

1. **Attendance and Apologies**

2. **Welcome to New Members**

Welcome to new Committee members, John Leon (Ballina Rugby Union Club), Pamela Steele (Ballina Coastal Country Musical Festival) and Boyd Lancashire (Ballina Bears Cricket Club).

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are reminded of Council's Code of Conduct and the standards of behaviour outlined in that Code.

4. **Deputations**

5. **Confirmation of Minutes – 13 November, 2012**

A copy of the minutes of the previous meeting held 13 November, 2012 was distributed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 November, 2012 be accepted as a true and correct record.

6. **Business arising from Minutes – 13 November, 2012**

Stump at 20 Crane Street

Staff advise that this item is on the list of works to be completed.

Pothole Owen Street

Staff advise that the pothole in Owen Street has been repaired.

7. **Christmas Decorations**

Council has recently resolved to consider allocating adequate funding in the 2013/14 budget to allow the decoration of a tree in the Ballina town centre as part of the 2013/14 Christmas / New Year festive season. The estimated cost of this proposal is approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000 dependent upon the level of plant and equipment needed to install the decorations at height.

The Council also resolved to seek sponsorship or support for these decorations and for the provision of other decorations for the other major town centres; i.e. Ballina, Lennox Head and Alstonville. Ideally the elected Council are wishing to see if there are any community groups interested in providing decorations or installing their own decorations in the major town centres.

Correspondence has been forwarded to all local community groups in respect to this proposal and if any groups are interested they should contact Council's Tourism Co-ordinator, Ms Caroline Klose on 6686 4444 or email carolinek@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Provided for the information of members.

8. Draft Community Strategic Plan

As part of the Division of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework all NSW councils are required to prepare a new or revised Community Strategic Plan (CSP) prior to 30 June 2013. Council's current CSP was adopted in 2010 and is based on an earlier Council document titled "*People, Place Prosperity: A framework for a more sustainable Ballina Shire 2025*", which was originally developed following extensive community consultation in 2007.

Council has now prepared, following further consultation, an updated CSP for the Ballina Shire. This draft document is available on the front page of our web site (www.ballina.nsw.gov.au), or through the following web address (www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/ourfuture) and hard copies are also accessible at the Council Administration Centre, and the Ballina, Lennox Head and Alstonville Libraries.

The purpose of a CSP is to provide a broad visionary document that outlines a community's priorities and aspirations for the future, based on a timeframe of at least ten years. A CSP should also establish a vision for the local government area. Council believes our draft document achieves these objectives and we are now seeking feedback from all stakeholders in the Ballina Shire, including community groups, government agencies and residents.

If you are interested in providing suggestions to improve the document it would be appreciated if you could respond to Council by **Monday 18 March 2013**. Feedback can be provided by writing to Council as per our mailing address, by emailing the following address: ourfuture@ballina.nsw.gov.au or by completing the on-line survey on our web site.

In reviewing the document a couple of key points are:

- a) The CSP has been prepared following consultation with a broad range of people. This includes 500 residents who were individually surveyed by an external research company, almost 100 young people from our Shire through a one day youth forum, feedback from many of the 300 staff employed by Council and other research undertaken by Council in recent years.
- b) You will find the aspirations outlined in the document are very broad. This is intentional as the CSP is an overarching document that is then supported by Council preparing a Delivery Program, which outlines the major actions that will be pursued by the elected Council during their four year term, and an Operational Plan, which is prepared annually to outline

the works and services to be delivered each year. It is anticipated that both the draft Delivery Program for 2013/17 and the Operational Plan for 2013/14 will be exhibited in May this year for further public comment. These two documents may provide more specific information in respect to projects and services of interest to your organisation.

Provided for the information of members.

9. Code of Conduct

Council recently adopted the Division of Local Government's new Model Code of Conduct, a copy of which is available from our website http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-QQX-54-48-10&c=175 (alphabetically under "C").

Members are reminded of the contents of the Code of Conduct and the standards of behaviour outlined in that Code.

Provided for the information of members.

10. Correspondence from George Young

Attached is a letter received from George Young regarding waste collection in Ballina. Also attached for the information of the committee is Council's response.

11. Council Documents on Exhibition

The following is a list of recent documents that have been placed on exhibition in the period since the last meeting.

- Code of Conduct – closing date 6 December 2012
- Policy – Interaction between Councillors and Staff – closing date 6 December 2012
- Review of Fee Structure for Events on Public Land – closing date 6 December 2012
- 2013/2014 Proposed Flat Rock Tent Park Fees – closing date 18 January 2013
- Planning Proposal BSCPP 12/003 Southern Cross Industrial Estate Bulky Goods Precinct – closing date 22 February 2013
- Draft Policy (Review) Councillors Expenses & Facilities Policy – closing date 7 March 2013
- Draft Community Strategic Plan – closing date 18 March 2013

12. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 14 May, 2013 at 4.00 p.m.

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
"A" WARD COMMITTEE REPORT
BALLINA WASTE COLLECTION

50 Years ago with a population of six thousand residents , Ballina had pan toilets down the back yard as far as you could get from the house for obvious reasons. Collections were made once or twice a week and plans were in hand to sewer the town. The sanitary pans were sealed and placed in the truck , however spillages occurred and the truck had a very pungent smell. Our only business centre was River Street , where the truck was excluded after 8am each day. Garbage was collected weekly in an open tip truck and it too had a distinctive smell.

Completion of a sewerage system for Ballina in the mid sixties saw the demise of the Sanitary collection . The garbage collection was improved with the introduction of covered collection trucks and later hydraulically operated covered compaction units and wheelie bins were introduced with weekly collections.

Now with a population of about thirty thousand residents we have a biweekly service for household waste and recyclable waste and a weekly collection of green waste.

With the excessive heat in Ballina , do we have the right collection mix ? Green waste with no smell , decomposition or disease is collected weekly and smelly disease ridden household waste is kept for fourteen days.

This year has seen an outbreak of a nasty tummy bug which is so contagious and dangerous to our older population and small children and places a great strain on our medical facilities .

While resident are careful with placing material in the household collection bin , leakages do occur as the materials decompose and cause nasty smells and generate disease.

The household waste compaction collection truck has a violent smell and can be smelt from some distance away , far more than the Sanitary cart ever did . Do the residents have to put up with this smell ? Or can something be done ?

Fortnightly cleaning of the household waste bins is necessary to try and get the smell out . This in itself creates a problem . Where do you clean the bin . if you wash it out on the lawn you spread the disease ridden material and smell to where children play. If you do it on the driveway it runs down unto the gutter and the underground drainage system , creating pollution , which runs into the river. Council recommendations for the removal of this smell and contamination of the bins would be of great assistance.

It is accepted that even weekly collections will create some decomposition problems , the extra week plus the excessive heat makes the problem so much more dangerous to community health.

The town has limited facilities for Accident and Emergency , with long waits at times for after hours and at week end services . A serious outbreak of a communicable disease would be a complete disaster and isolation of patients impossible. Serious consideration must be given to prevention of any serious outbreak of these nasty diseases. Perhaps Council has a "Disaster Plan" to address an outbreak of serious disease , if so it should be communicated to its residents , with advice of what to do , at an early date. It is believed the Ballina population reaches over fifty thousand over the holiday period and that's an awful lot of people

Despite regular advertising by Ballina Council there are many residents who look out to see what bins their neighbors have put out before putting their bin out . A mistake by the first out can cause confusion in the street.

We seem to have stickers for everything these days , how about a simple sticker for the lid of **each bin** in the form of a yearly calendar , which shows the date that each individual bin is to be collected ? Or even an add in the Advocate telling what bins and where for the next week ? Unfortunately there are few people reading newspapers these days , so the sticker on the bins seems more appropriate.

If council cannot afford the cost of the labeling , then perhaps they might seek the help of the service clubs , to do it for them .

How much better off are we , than we were fifty years ago ?

George Young ,
"A" Ward Committee Member
11th January 2012.

enquiries refer
Kate Pye
in reply please quote
13/1976

14 January 2013

Mr George Young
54-56 Riverside Drive
BALLINA NSW 2478



Dear George

Re: Urban 3-Bin Waste Service

Thankyou for your information regarding the history of Ballina Shire's sewer and waste collection services as well as your feedback regarding the relatively new urban 3-bin waste system.

I have made some enquiries into your suggestions that the new service could be causing tummy bugs in Ballina Shire, however the North Coast Public Health Unit have confirmed that there has been no significant increase in the number of water or food born illnesses for this time of year. This makes the connection between disease and our relatively new Urban 3 bin system unlikely.

The reason the system has been put into place is due to the fact that the state government has increased levies on all waste going to landfill and we would have been unable to expand on the current landfill site without this new 3-bin system in place. This is part of a state movement to reduce the overall waste we send to landfill by 66% and the urban 3-bin system has been recommended as best practice in order to achieve this.

A fortnightly garbage bin service should be all that is required if you are using your bins correctly and making sure that there is no food or garden waste in this bin. Even with the current excessive heat, there should be no associated health issues or odours coming from garbage bins if residents are taking the proper precautions. These include:

- properly wrapping and sealing your garbage before it enters the bin
- keeping your bin in a shaded area with the bin lid properly closed and free of vermin
- using surface spray if necessary to kill flying and crawling insects
- washing your hands after touching your bin

Since the Urban 3 Bin system back in July 2011, Ballina Shire has stopped in excess of 8,000 tonnes of kitchen and garden organic waste from entering landfill and the environmental benefits associated with this are historically unprecedented. Through turning this waste into compost we return nutrients back to our soils and at the same time greatly reduce the amount of methane gas were are producing at landfill which is 25 times more damaging to the ozone than Carbon Dioxide.

With regards to communicating the collection service times we print a number of calendars each year which are always available at the front counter and to be mailed-out upon request. This calendar is also available online and the bin week also appears weekly in the Ballina Advocate.

Please call me on 6686 1458 if you need any further assistance.

Yours faithfully

Kate Pye
Communication & Education Officer Waste & Water
Civil Services Group

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