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Brown Hill Progress Association request for action/feedback

Sat 16/01/2021 10:50 AM

TO: City of Ballarat Councillors for Central and North Wards: Amy Johnson; Belinda Coates; Daniel Moloney; Mark Harris; Peter Eddy; Sam Macintosh

Dear Councillors,

At the Brown Hill Progress Association meeting held 5 January 2021 it was agreed to send through to you an update on several issues, some long standing, that we believe you need to be aware of as Councillors representing the residents of Brown Hill. Some are for your information only; with others it would be appreciated if you could offer assistance in furthering our endeavours.

The five issues are as follows:

1) BROWN HILL LOCAL AREA PLAN: In December 2017 Council agreed to prepare a Local Area Plan for Brown Hill. Community consultation started in mid-2018 with a "Future Growth Scenario Paper" put out for comment in the beginning of 2019. The BHPA developed a seven-page response to this request in April 2019. We have received no formal acknowledgement and no further progress has been made. It now appears that the plan has been put on hold. WHY?

Unfortunately, the issues that we had in 2017 are not going away and continue to cause a growing concern for the future of Brown Hill and its livability. As BHPA's letter to Councillors in July 2017 states: "We have watched with concern the increasing number of house allotments that have been subdivided to strata development with 8-10 units replacing the single dwelling and now the ever-increasing small block freehold developments that are opening up on the north side of the freeway." Attached is the letter in full along with BHPA's response to the "Future Growth Scenario Paper".

It would be appreciated if you could find out what the state of play is with the plan and when its development can be re-activated. THIS IS A PRIORITY.

2) TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ON HUMFFRAY STREET NORTH AND WATER STREET IN RELATION TO LOCAL KINDERGARTEN AND SCHOOL CHILDREN

Mr Charles Cahill, the COB Traffic Project Manager, rang the BHPA secretary in mid-2020 to acknowledge a letter sent to him from a BHPA committee member who is a School Council member from Caledonian Primary School and a concerned mother of young school children attempting to cross Humffray Street North every day to walk or ride to school.

We thank him for his call back but really hoped for some commitment for improvement or action by now.

We also thank the City of Ballarat teams who have addressed several of the issues raised in the attached letter, including the bluestone gutter on the Thompson Street School Crossing, the footpath from Canterbury Street to the Thompson Street School Crossing and the 40km zone on Brophy Street. We believe that the Water Street School Crossing is a VicRoads issue. We are particularly interested in any progress that has been made around managing the traffic on Humffray Street North to allow families to safely cross this increasingly busy road to access the local kindergarten and schools.

It would be appreciated if you could find out what Council is doing about this major safety issue and put your support behind action to address it.

3) LACK OF BUS SHELTERS IN THE BROWN HILL ROUTE. Is funding for provision of and improvements to the bus shelters in the Brown Hill route included in the current and ongoing Budget model? Bus shelters were not installed at many new bus-stops when Public Transport Victoria (PTV) introduced the new Ballarat Bus Network several years ago, as funding was not included. In early 2020 I reached out to the City of Ballarat during the roadworks by Pipecon in Gracefield Road, Brown Hill, for a shelter for the new bus stop (ID50851). I was advised that funding was committed for 2019/20 and my request would be added to a list to be considered for inclusion in future, relative to other bus stops throughout the City of Ballarat area. I believe there is a real need for all Brown Hill bus route #15 shelters to be clearly identified in the 'Bus Shelter Program' as part of the City of Ballarat Capital Works plan. There are at least 22 bus shelters I have identified, 13 on the way into the train station and 9 on the way out. Bus shelters are an essential part of protecting the vulnerable, elderly, families and children in our community as they wait for a bus. (Thanks to Andrew Johnson's letter and original story from Brown Hill Newsletter Edition 26 August 2020)

It would be appreciated if you could find out how this issue could be progressed and the state of play with funding.

4) IN DECEMBER CHW RELEASED A "BREWERY TAP RD – CONCEPT FOR DISCUSSION" PAPER CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHW LAND ON THE CORNER OF BREWERY TAP RD AND DAYLESFORD RD. BHPA was asked to respond, and we also met with CHW representatives. As the development of this large area of land has significant repercussions for Brown Hill please find attached our written response to CHW - FOR YOUR INFORMATION. We understand that CHW are in the very early stages of discussion about the lands development but the main point is that such a large development should NOT go ahead until the Brown Hill Local Area Plan has been completed.

5) THE BHPA COMMITTEE ALSO EXPRESSES THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE LATE OPENING OF THE BROWN HILL COMMUNITY POOL THIS SUMMER. After managing the pool for the last 14 years we met with the Council Water facility management team in early March 2020 and handed back the management to council. Little did we know that 2 of the 3 people we met with would no longer work for council in the following months and of course how much disarray COVID would cause. We thank Allan Glenwright for the enormous amount of work he has put in to get the pool opened on Jan 1st but he did this virtually on his own while still maintaining the other outdoor pools and the Aquatic Centre. We know from experience the workload involved and Allan should have received a lot more assistance and an earlier start to get everything operational. It seems that Allan carried the burden while the seats of management continue to be shuffled above him. The BHPA is committed to continuing its support and promotion of this community asset and hopes that the cooperative relationship with council continues into the future and will see improvements in structure and functionality over the next few years.

Your acknowledgement and response to the issues raised above would be much appreciated and will be presented at our next general meeting to be held on Tuesday Feb 2nd if possible.

Yours Sincerely
Brendan Stevens
Secretary Brown Hill Progress Association
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