

Community Connection Session

Wednesday 12 September 2018

Civic Centre, Council Chamber Wonthaggi

3.30pm to 4.15pm

I. Presentation Topic: 3.30pm

Planning Application 180122 – 23 Dunvegan Cres Surf Beach

Name of person/s and/or organisation presenting:

Susan Young & Howard Young – residents at 21 Dunvegan Cres Surf Beach

Notes:

- Surf Beach is a small township with a fantastic natural environment – the Bass Coast Small Townships Guidelines state small townships should:
 - Have generous setbacks
 - Have space between the properties for gardens
 - Respect building heights of nearby properties
 - Follow the slope of the land and nestle comfortably in the landscape
 - Retain mature trees
 - Be mindful of the neighbours' views and view sharing
- Objecting to Langford Jones Homes application to sub-divide and build a double-storey home on the newly subdivided portion of the block at 23 Dunvegan Cres. Surf Beach. This building would be in the backyard of an existing double storey home.
- A submission has been placed with planning expressing our concerns with the application. The proposed development is not respectful of the qualities recommended for this coastal township and introduces urban density to the area and reduces amenity of the area- Specifically:
 - Results in loss of garden space for trees and shrubs that support native bird life
 - Reduces view of coastal scenery
 - Is difficult to screen by trees and shrubs

- Causes issues with overview and shadowing
- Increases loss of quiet environment because a driveway is proposed adjacent to proposed boundary
- Increases pressure of local drainage systems
- Overcrowds existing residents with heightened risk of noise and other disruptions.
- Approval of this application would set precedent for ad hoc approval of sub-divisions that result in overcrowding.
- The development does not comply with the Design Development Overlay (DDO1) or the Vegetarian Protection Overlay (VPO2)
- Additionally, there are issues with the surveyor's documents in relation to the boundary fencing measurements – the existing open paling fence is on the Young's property and at the end nearest the street the fence is .81m inside the boundary on the property.
- The Plan makes no mention of several coastal banksias that are in the path of the proposed new driveway that forms part of Lot 2. Some or all of these trees would need to be removed as part of the development.
- Mr & Mrs Young request that their issues be considered in the application process.

Actions:

- This submission has been received by Council and will be taken into account as part of the planning decision process.

2. Presentation Topic: 3.45pm

Australian Unemployed Workers Union

Name of person/s and/or organisation presenting:

Jessica Harrison - Convenor

Notes:

- The Australian Unemployed Workers' Union is a national volunteer organisation dedicated to protecting the rights and dignity of unemployed workers and pensioners.
- Wonthaggi Branch formed in February 2017 after initial meeting at Mitchell House.
- Local membership 7 people. 7000 nationwide
- Bass Coast 6.8% unemployed and in poverty – missing out on essentials for life these figures may not include under-employment, people doing part-time work, over 55's doing volunteer work instead of job searches, etc
 - Victorian Regional 5.33%
 - Victorian State 5.30%
- Work for the dole – not training that is needed for skill growth
- Insecure housing – require short-term housing
- Corinella foodbank provide support at the Community House
- Only 15 % of people applying for Disability Support Pension are approved.
- 85% are put onto Newstart.
- Unless they can get exemption, they are expected to look for jobs and fund their own medical costs
- Newstart recipients receive \$545 per fortnight (\$275 per week, \$39 per day)
- Raising the Newstart rate...

Eleven local councils in South Australia and Victoria have added their voices to the chorus from groups such as the Business Council of Australia, churches, welfare agencies and unions, which have called for the Government's Newstart Allowance to be increased.

Increasing the Newstart Allowance will benefit local economies by increasing the spending power of those on low incomes.

Extra funds will circulate through local businesses.

It will reduce the strain on Community Services assisting the growing number of people experiencing hardship where such services exist.

Propose – BCSC write expression of intent to Federal Government

- BCSC passes motion to support raising Newstart, as proposed to the Senate in May 2018.
- Bass Coast Shire Council notes that the low rate of Newstart Allowance is exacerbating poverty and homelessness.
- Therefore the Council will publicly advocate in writing to the relevant federal government ministers that the Newstart Allowance be increased to the level of the Henderson Poverty line.
- Further, that copies of the letter also be sent to the Federal Member for Monash Mr Russell Broadbent, to the Gippsland Local Government Network, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Victorian Local Government Association and to the Senators for Victoria.
- That our local Wonthaggi Branch of the Australian Unemployed Workers Union is listed under services or support groups on the BCSC website.

Actions:

- AUWU position noted.
- Suggestion to Jessica that AUWU include their information on our website and that she look at grant funding opportunities.
Jessica's contact to Cr Le Serve

3. Presentation Topic: 3.30pm

Hope for Women

Name of person/s and/or organisation presenting:

Theresa O'Dea

Notes:

- Grass roots group running out of Mitchell House
- Small amount of funding for women in danger
- Five women in the group 15-44 years – each damaged by emotional turmoil
- Mitchell House hosts the group where they make grant applications
- Looking for a small amount of funding for brochures/pamphlets that can be distributed to medical centres and community centres for distribution to women in need.
- 24 November – open forum at Mitchell House

Actions:

- Cr Le Serve requested Ms O'Dea's details and offered to attend Mitchell House (host of the group) to discuss options with them in relation to grant funding and advocacy.