

Ferguson Valley Advisory Group Meeting

Thomas Little Hall

Wednesday, 5 May 2021 | 5.00pm - 7.00pm

NOTES

Attendance

Elected Representatives

Cr. T Gardiner	Chairperson
Cr. P R Perks	Proxy for Cr. Peter Robinson
Cr. C Boyce	Advisory Group Member

Community

Mr. Stuart Brandreth	Community
Ms. Merinda Smith	Community
Mr. Stephen Miller	Community

Staff

Mr. Andre Schönfeldt	Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Luke Botica	Director Infrastructure
Ms. Susan Oosthuizen	Director Sustainable Development
Mr. Nathan Ryder	Manager Infrastructure Planning & Design
Ms. Vicki Pretorius	Landscape Design Officer
Ms. Peta Nolan	PA – Director Infrastructure

Apologies

Cr. P Robinson	Advisory Group Member
Cr. M T Bennett	Shire President
Ms. Taneta Kerr	Community
Mr. Russell Harvie	Community
Mr. Andrew White	Community

Meeting Open - 5.05pm

Welcome

Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country by Chairperson, Cr. T Gardiner

Overview of Governance

Terms of Reference – provided to members.

Cr. T Gardiner advised the Group about the Council Resolution (93:21) with regard to the Advisory Group Terms of Reference and operations. He advised that Council made this decision to improve accountability and transparency of the Advisory Group process.

THAT Council:

- 1. Authorises the publication of all Shire of Dardanup Advisory Group agendas, notes and membership names through the Shire of Dardanup website, with agendas to be published on the Shire website three days prior to Advisory Group meetings being held.*
- 2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer update the Advisory Groups Terms of Reference and Council Policy 'Exec CP089 – Advisory Groups' to reflect the changes to confidentiality requirements and publishing of meeting agendas and notes for Advisory Groups.*

Cr. T Gardiner asked the group if there were any objections to their names being included in the minutes on the website. There were no comments or objections.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Launch of The Shire of Dardanup 2050 Vision

Mr André Schönfeldt - Chief Executive Officer

The 2050 Vision document was endorsed in January 2021. The document is on the website for community and is being presented to all Advisory Groups.

<https://www.dardanup.wa.gov.au/our-shire/2050-vision/>

The purpose of the consultations was for people to bring aspirations for their community and what it will look like in the year 2050. The document reflects what we hold dear to us now to consider in future decision making.

In the planning phases for Wanju and Waterloo the Shire will be looking at the Vision 2050 document for guidance. There will be 20 000 new households in this community with an estimated population of 50 000 to 60 000 people.

How will this be incorporated into future decision making? – The document is a prospectus for the Shire for developers and other key stakeholders. Copies have been sent to politicians.

It does have some impacts on the Ferguson Valley. The Plan talks about celebrating what our area has to offer. Furthermore, the Strategic Community Plan is required to be reviewed every 4 years and next financial year the Shire will undertake this review. The Vision 2050 will be the basis for the Strategic Community Plan to align with. Members are encouraged to participate in this process.

Community Engagement Projects

Ms. Susan Oosthuizen - Director Sustainable Development

2020/2021 events , projects and public art debrief and feedback

- **Connect Dardanup Podcasts:**

The “My Place. My People” series of podcasts launched to foster connection in the community and celebrate the unique and interesting stories of key people from Ferguson Valley:

- **August 2020 - Jill Cross:** recorded at Crooked Brook Forest. Long time resident of Shire of Dardanup who shared her memories and pride in her achievements, including the development of Crooked Brook Forest into a key destination for visitors to the area.
- **August 2020 - Jake Harvie:** Former Wellington Mill resident. Was part of the Australian Kookaburras Side which won Gold at the Commonwealth Games. Spoke about his early years in grass roots hockey and how important it was to his career.
- **August 2020 – Dylan Newport:** Former Henty resident. Spoke about studying and composing at the West Australian Performing Arts Academy during COVID. Discussed the creation of his featured hits on the iconic Triple J Unearthed and his hope for the future.
- **September 2020 - Cheryl Rourke:** Wellington Mill Resident and owner of Kingtree Lodge. Spoke about the growth and changes to Ferguson Valley over the years, including the development of Gnomesville. Reflected on her late husband’s battle with Parkinson’s disease and the community support they both received.

Wellness at Crooked Brook:

- **Attendees:** 10
- **Date:** 6 March 2021 – 9am- 10am
- **Location:** Crooked Brook Forest
- **Key features:** Participants were given an intro to mindfulness, relaxation methods, and breathing techniques as well as a discussion highlighting the benefits of mindfulness in today’s busy world.

Lost and Found Event:

- **Key features:** The Lost and Found Festival will run over four days in September, 2021 with the aim of highlighting key experiences on offer in the region through a range of events and attracting visitors.
- **Further information:** Shire of Dardanup is contributing \$10,000 via the Regional Events Grant scheme. The event will be managed by Ahoy Management.

Other funded groups and events in the area:

- **Dardanup Arts Spectacular:**
 - The Dardanup Arts Spectacular Art Exhibition opened on Friday, April 30 at the Dardanup Hall with an Awards Night followed by an art trail event which included several artists from Ferguson Valley.
 - **Wellington Mills Fire Brigade Hall:**
 - Funding has been granted to the Wellington Mills Community Association for new carpet in the Fire Brigade Hall.
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Ferguson Valley Public Art Trail Concept Plan:

- *Key features: Shire of Dardanup is seeking to develop a concept plan for a Ferguson Valley Public Art Trail. Key aims are:*
 - *Increasing community participation and connection with the arts within the Shire of Dardanup.*
 - *Celebrate unique stories through the arts*
 - *Demonstrate opportunities for young people interested in the arts*
 - *Provide accessible public art to the community.*
- *Further information: Council has endorsed seeking funding for the concept plan. A grant application has been submitted to the Department of Arts and Culture and an outcome is expected in September.*

Outback Car Hunters at Gnomesville:

- *Key features: Outback Car Hunters is an international documentary TV series commissioned by Discovery Channel*
 - *Incorporates the road trip adventure of American Pickers with the car transformations of Monster Garage.*
 - *Will screen in Australia later in the year (date TBC)*
 - *The series is filmed in regional WA and the episodes tell the story of rare/unique cars found in regional locations.*
- *Further information: This was approved to film at Gnomesville on April 16.*

IDEAS FOR 2020/21 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Storytime in the Park

- *Location: To be held at key locations around Ferguson Valley including Gnomesville, Crooked Brook Forest, and the Ferguson Hall.*
- *Key features: Storytime in the Park is an innovative concept that brings the fun of storytime into the community. The key objective is to build connection in the community and develop a love of reading and learning in children.*
- *Further information: Storytime in the Park will begin in Ferguson Valley in October 2021 as part of our Summer Series of events.*

- Place Activation: Guided Wildflower Walk at Crooked Brook:

- *Location: To be held at Crooked Brook Forest.*
- *Key features: Working with the Wildflower Society of WA to develop a guided tour of Crooked Brook forest during wildflower season in September. The event would be accessible for all fitness levels using existing the pathways which are wheelchair accessible.*
 - *This will be a great opportunity for visitors to experience Crooked Brook Forest with their friends.*

- Mountain Bike Workshops:

- *Location: Pile Road*
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General Discussion

The art trail is currently the major project – local artists will be involved. The Shire will hear by September 2021 if the grant has been successful. We are asking the community to consider where the art installations should be located.

It was agreed that the story time at Gnomesville would be very good.

The issue of future planning for cycle paths was raised to improve safety for community. It was advised that the Shire has a cycling strategy which will be developed next financial year. The Group considered a cycle path would be a fantastic idea. There are many cyclists that come into the Valley. A consultant will produce the plan for this project. If necessary it is possible that private land may be sought for the cycle paths.

In conclusion the group was encouraged to contact the Place and Community Engagement team if they have any ideas or feedback about the events and programs.

Ferguson Valley and Surrounds Community Facilities Plan

Ms Vicki Pretorius – Landscape Design Officer

Update – community engagement, where to from here

- *The draft plan has been prepared based on the Shire's existing ten year Asset Management Plans;*
 - *Many of the projects shown as 'Immediate' improvements are currently underway;*
 - *So far all of the short, medium and long term proposed improvements focus on road projects;*
 - *Additional projects that have been identified so far have been shown in the red 'opportunities' category, with priorities to be defined through community engagement;*
 - *This includes the proposed scenic photo points, suggested by Ferguson Valley Marketing;*
 - *The Dardanup West structure plan shows proposed picnic spots along the Preston River, this has also been included in the draft plan;*
 - *The final plan will reflect the land uses shown in the Shire plan included in the 2050 Vision document;*
 - *Additional ideas for possible future improvements to be sought through community engagement;*
 - *Community engagement opened on 4 May and will run for a 4 week period until 1 June 2021;*
 - *Advisory Group members encouraged to invite all their family and friends to participate in the engagement, which is available on the Shire's website.*
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2020/2021 Budget Delivery – Projects Update

Ms Vicki Pretorius – Landscape Design Officer

Mr Nathan Ryder – Manager Infrastructure Planning and Design

Gnomesville public toilets installation, paths and boardwalk

- *The public toilets were ordered and originally due to be installed in March but construction industry pressures have delayed the supply of the toilets, which are now expected to be installed at the start of June. Due to a limited budget a custom design was not affordable so a kit option was selected, similar to many of the toilets in DBCA parks. A pitched roof option was over budget leaving the only affordable option as a simpler skillion roof model, with colour chosen to theme in with the bush. This is to be decorated with artwork to theme in with the site;*
 - *Boardwalk quotes have been sought and are coming in at the moment, for the upper area – where boardwalks will allow water to flow across the site;*
 - *Options were discussed due to exposed aggregate concrete paths not being achievable within the project budget. Grey concrete was confirmed as being unsuitable for aesthetic*
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reasons. Terracotta coloured concrete was identified as the most preferred, relatively affordable option; but ensuring that the finish is textured and without smooth 'typical urban path' edges – such as broom finish throughout, with possible organic shapes such as leaf imprints.

Gnomesville public toilets artwork

- An artwork budget of \$10k is available for decorating the public toilets with a suitable theme – proposed to be gnomes and the Australian bush;
- Suggestion to depict gnomes 'out and about in the Ferguson Valley' e.g. playing jazz, drinking wine etc;
- Proposal for decorative metal screen panels, to screen the toilet entrances and enhance the view from the main area.

General Discussion Themes

The screen budget does not allow for a custom built product however there is opportunity for murals on the side walls of the toilet and also on the side of the tank facing Gnomesville.

It was agreed that the murals can come later if funds do not permit. The murals should include stories of the Ferguson Valley whilst incorporating a gnome theme.

If budget permits there will be a public art directional sign.

Colours to be used are green to blend with the environment.

Road projects – Pile Road, Harris Road, Road Seals

- Pile road to Gardincourt to be finished then continue towards Mungalup Road next year and in future years.
- Harris Road drainage will commence this year and major roadworks will be undertaken in the next financial year. The project is delayed due to supply issues. Shire Staff are working longer hours to make up for the shortage of contractors. The Shire is in the unprecedented position where Contractors are now in control of pricing and the timing of their work so to get the projects progressing Shire staff need to work in with them.
- Mountford Road and Crooked Brook road reseal have been completed.

Wellington Mills BFB toilet – DFES of the successful grant of \$44,200 for the purpose of the construction of a disabled toilet and shower facility. Shire staff have been liaising with the Bushfire Brigade on this project.

The first design included a toilet off the side of the shed. On discussion with the Brigade a better solution has been considered. There are two buildings which are not connected. The Brigade does not have a toilet and members use the toilets over the road. Best solution for the Brigade to have a toilet. Passage way to connect the two buildings. We looked at the scope to see what we can achieve in the current funding budget.

Waterloo BFB - CEM Alliance was awarded the contract. Demolition has commenced. The project will be completed by the end of June.

Bushfire brigade water tanks

DFES funding has been awarded to purchase some water tanks for several BFB. The scope includes 80,000L tank capacity, pumo kit, Cam lockfitting, lockable pump box, electrical, plumbing siteworks. Site preparation is in progress.

Japonica View Fire Emergency Egress upgrade

- DFES provided funding for the upgrade of the road. Design should be completed this week. Bitumen stabilised limestone will be the treatment. 48m long and 10 m wide. The treatment will be at the worst points.
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2021/2022 Budget – Projects

Road projects

- **Henty Road** – around Ferguson Farm stay where there is a sharp corner. The bridge is also included. Harvey Water partnership will allow the road to be widened. Henty Road in the Lennard Road vicinity will also be improved.
- **Ferguson Road** – Widening project next year. Design and preparatory work will commence next year. Trying to increase to 8 m wide with audible edge lines which is a safety prevention. This is a very effective treatment. Run off road crashes are high in the South West. 50% of road crashes.
- **Harris Road** – Completion of the upgrade works.
- **Pile Road** – Continuation of road widening and safety improvement works.
- **Waterloo BFB** – Sealing of internal road.

Next Meeting – 6 October 2021

Close 6.35 pm
