councillors and State Politicians.

- Work in Progress
  - Walkway up aerodrome hill
  - Regular mowing/maintenance of the three dangerous crests in built up area of St Helens Pt Rd.

- Issues we have not adequately addressed

- Taking Stock Today
  - Are we heading the right way?
    We need to be proactive rather than reactive
    Need to hold a yearly reflective session.

  - Are we doing the right things?
    We need to prioritise rather than respond to every perceived need.
    Areas seen by members present as current priorities are:
    - Footpaths (could royalties from sand trucks be used to fund the building of footpaths along St Helens Point Road)
    - Safety
    - Health Issues
    - Environmental issues (drainage, etc)

- What can we change?
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We need to focus on 2 or 3 important issues. Beth to email members asking for three
issues that they would like our group to focus on for 2016-17.
At next meeting the group will be asked to consider these issues and decide on three
priorities.
Following this, the executive to meet with John Brown to present and discuss these
priorities.
John Brown to be invited to address group on these priorities, listen to their ideas,
concerns and answer questions.

NEXT MEETING  28th August, 11am at Hillside Caravan Park Amenities Room

MEETING CLOSED at  12:10

ATTENDANCE:  3 Councillors. 12 members. 15 apologies.