

Byron Shire Council

Meeting Agenda / Minutes / Action Items

Name of Group: Open Space & Resource Recovery

Doc #E2019/xxxxx

Date: 3 December 2019	Time: 7:00pm	Venue: Suffolk Park Community Hall
Chairperson: Andrew Swan		Minutes: Merran Davis
Purpose of Meeting: To share information with the community and interested groups about the construction and placement of the bike pump track at Suffolk Park parklands.		

Present:

Byron Shire Council: Michael Matthews, Annie Lewis
 Independent Facilitators: Andrew Swan, Merran Davis
 Suffolk Park Progress Association (SPPA): Donald Maughan
 Suffolk Park Football Club (SPFC): Tai Lonergan, Rachel Shae
 Suffolk Park Community Gardens (SPCG): Cleis Pearce
 Community members: Approximately 50 in attendance

No.	Item	Who	Time	Complete
1.	Welcome and acknowledgement of Arakwal	Andrew Swan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to local government community engagement processes • Introduction to speakers – Council, SPPA, SPFC and SPCG. • Format of meeting and speaker etiquette to be followed • Summary of situation – pump track has been approved for construction. • Purpose of meeting - to inform further about the project and provide opportunity for community input into the placement of the pump track. • Your Say website – prompt for community feedback post meeting. 			
2.	SPPA perspective and preferred placement option	Donald Maughan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged joint approach between Council and Arakwal re renaming of park after Linda Vindler. • History of park, ownership by Dept of Education. • Village funds/community ownership - \$900,000 current balance • Community consultation process occurred via survey which indicated the pump track was a priority for local community. • A Draft Management Plan with Council has followed. • The pump track has been approved by Council on the park land. • SPPA applied for State govt funding and was successful in gaining \$157,000. Council has also agreed to partially fund the project. • A Draft tender doc is being prepared. • The point of the meeting is to confirm the location of the pump track. • Reference to the information sheet provided by Council which outlines all 4 options for position of the pump track. • Site 3 is rejected by SPPA due to the filling that would be required for drainage and flooding issues. 			

No.	Item	Who	Time	Complete
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site 2 is not preferred due to its close proximity to neighbours. • Site 1 is SPPA's preferred option as it allows landscaping to assist neighbours and doesn't dominate the space. • Site 4 is SPFC's preferred option however SPPA believe this site is more dominant to neighbours. 			
3.	SPFC perspective and preferred placement option	Rachel Shea Tai Lonergan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked Donald Maughan, SPPA. • Acknowledgement of Arakwal and Council renaming of park. • SPFC is a small club which caters to all ages. There are 2x disabled members, 1x former ParaRoo and 1x junior member. • The club values are about disability, inclusion and community. • SPFC believe they has been left out of the negotiation process. • They would like to be supportive of everything – bush tucker garden, pump track and half soccer field. • Would like the parkland space to hold as many community functions as possible. • Council's Plan of Management has already been approved however SPFC have alternative plans for consideration that are inclusive of all community groups and functions. • Appeal for everyone to work together to make it happen. • The community survey had low number of respondents. After the deadline, there were further responses from SPFC members which were not included. • SPFC have access to funding and have/will be speaking to all levels of government, Tamara Smith, Justine Elliot. • SPFC would like a space for everyone. • SPFC's alternative Site option is available on an additional handout. 			
4.	SPCG perspective and preferred option	Cleis Pearce		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPCG is a small, dedicated group of people. • The group receives low support and is weather dependent. • The gardens are important to maintain for the local community as they are a place of refuge for birds and people. • SPCG believe they were included in the process. • Would like to be consulted. 			
5.	Council comment	Michael Matthews		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification - the half soccer field has not been included in the plan to Council. 			
6.	SPFC – further comment	Tai Lonergan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPFC runs games for all age groups. • Presently there are 3x miniroos fields of different sizes and 1x 12yr+ full size field. • With the current fields SPFC are unable to run all ages at the same timings and only 30% of juniors can be 			

No.	Item	Who	Time	Complete
	<p>scheduled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The addition of a half field would allow SPFC to run multiple games and free up space so that the first ever 12yr+ age group can continue through from the juniors/miniroos. • Without a half field, options for teens are limited. • 80-90% of the Byron Football Club members are from Suffolk Park. The club values are different to SPFC as Byron focuses on rivalry, exceeding and competitiveness. • SPFC is inclusive and is incorporating disability programs to involve disabled people who can develop skills and evolve to a competitive level. • Aim of the club is inclusion, not excellence. 			
7.	QUESTIONS	Community members		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is SPFC's main concern with Site 1 Option? 	Community member		
8.	<p>SPFC response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It comes into the area we need for the proposed half field. • Refer to sketches in the alternative option prepared by SPFC. • Proposing an alternative option that would work with Option 1. 	Tai Lonergan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What percentage of the park would be soccer fields if the half field were to go ahead? 	Community member		
9.	<p>SPFC response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The size of the half field would be 45x65m. • One corner has bad drainage so SPFC would fix that. • Usage would be Sat mornings and two afternoons during the week. • Usage would be approximately 17% of the time. • SPFC would provide funds to fix that area. • When not in use the fields are a large grassy area for all to use. • In summer, SPFC's usage would drop to 5%, freeing up the fields for everyone else. 	Tai Lonergan		
10.	Clarification of site options – 1-4, plus SPFC's alternative option	Andrew Swan		
11.	SPFC – clarification of Option 5 (alternative option)	Tai Lonergan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 4 was developed as a collaboration with SPPA. • Donald Maughan was to pass on for feedback. • Option 4 is not SPFC's preferred option. • Option 5 (alternative) is preferred option. 			
12.	<p>Clarification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Plan content – regarding pump track construction, not placement. • Meeting process – inform – educate – informed decision. • Summary of speakers so far – felt not listened to by Council. • Current situation - Council needs to make a decision. 	Andrew Swan		

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13.	FURTHER QUESTIONS	Community members		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the soccer fields be open to the public when not in use for games? 	Community member		
14.	SPFC response	Tai Lonergan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, definitely a community space. Only closed when in need of repair. We are planning on installing nets for people to use at any time. Looking for funding. Sat and Sunday games are for juniors and disabled players. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does SPCG feel about the location of the pump track? How will it impact the gardens? 	Community member		
15.	SPCG response	Cleis Pearce		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gardens have been established for 5 years. Used every day of the week. Want something peaceful. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soccer fields are an open space, why cut down more trees and put a pump track in? 	Community member		
16.	SPPA response	Donald Maughan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pump track won't interfere with the community gardens. Only camphor laurels will be removed. The plan is to expand the community gardens into space that includes community and acknowledge the Arakwal through a bush tucker garden in a larger space. There is a large section of the community that needs trees and quiet space. SPPA believe the soccer fields alienate the community and are not in favour of a half field. A half field would not allow for the bigger park vision of shade, contoured land, not desolate. 			
17.	Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential uses must be considered. If you are a strong supporter of SFFC, SPPA or SPCG, you should submit feedback. Council is not deciding tonight on a half field or location of the pump track. Your feedback can have an impact on future plans. 	Andrew Swan		
18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where are the cars going to be? This is the first time I've been invited to look at the plans. Backyard is 20 metres from the site. Skateboards, radios are a constant noise and even at 4am in the morning. Backpackers camp at the park and no one does anything. I have not been informed properly and it's not the first time. 	Community member		
19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Council adopt Plans of Management? 	Community member		
20.	Council response	Michael Matthews		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A landscape architect was engaged in 2017. Community was asked for input through a public hearing. 			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept plans were considered as required under the LGA. • The Plan activates the pump track. • A survey was completed with community. • Apology for any members felt left out of the process. • Encourage any concerns of noise, inclusion, usage to be sent as feedback. • Council process for all feedback to registered. • Your Say webpage is a direct feedback channel. • The parklands are a community facility and an asset. 			
21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the decision already been made? No letterbox drop, no email. 	Community member		
22.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council response 	Michael Matthews		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decision to construct the pump track has been made. The location has not been decided. • The feedback that community has not been consulted will be reported back to Council. 			
23.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPFC statement 	Rachel Shea		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Say is not the only way. Not everyone is aware of the webpage. • How long is the process to get other ideas approved for funding? • How does the pump track limit other options for the park? • Has the S.94 funds for parks all been used? • Are Plans of Management for 10 years? 			
24.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council response 	Michael Matthews		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can leverage that money. • We encourage seeking grants at a 50/50 split. • Suffolk Park is lucky to have funds allocated in that S.94 account. • Council is in a good position to resource Suffolk Park. 			
25.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPCG statement 	Cleis Pearce		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gardens are well used by the community. • Soccer is good in winter but the rest of the year it is a big, empty space. Do we really need another one when we have one already? • A pump track is not for everyone. • Are there any soundproofing provisions? • Will there be fencing? 			
26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPPA statement 	Donald Maughan		
27.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pump tracks are different to skateparks. They are quieter. • Skateboards don't make a noise on pump tracks. 			
28.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the complaints process? Does it go to Council? • The noise comes from radios, not just skateboards. 	Community member		
29.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitator - Prompt to provide feedback through Your Say or contact Council 	Andrew Swan		
30.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What age group is the pump track aimed at? Is it a safe space for children who want to learn to ride a bike? 	Community member		
31.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification - 9 year old + age group, however the area could be split into two different levels. 	Andrew Swan		
32.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The greatest issue in this area is the youth – teens – 	Community		

No.	Item	Who	Time	Complete
	giving them a space is my main priority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community gardens won't disappear, they'll be integrated in a more extensive way. • Greatest issue is our children. Should be inclusive of all ages. • We need our sporting clubs also. • We need to engage youth. 	member		
33.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many people responded to the survey? 	SPFC member		
34.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPPA response 	Donald Maughan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 80. • It was a strong response and very positive. 			
35.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPFC response 	Rachel Shea		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 65 respondents online initiated by the line "let's do something for kids". • SPFC encouraged everyone to support the survey. • It wasn't a great representation of the community. 			
36.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council response 	Michael Matthews		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately Council can't reach all community members and engagement can be difficult. • Council wants to understand the needs of community. • A Review of Environmental Factors is to be completed. 			
37.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPPA response 	Donald Maughan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPPA started in 2016. We advertise meetings and had poor attendance. 			
38.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have received the emails and letters. How does Council get through to community when it's so hit and miss? 	Community member		
39.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council response 	Annie Lewis		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's communication team is small but passionate. Sometimes we get it wrong and people feel like they weren't consulted. • There is an onus on community members though to stay informed if they are interested in community – keep an eye on Council activity through the Echo, meetings, subscribe to e-news, follow Facebook. Council advertises regularly and widely. • There will be times when we miss you. • There is a lot of information online on Council's website. 			
40.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitator – Next steps 	Andrew Swan		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will follow the Plan and contract to put a pump track on the land. • A Review of Environmental factors will be submitted to document the impacts of the project on community. • Now is the time for input through Your Say, or contact Michael Matthews directly. • Get your perspective into Council. • Write a letter to Councillors or Michael Matthews. • It is Council process to respond. • If survey doesn't include fields for comments, write a letter or email. • Deadline for feedback is 31 January 2020. • SPFC's Option 5 (alternative) wasn't included due to time and printing constraints. • Your comments might help shape the design, the more you say, the more it will be considered in the process. 			

No.	Item	Who	Time	Complete
41.	• Meeting closed	Andrew Swan	8:00pm	

Next Meeting:	Venue	Date	Time

Ground rules for our Meeting

1. We start on time and finish on time	5. We follow-up on the actions for which we are assigned responsibility and complete them on time
2. We all participate and contribute – everyone is given opportunity to voice their opinions	6. We give and receive open and honest feedback in a constructive manner
3. We use improvement tools that enhance meeting efficiency and effectiveness	7. We use data to make decisions (whenever possible)
4. We actively listen to what others have to say, seeking first to understand, then to be understood	8. We strive to continually improve our meeting process and build time into each agenda for reflection