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Surf Coast Shire Council Meeting

Tuesday, 23 May 2023 at 6pm

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MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Hello and good evening. Welcome to the May Council Meeting. It's so lovely to see everybody here at Winchelsea. We've got a great turnout, so thank you so much for coming along.

I'm Mayor Liz Pattison and it's a pleasure to welcome members of the community into the chambers tonight. This meeting is also being live streamed, so a big welcome to those tuning in online, and of course welcome to my fellow Councillors.

Live captioning will accompany the live stream. We hope that this assists those who may be having hearing difficulties. And I hope people can hear us in the audience. If you can't, please pipe up because we want you to be able to hear what's going on, and we'll make sure we're speaking - you're struggling? I'll put it a bit closer. We'll make sure we speak close to the microphones. Thanks for letting me know.

The Surf Coast Shire local government area spans the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung people and the Gulidjan and Gadubanud peoples of the Maar nation. I would like to acknowledge that here at Eastern Reserve in Winchelsea we are gathered on Wadawurrung country. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The Wadawurrung people have nurtured and protected these lands and waterways for thousands of generations and I am so grateful for the opportunity to live and work in such a beautiful part of the world.

We also wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which each person is attending and acknowledge any Aboriginal people who may be viewing the meeting tonight.

We are so excited to be holding the first offsite Council meeting of our Council term in Winchelsea. It is great to be able to bring the decision making to the community and we have enjoyed the opportunity to engage and connect with all of you that came here earlier. We've had some very insightful conversations and hearing about people's views on different Council matters while we've been having a cup of tea just before this meeting.

And I wanted to draw your attention too, we have some footy players outside doing some footy training, so if you hear any loud cheering or things, there's some footy training going on and there's the gym behind us, so it really is a great hub of sport in Winchelsea here at Eastern Reserve.

We have a number of important items on our agenda tonight which relate to the Winchelsea ward. Council is carrying out positive work in Winchelsea

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working with the community to deliver several important projects and I just draw some of them to your attention. There was a flyer when you came in that has a bit more information, but obviously we have the Mud Hut renewal, we have the adventure playground upgrade, the Winchelsea Pool redevelopment, the tree planting program, and the Barwon River Loop Walk, and Council will be providing regular updates to keep the community informed on the status of these projects, so look out for these in the paper and on social media.

And now to our agenda tonight, so let's get that under way. For those of you that are new to Council meetings, Council operates according to our Governance Rules, which include the following procedures. During the meeting, the mover of a motion or an amendment may speak for a maximum of five minutes to open the debate and then a further two minutes to make a closing statement. Any other Councillor, including the seconder, may speak to a motion for no more than three minutes.

We'll now move on to our pledge. I will now recite the pledge as a sign of our commitment: "As Councillors, we carry out our responsibilities with diligence and integrity and make fair decisions of lasting value for the wellbeing of our community and environment."

We now move on to our apologies. Are there any apologies for this evening? No, it looks like we are all here, which is wonderful, all here in Winchelsea.

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: An apology from Councillor Allen.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Oh, of course. I'm sorry. I saw no vacant chairs. Apologies for that one. I was overly optimistic. We have an apology, thank you. Can I have a mover - is that you, Adrian?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: I'm happy to move.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder. And a seconder?

CR ROSE HODGE: I'm happy to second.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Hodge. All those in favour. I do apologise. Poor Gary will be devastated, but we got there in the end. Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder, for drawing that to my attention. I appreciate that.

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We now move on to confirmation of minutes. Can I please have a mover and a seconder to confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, the 26th of April? Councillor Barker. Is that as per the recommendation?

CR PAUL BARKER: Yes.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Bodsworth. All in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

Are there any Councillors who are seeking a leave of absence? No.

Do we have any declarations of conflict of interest? If a Councillor or an officer has a conflict of interest, they must declare it now and do so again just prior to the item being discussed. The Councillor and/or officer will be requested to leave the meeting area while the matter is being considered. Once the matter is resolved, the Councillor or officer will return to the meeting. Are there any conflicts of interest? No.

Presentations - Councillor Schonfelder has a short presentation.

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Oh, thank you. I'd like on behalf of the Surf Coast Shire to offer our congratulations to Imogen Grzemski, who won a gold medal in archery at the World Archery Oceania Target Championships in Adelaide, so something to be very proud of.

Secondly, on behalf of the Surf Coast Shire, I attended Government House and I wrote congratulations to their Majesties the King and Queen in relation to the Coronation and as a former member of the Barwon Valley Pony Club, I know that a lot of members of our community would have loved seeing all the horses during the Coronation, so that's a fond memory for many people. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Do we have any other presentations? No. And we now move on to public - oh, we have no submissions and now we move on to public question time.

So the next agenda item is public question time. Members of the public who wish to ask a question to Council are able to submit their written questions in accordance with Council's Governance Rules and we have had six community members submit questions and we have eight in total to work through.

So is Samantha Fernando here? No? I'll read out Samantha's question then and respond to that. So, "As China's increased CO2 emissions negate Australia's annual reduction in CO2 every two days and given that China is the

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world's largest emitter, what is Council doing to reduce demand of Chinese products to assist China to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels?" So thank you, Samantha, for that question. Council's procurement policy guides staff to consider climate change, environmental and social sustainability, as well as an emphasis on using local supplies when procuring products and services. Although this policy doesn't place limits on buying items from any specific country, we're always looking for opportunities to reduce emissions in our supply chains.

And there's a second question from Samantha: "What level of CO2 are needed to ensure plant and crops necessary for human survival and what percentage of CO2 is currently in the atmosphere in Australia?"

So in response to your question, Samantha, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is the United Nations body for assessing the science on climate change. Based on the IPCC's scientific assessment, limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees is necessary for the survival of earth's life support systems. The current atmospheric concentration of CO2 is approximately 410 to 420 parts per million and I suggest that if you want to look into that more, Samantha, more can be found on their website at www.ipcc.ch. Thank you for that question.

Now, is Darryl Price, from Winchelsea - is he here and would he like to read his own question? No? I'll read Darryl's question for him: "At what point will Council review and possibly install footpaths along Anderson Road in front of the golf course and on the other side of the road between the Ampol service station and Glenmore Street?"

Thanks for your question, Darryl. There is an existing gravel footpath that runs between Anderson Street and the golf course. Engineers recently inspected this footpath and have recommended some improvement works, including the installation of guide posts to better define the path and provide a clearer separation between cars and pedestrians. The need for a pathway between the Ampol service station and Glenmore Street has been identified through Council's ongoing pathway review. Funding for this new pathway has been included in the 23-24 Draft Budget. So hopefully that answers Darryl's question.

Tony Watts, are you with us today? Did you want to come up and read your question, Tony?

MR TONY WATTS: Yes, I shall. Thank you. It looks long, but it's quite short. Thank you, Councillors, for this - are we okay volume? Thank you, Councillors,

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for this opportunity to speak to my question. I will take just a few minutes and I don't think I should say this, but welcome to the wild west, the beautiful shire, we are so lucky.

My question relates to item 4.6 on tonight's agenda, the Deans Marsh Community Hub development, specifically to table 1 of the potential funding model for the proposed hub on page 204 of tonight's agenda, if anyone is wanting to look. Table 1 shows the expected cost of this development and the potential source of funds from this Council and from external government sources - I'm being distracted, sorry.

I acknowledge that no-one can accurately predict the future, but it is possible to get some measure of our speculations by researching presently available information. My research of municipal and community hub websites and other reputable sources of the actual costs and actual funding sources for new community hubs hub builds tells me this, that the funding model proposed here is quite unlike anything that has actually happened in recent years across all the reported actual outcomes I could find.

Very briefly I could find only one new community hub, a quite small one that cost less than \$10 million to build. The cost of all other new community hubs I found range upwards from around \$13 million, with the average cost being around 25 million, using dollar values at the time they were built.

But more important than the actual cost, the funding ratio of every equivalent new hub I could find did not equate to the proposed Deans Marsh funding model, which has external government sources funding 70% of the Deans Marsh hub and this Council funding only 30%. Typically, the actual funding ratio is the other way around, where a Council contributes 70% or more of the actual cost, with external funding contributing 30% or less.

So my question is, is Council aware of the actual cost of equivalent recent community hubs in other municipalities and, more important, the relative contributions of Council and external government sources to meeting those costs?

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you, Tony. I appreciate the question and thanks for coming. It was great to have a chat to you before the meeting and I will pass that one on to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you. Thank you for your question, Tony, and it is wonderful to be in the hinterland in such a special part of the shire. We're very pleased to be here.

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In terms of - these really are quite quiet, aren't they? Is that better?

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: You need to have it really close.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Right, okay. We'll do it really close. Hopefully you can hear me now.

So officers are aware of the costs of community hubs in other municipalities. However, comparisons between facilities of this nature are difficult and there are variations in size, components, services, specific settings and also market conditions.

So given this, the Deans Marsh Community Hub has been costed by a really experienced quantity surveyor and they've factored in the current construction costs, the local conditions and appropriate allowances and escalations in terms of time. So at this point, we're fairly confident based on that experience surveyor around the costs.

In relation to the funding strategy for the project, it does include the possibility of securing funding from other levels of government. Council's current renewal allocation for the project (inaudible) healthy state for users until a replacement facility can be delivered. The old heating system failed and could not be repaired due to the lack of availability of parts, so two new wall-mounted units were installed, but we do acknowledge that the notification of the work should have been much better than what it was and we will work with members of the Community Advisory Committee to address their concerns including the reinstatement of the war memorial dedications.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: We'll now move on to the second question. "Council refuses to repair two broken stumps or address the flooding under our hall because the plan Council is considering this evening is to demolish the hall, yet Council now spends thousands of dollars installing reverse cycle air conditioning when our hall has adequate heating and fans for cooling and gas will still be required for the hot water and stove facilities in the kitchen. Robyn?"

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you, Genevieve, for your second question. Typically replacing one or two stumps is not a viable option and it would result in really us needing to restump the whole building, and in the case of the Deans Marsh Hall, replacing all of the stumps would then trigger the requirements of the National Construction Code, meaning the whole building would need to be brought up to current-day standards.

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The hall, as those of you from Deans Marsh know, is in the low-lying part of the reserve, meaning water from throughout the site drains towards the building. This is one of the primary reasons for the redevelopment. The Deans Marsh Facility Development Plan was prepared to address the issues such as the water pooling, the mould and further deterioration of the structures supporting the building. In the meantime, Council officers will continue to inspect and review the building to ensure it is safe for use. Thank you, Genevieve.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Is Jenny Matheson here?

JENNY MATHESON: Thank you, everyone, for coming to the Hinterland and the set-up is really nice. I hope you come back again fairly soon because it saves us travelling down, but it's really good to see everybody up here.

I do have two questions. There is a segue between them. So the first one is regarding the Globe Theatre. Six weeks ago, the Globe Theatre was closed to public users. Termites were found in a section of the floor.

Now, the Winchelsea community has gone through years of having buildings closed at different times, so the leisure time centre was closed for five years, we had the Common, which was closed for many years, had the Shire Hall, which now is fabulous, thank you, but it was closed for several years, and the old library is currently closed and we really don't know where that's going, I don't think anybody does. But my concern for the community behind me is how long will it be before we know when we can have the Globe Theatre open again?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Yes, that's an important question.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: That's alright, you can answer that, Ms Seymour.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you, Jenny. That is a really important question. What we've been waiting for is the permit because it's heritage listed, so we applied for a permit to be able to do the work, and so that's now come through, which is great. So we will be commencing the work on site. We got the exemption just late last week.

So we're now working with our contractors to remove the floorboards and undertake the termite treatment and we expect that the work will commence within the next two to four weeks. That's the first phase, though, because after that there's the work we need to do around the remediation of the floor

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and any other work that's needed as assessed by the structural engineer and that will include ventilation to reduce the potential of future termite infestation and these remediation works will also require a permit, so it will be a second permit, so we'll be applying for that exemption from Heritage Victoria. But we'll make sure that officers provide regular updates to the CAC and the wider community on how that's progressing.

JENNY MATHESON: Thank you very much. And rolling into the second question - it is sort of related - the Movie Club has always functioned for six years out of the Globe Theatre and of course we have had to relocate. And we worked closely with the community house committee and we're very comfortable in the Shire Hall, thank you very much.

There is a big problem, though. We have six heaters, I think, given to us by the shire - not us, the committee - and they're those little white ones that run off power point. If you run more than four plus a heater and the very necessary - you run four heaters plus an ern and a projector, you run the risk of tripping the circuit. So my question is, is it possible to look at the upgrading of the power system in the Shire Hall?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you for your second question. So officers are working to engage an approved contractor to inspect the electrical system so we can see what's going on there, Jenny, and ensure that the six mobile heaters can operate without tripping the system and once we've had a look at that, we'll let you know what the next steps are.

As you might be aware, the previous heating system had reached its end of life and is identified for replacement through our current renewal program. The challenge is that we need to meet the requirements of the heritage overlay and that's impacting our timelines in terms of getting that heating system replaced.

So our Council contractors are currently developing options for the new system for Council to assess and discuss with the heritage authorities. But obviously having the replacement system in place ultimately is what we're keen to do, but we will inspect the electrical system and see what's happening there with the current devices.

JENNY MATHESON: Yes. Thank you very much.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Our next question is from Beau Carter in Torquay. Beau, are you here?

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BEAU CARTER: Hi, everyone. Can you hear me alright? My question - I've got two questions regarding the local amenity community law 2021 - sorry, I'll just get the - the proposed removal of paragraph (j) is at odds with community standards. It particularly makes women and young girls vulnerable to sexual assault at a place where they should be feeling safe. That's the first question. The second one is who proposed the removal of section (j) and where did this idea come from?

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thanks, Beau, for your question. So there are laws in place to protect our - these laws are in place to protect our community from people behaving in offensive or threatening ways and these include the Summary Offences Act and the Crimes Act and so in relation to the removal of that provision, provision (j), around --

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Should we read provision (j)?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I was just going to suggest we should tell people what that provision is, Mayor Pattison.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Yes, I can just bring that up so people understand what that is. Just bear with me for one moment.

CR PAUL BARKER: I've got it here if you want.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: It's alright. I've got it here. Have you got the actual one, Paul? Oh, yes, sure, did you want to read provision (j) then?

CR PAUL BARKER: I don't have the last sentence, but 6.2 on --

SPEAKER: We've got a copy right here.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. So this is in relation to behaviour in municipal buildings: "Except for a child under the age of six (6) years in the care of a responsible person, and for a carer providing assistance to a person with a disability, enter or use any dressing room, shower, convenience or other area in a Municipal Building which has been appropriated for persons of the opposite gender".

So in relation to that clause, so the community is aware of what we're talking about, and your concerns around safety, that's where there are laws in place around the Summary Offences Act and the Crimes Act, so police are responsible if there is concern for people's safety generally in toilets because

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that's in the general nature of safety in toilets. So people should call the police if they have any concerns around inappropriate people or behaviours happening in and around toilets.

So the intention of the change to the Local Law is to make our facilities more inclusive and respectful of everyone regardless of their gender. It will support people who identify as non-binary and also allow for a mother, like myself, to take their seven-year-old son into the female toilets with them, which I think is an important - or similarly a father to take his seven-year-old daughter into a toilet, which happens often when you're out at parks and the like.

Legally this change is required so that we are compliant with the federal Sex Discrimination Act and the Victorian Gender Equality Act. So it was through a gender impact assessment that it was identified that this is required and this is important so that our facilities are inclusive for all in our community.

BEAU CARTER: So it's from the State Government, is it?

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: No. There are those overarching rules, but we have - the Council undertook a gender impact assessment and identified that it wasn't inclusive for our community and it also - as we've identified, there are safety concerns for children that would need to enter toilets unaccompanied by an adult.

BEAU CARTER: Did you engage with the community about it?

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: That's what we're doing now. So this Local Law is now going out for - so tonight at this meeting, if endorsed by Councillors, it will then go out to the community for consultation and I encourage you to provide further feedback at that point. Thank you for raising your questions, Beau. I appreciate you coming along tonight.

BEAU CARTER: Thank you.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Mayor Pattison, can I just clarify, just in case people haven't understood what is being said, there's currently a prohibition in the Local Law that stops adults of one gender going into toilets and change rooms labelled for another gender and the proposal is that be taken out of the Local Law so there will be no prohibition in the Local Law in the future effectively to stop a man going into women's toilets or change rooms or vice versa and I'm not sure that --

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thanks, Councillor Wellington.

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CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Sorry, if I could just --

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: This is going to be discussed in the agenda.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I understand, but I'm just thinking that some people might not want to stay for the Local Law discussion and might not understand the context of the question and --

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: I've responded to the question. I think we need to move on with the meeting. Thank you, Councillor Wellington, and thank you, Beau.

We've now finished our public question time and we'll now move on with the agenda. We have no petitions that have been received for this meeting and there are no notice of motions, so we can move on to the important part of the business, which is the reports that we're all here to listen to and to see progress.

So our first report is the Draft Moriac Structure Plan 2023. The purpose of our first report tonight is to seek Council's endorsement of the Draft Moriac Structure Plan for community engagement purposes.

Councillors, we have been advised by officers that there was an administrative error in point 2 of the recommendation, as the four-week exhibition period is mentioned and it should have actually been a six-week period. Officers will display a corrected recommendation on the screen for us to consider. But once again, the change is just in point 2 that the consultation period will be six weeks. Do I have a mover of a motion?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I'll move.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. And Councillor Wellington, is that as per the recommendation?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: As per the amended recommendation.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Great. And do I have a seconder? Councillor Schonfelder. Would you like to speak to the motion, Councillor Wellington?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thanks very much. Actually, the Moriac Structure Plan was the very first issue that I dealt with as a Councillor when I was elected in 2012 and I'd like to welcome the Earles here tonight, who were

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a big part of that. It's great to see you out here at Winchelsea as well. And here we are again 12 years later. It's unbelievable really.

So the purpose of the motion is to authorise the public exhibition of the new structure plan. Moriac has moved really nicely, I believe, in the period since 10 or 12 years ago, when the first structure plan, or the first structure plan that I was involved in, was introduced.

Moriac is a really beautiful village and it's never going to be a metropolis, and of course it shouldn't be, but its village feel does make it very special in the Hinterland and it needs to be retained and that is certainly reflected in this draft plan.

The purpose of a structure plan is to identify key structural priorities - it seems obvious, but just to reinforce that - for the township, including areas for residential growth and development as well as priorities for key infrastructure development and that planning needs to be done in the context of a knowledge and understanding of the culture and the feel of the town and the aspirations of the residents. There's been a lot of work done in talking to the residents about what they would like in the future and a lot of that is reflected in the plan or at least noted in the plan, in the draft plan as it is now.

There's a few big issues. There's lots of issues in there that I could mention. I think that the development of Moriac has been very sensitive and very beautiful and the development of the Earle estate - in fact, I saw the Earles at a community event at the weekend and said the same thing, that estate is really a great addition to the town and very attractive and very nicely designed and that's the sort of development we need in Moriac to keep that small village feel and larger blocks and all that sort of thing. So I think it's been good to date and we just need to keep that pattern up.

There's a few big issues. As I said, structure planning is about big structural issues and there's a few issues that I think have not been given due attention in this, but it's not really - it's really important that the community responds to this and tells us what they think.

The first thing is the major problem with Moriac is the railway line and the Hendy Main Road-Cape Otway Road intersection. It's a massive problem and a huge concern for people who traverse Coombes Road and Hendy Main Road and who live in the area and families who take their children to school right next to that railway line.

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So recently I've been following up a concern of a parent that there is simply a three-wire fence between the school car park and the railway line with an express train running from Melbourne to Warrnambool along that line.

So there are big structural issues. This plan identifies that intersection, but it doesn't come up with a solution and it more or less says it's too big and too expensive. I'm not sure that I'm personally satisfied with that, but I'll be interested to see what the community has to say about it.

I think generally the Moriac community supports continuing modest growth, which obviously will have limits. There's limits, natural or infrastructure limits around Cape Otway Road and around the Thompson Creek, but there is support for growth and there's proposed continued growth to the south east and I think that makes great sense, but we'll see what that's about.

So there needs to be a solution to that Hendy Main Road-Cape Otway Road intersection with the railway line. There also needs to be a solution to the traffic congestion around the school and I think those are big structural issues and should be addressed in a structure plan. We should be advocating for the train to stop at Moriac. It's dismissed in this draft plan as being infeasible. I'm not sure that that is right. Anything is feasible if the right advocacy strategy is adopted.

There's a couple of things in the plan that I think shouldn't be in a structure plan. There's discussion about town entry signage. That to me is not a structure plan issue, that's a community amenity and visitor amenity issue, and entering signage is actually important for a town, it's important to support the culture of the town and make people feel proud. It doesn't need to be in a structure plan. We ought to be doing that as a project and get on with it.

I think the Lions park is in the same category. The Lions park needs to be upgraded, it seriously needs to be addressed, and it would make an enormous difference to Moriac if the Lions park was addressed, as it was proposed to be addressed, and that is sort of put on the future issues here as well. Issues of contamination I believe have been resolved and so surely this is not a structure plan issue, it's a project issue, and we need to get on with it and deal with that for Moriac.

There's a couple of references in the plan that I sort of questioned. It didn't seem right. There's a reference to the population of the Deans Marsh and Moriac districts and I just wondered, Deans Marsh is quite a way away - unless that's some special statistical area, I wonder whether it's sort of crept in there unintentionally, and on page 40 there's referrals to - references to lot types in

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Winchelsea again, which I think is not correct. So there might have been a bit of cutting and pasting, but I am very - and they need to be addressed before it goes out. I'm really interested in the community view.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Wellington. We've now reached past your time. So thank you.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thanks, Mayor Stapleton - Mayor Pattison.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And we now move on to Councillor Schonfelder. Did you want to speak to the motion?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Thank you, Mayor. As a fourth generation - not a fourth, sorry, a fourth generation Councillor from my family who served in local government in this area and as a sixth generation resident, I would like to pay my respects to the First Nations people because since being elected, I've had the honour of meeting Elders and they have told me a lot about the history of certain areas in the Moriac district and I'd like to note that Moriac itself in the Wathaurong language means bramble (bidgee-widgee) and native raspberry, and Mayor, I in particular love raspberries.

With this structure plan, it's going out for consultation and having attended many Moriac community network meetings and also just liaising with people in the township, people are very enthusiastic about the future of Moriac and there's a great love of the area from the community, and that was illustrated well last Sunday at the opening of the new Modewarre fire station, which I had the honour of attending, and as Councillor Wellington has stated, a life member is actually in attendance tonight, Mr John Earle, and he kindly gave me a tour of the new facility, which was fantastic. Now we're coming out of COVID, people seem - appear to be much happier when it comes to attending community events and I imagine when it comes to the new structure plan, people will feel likewise.

I know that when it comes to boundaries and when it comes to ascertaining how large a settlement should be, there's eternal debate whether it should be based on roads that exist in certain areas, such as Heidi Road and other roads in the Moriac district, or whether it should follow the creek. So I'd be very interested to hear from the community about that.

Councillor Wellington touched on the lot sizes, which are, on average, about an acre and I think it works very well for the Moriac area to have acre blocks and I really encourage members of the community to make submissions and I look forward to future conversations about Moriac.

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I know that the railway station was mentioned, possible railway station, which I think is something that would be wonderful to be reinstated. I know that when my grandfather was a Councillor, there was a rail derailment there, sadly. That's one thing I remember my late grandfather telling me about. But look forward to future discussions about this item. Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors wish to speak, Councillor Bodsworth?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. I agree with Councillors Wellington and Schonfelder, it's a great draft in my opinion and I look forward to hearing what sort of responses we get from the community. I wrote some notes which were very similar to what Councillor Wellington was saying about the intersection in the middle of town and I appreciate that these are big pieces of infrastructure that are difficult to modify, but I've noted that air pollution and noise pollution are both top-tier priorities for the World Health Organization. They're important issues, public health and amenity and aesthetic issues as well as safety issues, and I think that the draft deals well with the safety aspect of that intersection, but I don't feel that it deals well with the public health and aesthetic amenity effects of that intersection.

I do know that between pavement design and speed limits, there are two reasonably achievable modifications that can make a big difference, particularly to truck noise. I think that that could also apply here in the centre of Winchelsea, where truck noise is a big issue, and I agree that we should continue to try to help with that as far as we can, given that we're not the authority for those pieces of infrastructure.

But a couple of other things that I wanted to note was the acknowledgment of Wathaurong traditional owners and some really great information in section 2.1, including a fantastic illustrative map of traditional owner landmarks in the Moriac area, which I think is a fantastic addition to a structure plan. It gives it that context stretching way back before European settlement. So I find that a great addition.

I think the Surf Coast Shire Council has done structure plans well for quite a while. Well before becoming a Councillor I appreciated the structure plans and I appreciate this one and look forward to hearing what people have to say about it. Thanks.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Hodge?

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CR ROSE HODGE: Thank you. Just very quickly, I'm sure we're going to get a very detailed feedback from the community. I attended a Moriac Mother's Day market and I was really surprised at all the information that was there. Ambassadors were at the front of the market welcoming people and saying, "What do you want, what do we need?", and the amount of information they were given and taking down and listening was really quite remarkable.

So I'm looking forward to hearing back because I think we're going to get some really good feed-in from great community people that are putting a lot of time and work in and of course a lot of our work has been in the background report done by the officers, which has helped the community. So I think it will be one of those community feedbacks that will be very, very community spirited and I'm sure we'll be told exactly what they need. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Wellington, did you have any closing remarks?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Yes, I just had one question, actually, I meant to ask earlier. Sorry. There's a reference in the plan to monitoring the quality of water in the Thompson Creek and I think the action is to advocate for someone else to do that and I just wondered who's responsible for doing that and is it not possible for us to do it because the Thompson Creek obviously runs eventually into the Karaaf Wetlands.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Ms Seymour?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you, Mayor Pattison. So I would imagine it's the CCMA that are responsible for that monitoring, Councillor Wellington.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thank you. So it's obviously pretty relevant to Moriac because, you know, there's no reticulated sewerage system there, so the issue of the ability of the land to absorb waste water is a really important limiting factor on the growth of Moriac.

I think that there is - there's 70 pages of fairly dense discussion in this plan and for people who don't feel that they want to or can read the whole lot, there's a summary actually on pages 58, 59 and 60 of the plan, which is just the overall framework. So it talks about the theme, the principles, the strategies and the actions and that's probably a good place to start for people in the community to see what's in this plan and see what comments they would like to make.

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And I'd really encourage people to do that and hopefully we can get - one of the big advantages of Moriac is it's a small community like Winchelsea, so when there's something like this to be talked about, it is possible to get the word out and get the community really engaged, so I'm hoping that we do that and we get lots of submissions back. People really love the places where they live everywhere, but that can definitely be said for the people who live in Moriac.

So I'm happy to endorse the motion that this goes out for public exhibition for six weeks. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to a vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to the Winchelsea Mud Hut Project - Consultation and Funding Update. The purpose of our next report is to provide a summary of the feedback from the seven-day consultation period and seek Council's endorsement of the proposed project funding strategy for the Winchelsea Mud Hut Project. Do we have a mover of a motion. Councillor Schonfelder. Is that as per the recommendation? Yes. And a seconder? Councillor Wellington. Councillor Schonfelder, do you wish to speak to the motion?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Yes, please, Mayor. The recommendation notes the community feedback from the consultation period, also adopting the design concept developed by the community-led project control group. Once again, I'd like to congratulate the members of the control group, Richard Butler, Alison Dean, also Mike Tucker and Jackie Doyle also participated.

I must say that I was in favour of a replica being built of the Mud Hut. I've actually celebrated birthdays there. It was built when I was eight years old, very fond of the building and I felt it added to the history of Winchelsea. But having spoken to members of the community and local traders, as well as Richard Butler and Alison Dean in particular, they suggested that a more open design would allow more light and be less dingy and would also match the public toilets and the playground area with the skillion designs there.

I also think the fact that there's more timber in this updated design has been welcomed by the community, so I feel very positive now in relation to that because I was quite upset, like many other members of the community, about the original design and I made no secret of the fact that I thought that it was actually a mistake. I was horrified. And I have had many locals tell me that they're so grateful that the Council have decided to modify the design and I

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commend the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Seymour, for the way in which she has acted in relation to this matter.

I know that I enjoy visiting the Botanic Gardens in Melbourne quite often and for people who are familiar with the Botanic Gardens, there's an area called the Terrace where it has a skillion design and it also has an arbour and I know an arbour has been suggested and also an observation platform and I will advocate on behalf of the community to have that built because I believe the location is of very high historical significance in relation to First Nations people because it may be disputed, but we are in the Kulin Nation at the moment, the Wathaurong traditional owner space, and over the river is the Maar nation and that is significant in itself. Also the fact that the Austins settled in Winchelsea and Winchelsea was once referred to as Austin's Ford and the Austins came west as far as they could find water and they found water with the Barwon River.

The historic buildings in the precinct, the town hall, the old shire hall - I'm biased, but I think it's perhaps the most beautiful town hall in Victoria. We have the third oldest hotel in Victoria, the Barwon Hotel, and I note tonight, Mayor, that we have Mrs Jennifer Bantow OAM, who has probably forgotten more about history and heritage than I know, but Mrs Bantow, we met through the National Trust and I am a past volunteer at a very significant building which is Barwon Park and I believe when Barwon Park was built, it was the most significant building in the Southern Hemisphere possibly within that timeframe and also Australia.

And I know that Richard Butler has mentioned to me that we need to record and perhaps have a walking trail with the very significant historical buildings in Winchelsea. We are actually adjacent to a stadium here where the RSL have their office and that's a very significant building because Walter Burley Griffin designed the bricks built with that building, so something to be very proud of. But I know that having modern buildings like I referred to at the Botanic Gardens, the Terrace there, that's surrounded by extremely significant historic buildings, including Government House, and I think attracting families and different people to come and have barbecues and I'll add a little bit further in my right of reply, so really happy with the final result. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Wellington, did you wish to speak?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thanks very much. Well, the purpose of the motion tonight is to seek endorsement of the funding strategy and finalise the acceptance of the design of the Mud Hut. It's a very much loved facility in

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Winchelsea, as everyone in this room would know. It was developed by the community many years ago and I'm sure it was done with far less fuss than has occurred around this current project.

The project has been retrieved from I think a very difficult position and I'd like to thank the community as well, the members who represented the community really well in overseeing the amended design.

I love the design, but really it's not about what I love, it's about what the community wants and is willing and happy to accept. So I wouldn't seek to impose my views on that, but I do think the design is nice. I felt there was a real need to go back to the community with the final design and give the community a say and that's why we had that albeit short, but nevertheless I think quite effective consultation period after the last Council meeting. I'm very glad indeed that that consultation occurred because it gives me confidence to support the design and the funding proposal tonight.

19 people responded to the shire's electronic request for commentary, a 2 to 1 satisfaction ratio. About two-thirds were satisfied, one-third was dissatisfied. I don't think that's a ringing endorsement. It's a majority vote.

But I joined with members of the project control group, the community members Richard and Jenny Matheson and Mike Tucker. We were up the street for a morning there on a Saturday. We probably spoke to about 70 or 80 people I think in total and in that consultation I got a very strong view. The community was saying the new design is way better than the original design. Everyone looked at it. Not one single person said, "Oh, no, compared to the first one I don't like this one, this one is no good." People were, "It's very much improved." That was the very strong feedback and the very strong feedback also was, "We want to move forward with it and implement this."

Nobody hated it at all. There was some people still saying "wish we could have the old Mud Hut" and some people wanting more natural looking structures, but generally people felt that it should be implemented and I think I agree with that.

There's some really good ideas that came out of the consultation. Mike and Richard both convened a meeting at the shire hall and about 15 to 20 people came to that and again some good ideas came out of it.

The overall cost of the project is \$265,000. \$80,000 is for the additional woodwork and fixing up, I suppose. It's a huge amount of money. I won't comment further. We need this structure. The issue of efficiency of projects

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such as these I believe needs to be looked at and needs to be debated at another time. I can't believe what we're spending on it, but I'm very grateful to Council for supporting it. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Wellington. Would any other Councillors - Councillor Bodsworth?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. I agree with the previous Councillor's words. I'm a landscape architect by profession, so I'm interested in this kind of thing. My practice was in public buildings, buildings in the public sphere, and as Councillor Wellington said before, people love the places they live in and the public buildings in those places are particularly important to people.

So my main observation in this, and without - I guess with the benefit of hindsight and without trying to suggest any blame, I don't think we did a good enough design job in the first place. I think that we're the current custodians of some incredibly special places and we need to do justice to those places in our planning and design. We've looked at the Moriac draft structure plan. I think that that does a good job in its way as a structure document of doing justice to the special values of Moriac, but I think a building like the Mud Hut replacement needed to do justice to its setting, which is a fantastic setting, as Councillor Schonfelder said.

So I'm also a fan of the new design, but as Councillor Wellington said, it's even less my town than it is hers, so it's up to the people of Winchelsea to embrace it. I look forward to moving forward with it and I think it's got to a really good place and I particularly would like to thank the project control group and the members of the community who rallied around to make this as good as it's looking now. Thanks.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard?

CR KATE GAZZARD: Yes, thank you. I'll just add I really like the design as well and I was really impressed with the community and Council's dedication to getting community engagement in a very short period of time over the seven days, so well done to everyone. I think my favourite verbatim quote is, "This is fine, hurry up and build it". So yes, well done to the community on all your advocacy around this and I look forward to seeing it being built.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Barker?

CR PAUL BARKER: It was a pleasure hearing from Winchelsea community about their desires for the Mud Hut and what the redevelopment might look

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like. While this design might not be exactly what everyone in the local community may want, what it does represent is a truly consultative process between Council and the community.

One of the design features that is going to be a significant benefit is the angle of the roof. It might not seem like much, but it actually accounts for the wind, rain and sun. Because of the angle of it, it is going to minimise the impact of the view for the river area from Barwon Terrace and based on the wind rows, the historic winds, it will provide a reasonable degree of protection from the rain should the rain come in and due to the north-facing element, it's actually going to allow as much natural light in as possible. So other than the aesthetics, it's a really functional, well-designed project.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Did you have any closing remarks, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: I do, Mayor. I need to be very honest and say that I was very upset about what happened with the Mud Hut, to be honest, and I feel that it's a sad reflection on my colleague and my predecessors, who sadly neglected to have the hut upgraded --

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Point of order, Madam Mayor, if you don't mind.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder, can you please move on about the motion?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I'd like to think about relevance, a point of order on relevance.

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Well --

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Point of order, Mayor Pattison.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And I've asked Councillor Schonfelder to keep to the point. Sorry, I've actually asked him to.

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Sadly, Mayor, the truth hurts and --

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Oh, Mayor Pattison, can you please --

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder, can you please --

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CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Councillor Schroeter would be turning in his grave --

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Excuse me, Councillor Schonfelder please be quiet while we hear the point of order. That's the Governance rules.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Point of order. It's a complete lack of respect for current Councillors and previous Councillors. One also is in the room. Councillor McIntyre, welcome to you as well. You were wonderful to work with and nice to see you here tonight.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Schonfelder, could you please move on to your closing remarks specifically around the recommendation and keep it to the point, please.

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Well, I endorse the recommendation and one positive part of COVID I'd say is the fact that people are walking their dogs more in town and I'm hoping that there will be water available with the new Mud Hut and I believe it will be and it would be great if dogs did have access to water there also and I think the Mud Hut should have been upgraded years ago. I won't say any more. It's caused a lot of stress to me and, sadly, I feel that some colleagues don't care about that.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: I think we'll leave it there, Councillor Schonfelder.

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to vote. All those in favour. Thank you, and the motion is carried unanimously.

We'll now move on to the next item. The next one is the potential discontinuance and sale of Council-owned pathway between Smith and Warner Streets, Winchelsea. The purpose of this item is to advise Council of the outcome of the community engagement relating to the discontinuance of the pathway between Smith and Warner Streets in Winchelsea and to seek approval to discontinue the pathway and sell the land, being an area of 243 square metres. Do I have a mover of a motion? Councillor Wellington. Is that as per the recommendation?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Yes, thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And do I have a seconder? Councillor Schonfelder. Councillor Wellington, would you like to speak?

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CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thank you very much. This will just be brief. This is 243 square metres of public land which is no longer needed for public use. It's acted as an access point in Winchelsea. It's effectively a laneway, but it is going to be replaced with a similar laneway effectively about less than 40 metres to the east of the current laneway.

So it's been through a consultation process. There's been no objections. The sale will be for \$31,000. The money will go into future Winchelsea projects and the land will no doubt be a lovely additional space to the four adjacent homes which will get the benefit of it, or the adjacent blocks. But from my perspective, it's been through the proper process, there's no problem with it. We should just approve it and move on. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to speak?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: I reserve my right, thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Barker?

CR PAUL BARKER: A question. How does the approximate value per square metre relate to adjoining land.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: I'll pass that through to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: So the process by which we are required to sell the land is we have to get it valued and so I don't know what the - how it compares to the value of the land around that, Councillor Barker, but we have had an independent evaluation of the land as we're required to do and that valuation came back at \$31,000, which I would imagine is similar to the land in that area, but I can't speak to that.

CR PAUL BARKER: I can. On a brief - very, very brief - assessment it's around about \$125 per square metre compared to around about \$1,000 per square metre for adjoining land. I think we're getting absolutely reamed on this.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Did you want to speak further to the motion? No? Thank you. Any other Councillors wish to speak? Councillor Wellington, did you have any closing remarks?

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CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thanks, Mayor Pattison. Look, I had thought of the same issue and it seems to me it's 243 square metres, so I didn't look at equivalent values per square metre, but I thought if you had two and a half of these blocks, you'd effectively have a small house block in Winchelsea. So I sort of doubled it by two and a half and got to the price we're getting for it is about \$76,000 and obviously you can't buy a house block in Winchelsea for \$76,000, but I don't know how you value these pieces of land. They're a tiny strip behind - relatively small strip behind four other properties. It's a bit of a windfall for the properties, but it won't add the value of the whole block. You know, the question is what value does it add to them? It certainly adds amenity value. Whether it adds a lot of value to each individual property I don't know.

Probably the developer at the end of the day of those blocks gets benefit out of it.

I don't know what the answer to this is. It's the same issue in Cyprus Lane. How do you value Cyprus Lane? It's not a freestanding house block. No-one can build on it. This has actually some public health and safety issues I think too that need to be thought of in this.

So on the basis of it being quite small and on the basis of it being of no benefit to anybody else, which no doubt would substantially reduce its market value, I'm satisfied with it. But I appreciate the point you're making, Councillor Barker, I do understand it, and I think it would benefit for us - it would be a benefit for us to explain a bit to the community how these valuations are made, what criteria are applied to valuing a piece of land that's of no use to anyone else but potentially quite considerable benefit to a small number of people.

So I'm happy for it to go on this basis, but I understand the point you're making. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to a vote. All those in favour. All those opposed. And the motion is carried.

We now move on to item number 4, the Residential Nature Strip Policy review. The purpose of our next report is to present the reviewed SCS-059 Residential Nature Strip Policy to Council for adoption. Do I have a mover of a motion? Councillor Wellington. Is that as per the recommendation?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thank you.

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MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Bodsworth. Would you like to speak to the motion, Councillor Wellington?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thank you very much, Mayor Pattison. Council previously approved, a couple of meetings ago approved, the Residential Nature Strip Policy and Guidelines. I didn't support that motion because I felt there was a lot of inconsistencies and inappropriate prohibitions included within those documents that had actually no mechanism to be implemented at that point and there seemed to have been a bit of a breakdown in the notion of what do we want versus what have we got the power to implement. And I thought that that caused a great deal of community uncertainty potentially, so I then moved a motion at the following meeting and I explained all my concerns about them and the Council supported that motion and these documents went back for further work.

I think the only thing I would say is I think the work that's being done is really good. I spent a lot of time going through explaining what I saw as the issues and regulatory law is my interest, of course, and I went through explaining the issues that I saw with the policy and they were - they've all been addressed in the new draft. So all the prohibitions that should never have been in a policy document have been removed and I think that's a really good thing, so I'm quite happy with the current draft as a policy. The guidelines will be now addressed as part of the local law amendment and they'll be incorporated into the local law, which then gives a mechanism for them to actually be enforced. So I'm quite happy with that process.

I think a number of people, including some around this table, huffed and puffed a bit and said this is - you know, it's ridiculous and it's, you know, not necessary. It is necessary. When you're creating a law, which is what the local laws are and what the guidelines were intended to be, it is absolutely necessary. It's an absolute principle of administrative law that they should be no more complex than is necessary to give effect to the policy and that legislation should enable those affected by the law to understand it and understand how it applies, and I think that was not the case with the previous two documents and it is much clearer now with the current policy at least.

I regret that getting to this point took so much time - certainly for me, but perhaps also for others - and I would very much like to see a review of the processes that this Council adopts when we're making laws and regulations or we're attempting to impose things on the community such as in the previous document we said something like "you'll be penalised if you don't maintain your nature strip". Now, I don't know how the community would react to that if they'd have realised that's what was being said to them. I think there would

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be a lot of people being penalised potentially and there might be quite a reaction to that.

So it's not the way to go about dealing with nature strips. We try to encourage people to make them nice and add to the amenity and not cause environmental damage, which some of our nature strips, particularly in North Torquay, there's a tendency to cover them with compacted gravel, which is environmentally really unsound, and it's time we stopped it and we should have been enforcing a long time ago and we need to stop it and this policy now clearly says that's not - and the guidelines, you know, that's not an acceptable way to treat your nature strip and I'm very much hoping that not only will we say it, but we'll enforce it because it's very bad for the environment, particularly the Karaaf Wetlands.

So I'm pleased to see the policy. If you look at the level of amendment to it, you can see the redline version, it's been substantially changed, but I think it's good now and I'm happy to support it. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth, did you wish to speak to the motion?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. I'm also happy to support this policy and I thank Councillors and Council officers for the work that they've put in to getting it right. I think that the version that we've got in front of us is really good.

I particularly would like to thank members of the communities around the shire who've contributed as well and I particularly would like to point out the principal basis of the policy and the first principle is nature strips are a public space that contribute to a sense of place and community and I think that's particularly relevant here in Winchelsea, where we had the example of the honest and free stand, which in fact was one of the I guess exemplars of what was wrong with the previous approach to nature strips and what could be right with a new approach to nature strips, which was to try to find ways of people to love their nature strips and share with their neighbours and create that sense of community.

It's really an opportunity on nature strips for people to engage in really local level place making activities that improve the place that they live in. So I appreciate that the policy has brought that principles basis and provides a way for people to do that and to add value to their communities and increase that sense of community spirit.

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Another person that I'd like to acknowledge is Sue Carr in Torquay who's been a really fierce advocate around the issue particularly that Councillor Wellington mentioned, which is inappropriate surfacing of nature strips that reduces the permeability of the soil and increases rainfall runoff rather than allowing rainfall to soak into the soil and replenish the sort of soil profile.

So I've learned a lot about nature strips and my appreciation of nature strips has come along a lot over this process. They really are - they're very valuable pieces of land for all kinds of reasons and I think this policy sets it out really well. Thanks.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard?

CR KATE GAZZARD: Thank you. Yes, there's been a lot of work done into this policy. I really like the principle-driven - so there's the five principles around public space, sense of place and community, around safety, around a healthy environment for people, plants and animals, supporting climate change response and managing risk of fire and then housing essential services.

So nature strips are very important and we've been talking a lot lately about place making and what makes a place and I think if we can have - feel at home with our nature strips and things like growing vegetables and sharing, that can really add to our community and that sense of belonging. So I think, yes, nature strips are really important in so many ways.

I will just point out the amendments, particularly in principle 3 and 4, the line has been crossed out about Council not permitting hard surfaces such as gravel, concrete and artificial turf, so if anyone is concerned about that, it actually in the next item that we're discussing, Council are not allowing gravel or compact surfaces. So the point that it's taken out of this doesn't actually stop, it's still not permitted, so just if anyone was concerned about that. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Barker.

CR PAUL BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. This will be a lesson to Councillors, officers and the community, but if you want to ram policy through without conducting appropriate due diligence, you may very well find that work is doubled up to correct areas.

While I'm opposed to authoritarian policy dictating how individuals must behave in public spaces, when wording such as "nature strips play an active

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role in supporting Council's climate change response", you really need to question the validity of such a claim.

Then when you make the loose claim of "trees and grassed nature strips can contribute to reducing the overall heat effect", you lose me and many others who are sick and tired of hyperbolic claims. Then this line, "residents need to have space available in the nature strip to place their bins for collection on garbage collection days". I see many examples where placing bins on the road is a far more practical place for them to be located for collection. And if I were to be pedantic, I'd edit that line to read "available on the nature strip", not "in", but I failed year 10 English, so what would I know?

I think you should be able to do what you want with your nature strip if you're maintaining it. Now, I can appreciate the intent is to provide policy that creates certainty, but when you go off the rails claiming environmental alarmism, you get a big fat no from me.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other councillors wish to speak? Do you have any closing remarks, Councillor Wellington?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thank you very much. Look, I do think that nature strips contribute very much to our environment. There's about - if you add up all the area in nature strips, I think it was 800 acres. I asked that question a few months ago and I think there's about 800 acres of land in municipal nature strips and if they're covered in granitic sand and they're not permeable, that does cause a huge impact on the environment, and the problem with that granitic sand, which is where this all arose, for me, anyway - there was two issues. One was the free stand in Winchelsea which was closed down sort of peremptorily by our officers and then was allowed to reopen, fortunately, and the other one was Sue and Pat Carr, who raised the issue of all the granitic sand in North Torquay. That does go down into the waterways, it washes off in storm events and then goes down and pollutes the Karaaf, and the Karaaf is the biggest carbon sink that we've got in this shire and it's dying because there's polluted stormwater going into it.

So I think these nature strips are really important and I think the policy should not make statements about what people can and can't do. That belongs in the local law because that's the only mechanism we've got to enforce it. So the policy itself needs to set the framework for what we want to achieve and generally I think this does way, way better than the previous one did in any case. So I'm happy with it. I appreciate Councillor Barker's concerns, but I do feel it's reasonable to progress at this point, thank you.

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MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And those opposed? And the motion is carried.

We now move on to the fifth item, Draft Proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2023. The purpose of our next report is to present the Draft Community Amenity Local Law 2023 and the Residential Nature Strip Guidelines to Council for endorsement for public exhibition and to invite submissions from the community for a period of six weeks. Do we have a mover? Councillor Stapleton. Is that as per the recommendation?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Yes, it is, thanks, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. And do I have a seconder? Councillor Gazzard. Councillor Stapleton, did you wish to speak?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: I do. Thank you, Mayor. So from time to time Council reviews the Community Amenity Local Law to make sure that it's up to date and effective. So by way of background for the community, the current local laws went through an extensive engagement and review in 2021 and were adopted by Council in December that year with a resolution to commence a more targeted review of some specific issues that we knew were important to our community. These included burning off, gravelling of nature strips, parking on nature strips, key worker accommodation, and tiny houses on wheels.

So following a review of those specific issues, Council resolved in December last year not to make any changes to the laws around burning off and key worker accommodation. With regard to tiny houses on wheels, we've announced a two-year trial of tiny houses on the Surf Coast, which is now being conducted separately by officers, so that's not part of this local law review and amendment process.

And the issues surrounding nature strips have been addressed through the development of the nature strip policy, which you've just heard about and has just been endorsed by Council, as well as the development of new Residential Nature Strip Guidelines which are being proposed to be included in the local law so that they are enforceable.

For clarity, because there's a fair bit in this, tonight we are considering endorsement of the draft amended local law 2023 and we're inviting the community - and that includes all of you, hopefully - to provide us with feedback on some of these proposed updates. So along with the new nature strip guidelines, the proposed changes include expanding the definition of no

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smoking areas to include e-cigarettes and vaping; extending provisions for camping and temporary accommodation and the keeping of animals to support people fleeing family violence; and allowing for people who identify as non-binary or gender diverse to use facilities such as toilets that are appropriate for them by removing a clause, which is clause (j) that was referred to earlier. This would also allow children over the age of 6 to be accompanied by a parent or caregiver of a different gender when using toilets and other facilities.

So most of these changes are probably self-explanatory, but given the public question we had earlier tonight regarding the removal of that clause that changes access to toilets and facilities, I'll just add a few comments. So legally, first and foremost legally, this change is required so that we are compliant with the federal Sex Discrimination Act and the Victorian Gender Equality Act. So under the Gender Equality Act, Council is required to undertake a gender equality impact assessment. Every time we want to amend or update the local laws or create a policy or strategies, we now have an officer that will undertake a gender equality impact statement to make sure that the laws and the strategies and the policies that we're creating aren't having an adverse impact on the community.

So essentially, as I think has been explained tonight, the change or the removal of this clause means that our facilities would be inclusive and respectful of everyone, regardless of their gender, so that people who identify as non-binary or gender diverse can use the toilets that are appropriate for them. As was mentioned, it would allow parents to take their 7-year-old children into the toilet with them or, importantly, parents of disabled children to take them into any bathroom without breaking the law as it currently stands.

Realistically, across the shire we don't expect to see major changes to the way that the majority of people use our public toilets as a result of this proposed change. Many other councils have never had this requirement in their local law or if they did have, most of them have been removed.

If residents are concerned about their safety, there are laws in place to protect our community from people behaving in an offensive or threatening way and people should definitely call the police if they have any issues like this from any gender or anyone in the community. We want the Surf Coast Shire to be a place that everyone can continue to enjoy and appreciate. A large part of that is to ensure that it is safe and inclusive. These changes will help to achieve this.

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Now, of course I would expect that there are a wide range of views on what's proposed through our amended local laws and I appreciate that this may be challenging for some people in our community, so please use this consultation period to share your concerns with Council so that all perspectives can be considered. I urge my fellow Councillors to support this motion tonight so the draft - and I reiterate this is a draft local law - can be placed on public exhibition for community to consider and respond over the four-week period.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Stapleton, you'll need to finish that up.

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. And Councillor Gazzard, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR KATE GAZZARD: Thank you. Yes, I'll support this motion. I think it's really important that we keep our local laws up to date and a really important area to improve gender equality.

As mentioned, the nature strip guideline changes that have been made, the gender diversity changes and I think, importantly, there's some changes around the camping laws and keeping of animals to allow longer than the maximum in the setting of domestic - people escaping domestic violence, which I think is really important. So yes, I'll support this. I recommend - I encourage the community to make submissions and we'll hopefully hear from you in the four-week period. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Would any other councillors like to speak to the motion? Councillor Barker?

CR PAUL BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. I'm happy to support the process of placing these documents up for public exhibition. Thank you to Beau for his public question at the start of the meeting highlighting what I think is a significant change to our local law.

What I am concerned about is that this policy will not be applied uniformly. There are many places where residents have made use of the nature strip for vegetation that is inconsistent with this policy. I don't care so much for this, but if any residents or ratepayers identify inconsistent policing of this policy in the future, I'd encourage them to contact me.

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A key concern for me is this extract from the agenda, 6.2, "Clause 2(j) of the Principal Local Law (Behaviour in Municipal Buildings) is deleted in its entirety as recommended through the GEIA. The deletion of this clause will remove the prohibition for people over six years old to enter a Council facility intended for use by persons of the opposite gender".

Now, with regards to prohibitions on vaping, I do not support this. Vaping emits water vapour. It is 95 to 97% safer than smoking cigarettes and is a great way to transition smokers to healthier alternatives. You take on vaping on all vapours from all levels of government is disgusting and I think is a huge attempt at growing tobacco tax by forcing people who are choosing a healthier option to go back to smoking cigarettes. And by the format of the agenda, noting a Councillor's attendance at briefings is a Y or an N, not an X.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Okay. We'll take that on board. Thanks, Councillor Barker. Any other Councillors? Councillor Wellington.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thanks, Mayor Stapleton [sic]. I'm not supporting this motion that the local law be sent out for community consultation. I'm really concerned about the sort of omnibus nature of this. There's so many issues in this that actually need to be debated properly and we've got a whole bundle of things relating to growing spinach on your nature strip compared with allowing, for example - and I just want to check if I'm correct on this, but my reading of removing clause 2.1(j) from the local law is that any adult male could go into a female change room at a facility such as this and as long as they didn't commit a criminal offence by - well, obvious criminal offences could be committed, but as long as they just walked through and used the toilets and wandered around, perhaps used the showers, they wouldn't be breaching any local law. So that's my reading. Is that correct?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Sorry, Councillor Wellington --

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Yes, I think that is correct - as long as they're not creating nuisance, but if they were, you could call the police.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: As long as they're not creating nuisance. So anyone could go into the female change rooms at our netball courts down here, any man could wander around, have children perhaps 10, 12, 14 years old, do their parents need to be there? How are those girls, if they're girls, or boys if it's a woman walks into a boys' change room, how are they going to feel?

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Now, I believe that every person, taking women as an example, which I probably know best - every woman and every person who identifies as a woman should be permitted to use a female facility. I do not believe that a man who doesn't identify as a woman but decides, for whatever reason, to go into a female change room - I don't believe that our local laws should not prohibit that. I think they should prohibit that.

I think if you're expecting a 10- or a 12-year-old girl in a netball club rooms to ring the police when a man comes in and does nothing other than wander in and use the toilet and wash their hands and probably hasn't committed a criminal offence, Councillor McIntyre might have more knowledge of that aspect of the law than me, but I don't think that would be an offence and then our Council would have nothing to enforce that - to fine people or to enforce that.

So I think Beau has raised a really important issue, which was also on my agenda. I know this has caused Councillors in other Councils to be called transphobic. I am not transphobic and if anyone chooses to call me that, I will respond and, you know, that's the reality and I've got experience in doing that. I am not transphobic. I'm just saying that there are consequences of this I don't believe have been properly thought through and it's buried in the middle of a local law change that addresses nature strips and vaping and various other amendments and I think that is inappropriate. I will not support its release to the community in this state. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Schonfelder.

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I hope you won't interrupt me and bully me while I'm speaking on this item.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Oh, point of order, Mayor Stape - Mayor Pattison.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder, can you please stick to the item that you're discussing?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: I concur with Councillor Wellington and I personally believe that if you have male genitalia, you should go to the male toilet, if you have female genitalia, you go to the female toilet. I have no exception to how people are dressed or attired at any point in time. So I will be voting against this item. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Bodsworth?

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CR MIKE BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. As Councillor Stapleton pointed out moving the motion, there are a lot of different views out in the community on that particular aspect of this item on the agenda. I'm looking forward to hearing from people and in that respect I do support putting this out as per the recommendation.

I've consulted with - I've done some reading. Along with a vast array of different subjective opinions on this matter, there's also a fairly decent array of more objective evidence-based research on this issue and I believe that we've drawn on that already in putting this position together.

In terms of Councillor Wellington's concerns, which I share, the local law would still retain the words "a person must not", just to read a few of them, "commit any nuisance in a municipal building, interfere with another person's use and enjoyment of a municipal building, act in a manner which endangers any other person, use indecent, insulting, offensive or abusive language". So not to take away from what Councillor Wellington is saying - as I said, I share some of her concerns - but those things remain in the local law and they're important to recognise.

In some of my reading - I'll read out something that I've gleaned from Architecture Australia: "There is no evidence that gender-neutral public toilets increase the potential for sexual or other violence and gender-segregated toilets do not stop men's perpetration of violence" - obviously not just men as perpetrators, that can work in the other direction - "There is not one best option. The right solution for a given situation depends on factors, including pre-existing building design, the nature of the space and who will be using it. Where possible, providing access to gender-neutral and gender-segregated toilets is ideal."

So that's part of the more objective evidence base that's out there. I think we need to continue to draw on this as well as the information or the perspectives that we get back from the community. So I support this going out for public input. Thanks.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Can I have a question, Mayor Pattison?

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Yes.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I'm just wondering - my experience of local laws in the past going out for consultation is at least something people alert to (inaudible) ...

(Live stream stops)

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: ... of Surf Coast Shire Council as to how then we respond to that when we're aware that we are not - we do not have an inclusive local law.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thank you. So just to be clear, we are not required --

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Wellington. You've put forward your questions. Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Sorry, just to - it would, however - my understanding is that it would breach the Sexual Discrimination Act.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: To not allow men in netball change rooms?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: To have the current local law that we have in place.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I'd like to see the legal advice. Is it possible for that legal advice to be disclosed to Councillors or the community?

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: We can take that on notice, thank you. Councillor Stapleton, do you have any closing remarks?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Thank you. Yes. So look, clearly there's mixed views. I'm sure we will hear back from community about their thoughts. I'm also interested in clarity around the legal requirements, but obviously we have a four-week window for the community to consider it. There will be an opportunity for a hearing of submissions if needed and obviously we'll have access to the relevant legal requirements around that particular clause.

Just a couple of comments. In relation to the attack on vaping, my understanding currently is that there are 2,807 cases of e-cigarette or vaping use that are associated with lung injury, so I think it's legitimate, and that there have been 68 deaths associated to that condition as well. Vaping still uses nicotine, which is the addictive substance in cigarettes, so I'm really happy that Council is actually extending its local law around smoking to include e-cigarettes and vaping. I just wanted to provide that clarity.

So yes, I urge Council to support this motion. I know not everybody agrees with all the changes, but it's important that we do hear from community about

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what they think, so let's get it out for public consultation and then we can consider the final local law in due course. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And all those opposed. And those abstaining? Sorry, Councillor Barker, did you change your hand?

CR PAUL BARKER: I voted for.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: You voted for. Thank you. And the motion is carried.

We now move on to item 6, Deans Marsh Community Hub Facility Development Plan - Draft for Public Exhibition. Item 4.6 is requesting Council considers endorsing the Draft Deans Marsh Community Hub Facility Development Plan and approves the release of the document for public exhibition for a period of six weeks. Do I have a mover of a motion? Councillor Barker. Is that as per the recommendation?

CR PAUL BARKER: Yes, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Hodge. Councillor Barker, do you wish to speak?

CR PAUL BARKER: Just very briefly, thank you. First I'd like to thank Tony for his public question at the start of the meeting. His research into comparing like-to-like projects highlights the disparity this project has relative to others, a concept that I'd already considered.

As you heard from Genevieve's question, there are many regulations from other levels of government that create hurdles for the maintenance of older structures. I do what I can to agitate for the removal of these hurdles. If you'd like to do this also, please let me know.

I can appreciate the desires and intent of this plan, but to base it on requiring millions of dollars of funding from the State and Federal Governments in a declining economy, it is setting this project up for failure. You've seen already the amount of projects that are getting pulled from state and federal budgets and I fear that this will probably be one of those and if we keep heading down this path with the expectation that we're going to get this funding and it dries up, what do we do then?

Push on if you wish, but know that I've highlighted the economic reality we currently live in and the high likelihood that those external funds won't appear

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as planned. I'll support this motion to move on to the public exhibition, but unless the funding model shifts to one under our control, you'll likely get a no from me when it comes back to this chamber.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Hodge?

CR ROSE HODGE: Oh, look, just very quickly, I'd like to thank the Deans Marsh community through the MADCAP and it has been a long consultation. This is finally getting all the plans together and of course we don't know what the future is, especially with funding, but we need to get it out there and make sure that this design is what they want, what they're after, and we've already heard of different views already. So no doubt there's going to be a lot of discussion and we're going to hear it back and at least we've got something to go to the future with and I think that's needed just in case there is funding and grants available.

The 50 people that were at the community listening post that I went to, it was really a community spirit and as we said before, for and against, but I'm really looking forward to this going out and actually coming back so then we can see what happens in the future. And we've got pressures right through the shire on different infrastructure, so you never know what might come up. There could be a small regional grant, there could be another grant, and we've got to be prepared for it. So I'd like to hear and see what the Deans Marsh and surrounds people need for us to go ahead with it. So I think it's great that it's going out for public exhibition. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Wellington.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I just had a question. I think there was two concept designs that were prepared and presented to the community and I just wondered whether any of them or either of them incorporated retention of the current hall or whether it was always proposed that this be a new development.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Wellington, it's my understanding that there's significant structural changes that are needed and maintaining the existing structure wouldn't be compliant once those changes happened, but I will pass it on to Ms Seymour if there's further qualifications required.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: So the GM of Place Making and Environment might want to comment on this, Councillor Wellington, but the option in terms of the retention of the current hall is challenging because effectively the requirements

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around fixing any aspects of the hall, which is part of my answer that I provided earlier, triggers a requirement for us to effectively rebuild exactly the same hall from ground up because of the amount of work that's required to repair the hall and for it to be fit to purpose, and the work that we've been doing is really understanding from the community what are their priorities and needs in Deans Marsh now and into the future and what's required. Hence the options were around two options of a new hub, as opposed to the retention of the current hall. But I don't know if the GM of Place Making and Environment wanted to comment further on that.

MR CHRIS PIKE: No, nothing to add. I think you've covered it.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Did you want to speak to the motion?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Yes, I would. I mean, I'm really concerned that we've got a community hall that's been of sufficient heritage significance to attract an overlay in the planning scheme and we've been the custodians of that building and we're now saying that it's not able to be repaired. So that concerns me greatly. What does that mean for other heritage buildings around this town or - it's almost like demolition by neglect is the term that's used usually as a negative term against developers. But I really am concerned about the notion that this organisation has overseen the deterioration of a heritage building to the point that it's not possible to retain it.

There was a - the heritage adviser, David Row, who is a very good adviser, I think he wrote this. He said, "Given this is a shire asset with some surviving historic and social value, retention of existing surviving original fabric as part of the reconstruction should be considered and it would be the ideal heritage outcome. Notwithstanding if complete demolition of the hall continues to be pursued, a heritage impact statement should have been done in accordance with the Burra Charter. Graphic evidence that an option for the reconstruction of the hall as a separate entity alongside a new development is not functionally reasonable and a conservation management plan for the recreation reserve is a net conservation benefit if the demolition of the hall is prepared."

I don't think that the first or the third ones of those have been done, as far as I know. I haven't seen them anyway. I mean, I'm happy to put this out for community consultation, but I'm deeply concerned about what seems to be the neglect of a historic place by this organisation to the point where we then tell the community it's not possible to restore or retain it and we have to replace it with a contemporary design.

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I do think the design is rather nice, I quite like it, although it did remind me a bit of a church, I have to be honest, but other than that, it is quite nice, it's got some very nice features. But again, it's not about what I like, it's about what the community wants, and I presume that there is either just acceptance of Council's view that it's not possible to fix this hall and then add to it, as we've done with numerous old bluestone homes around the district, or else they do want a new one and they're not worried about the heritage. I'm not sure which is which. I know Mr Watts has been worried about the heritage very much, but I don't know how many others in the community understand the issues or have asked to see the analysis of why it's not possible to restore this hall as part of a redevelopment.

My only other question was is it possible to offer the hall for sale? There's numerous churches and community halls around Australia that have been offered, taken up for private sale, moved to new locations and restored. Is that a possibility?

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Is that a question, Councillor Wellington?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Yes.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: It may be a possibility. I'm not sure that we've considered it, but I guess as part of the future decisions around the site and the future use of the building, it could be considered as part of that process.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thank you. I'd really consider the community look at these issues very closely in the consultation period. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I'd like to speak, please.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Sure.

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: I'd like to thank the members of the Deans Marsh community who've been very passionate about their town and, in particular, their very loved hall, also the National Trust, who have many volunteers at Barwon Park and throughout the Geelong region and are very passionate about heritage. I'd like to emphasise that when it comes to heritage, we seem to have it being eliminated step by step and it is of great concern because during the election campaign there was talk on the Council level about the goose that lays the golden egg and we don't want to kill the goose, which is this beautiful

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unique environment we have, and the uniqueness and the characteristics of certain places in particular is so important.

Overseas there have been buildings that have been moved and relocated, there are buildings that have been restored, and in fact there are buildings that have had multi-storey car parks built underneath them and I just would like to know - I won't ask this as a question, I'll just ask it rhetorically, that to actually restore the hall and possibly even build a neighbouring hall adjacent to it is also an option and the fact that the most - one of the most famous Australians ever actually performed in the hall and that was Marjorie Lawrence is something that is of very high significance.

I think in our country we seem to celebrate sporting heroes, but I'm very sad that Councillor Allen is not here today because I know he feels very passionate about it and I know there are conflicting views within the community and I know this item is asking for community feedback, but the Council is actually advocating for a brand new building and I just feel that - I agree with Councillor Wellington in what Councillor Wellington has purported and I believe the new building is aesthetically pleasing, but it's still not the same as the current building that has a lot of atmosphere.

I won't be supporting this item, I'm afraid, because I just have seen over my lifetime the removal of heritage in our area and I believe it's to our detriment and I also feel that this is akin to what was planned at Point Grey in Lorne and a lot of people were upset about that. So thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Stapleton?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Thank you. Just briefly. Look, I know that there has been an enormous amount of time and effort from the community and from officers in considering heritage and the redevelopment of the Deans Marsh Hall. I think the design is terrific, but I also appreciate that heritage is significant and is really important.

I'm confident that heritage has been thoroughly assessed throughout the process. I know not everyone is going to agree with the recommendation, but I guess, on reflection, heritage is much more than just the physical elements of the building. It's about the experiences that the Deans Marsh community has had in that space and it's about the memories, and hopefully there will be other ways to capture and acknowledge some of that heritage in the new build. Unfortunately, you know, any change to the hall is going to require us to rebuild and I think that to meet standards and community needs, we need to

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really consider a building that's going to be for the future and hopefully, through the design process, capture and interpret heritage along the way.

I know it's not ideal, but we have to work with what we've got and, yes, I encourage Councillors to support this going out for community consultation. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Bodsworth?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: I don't have anything to add in terms of the substance of the proposal, but I would just like to raise this as an example of where we've had a really high level of local engagement and really persistent local engagement, including from people who aren't happy with how things have been going as well as people who've collaborated to guide the proposal that we've had in front of us and I just think it's a great example of how important it is for us to continue our relationships with local communities.

I mean, our coming out here to Winch tonight is part of that and I guess I'd just like to encourage people in communities, even if you end up feeling like you're not getting what you want, we so appreciate hearing from people and hearing people's passion and putting us on the spot to sort of be here and defend our decision making. I think it's all really important stuff. So I'd just like to encourage people to continue to engage like that in the process. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard?

CR KATE GAZZARD: Thank you. Yes, Deans Marsh community are a really engaged, passionate and insightful community who are really wanting to improve things for their community while maintaining the heritage. This community engagement was really very impressive. The project steering group had 15 meetings. There were 30 people at the community presentation. There were 55 submissions and 11 reference user group submissions. So there has been a lot of work done and a lot of community engagement.

I think, from the heritage point of view, heritage is more than just the building and the heritage adviser has said whether we can use part of the materials and construction of the new building. The architect - the design is very impressive and it's got a six-star green star ESD performance, so a very environmentally stable design, and it just looks like a really beautiful community hall with multi-purpose rooms that will support the community, support the arts, support day care and families. So I'm really very impressed and I'll support the motion to go out for public exhibition and hear from our community.

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MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Barker, did you have any closing remarks?

CR PAUL BARKER: Just briefly. You've heard a range of different opinions on the subject. If this is of interest to you, I would highly encourage you to engage with the public submission process and if you don't, forever hold your peace.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. We now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And opposed? And the motion is carried.

We now move on to item number 7, Response to Petition - Beach Hotel Temporary Extended Outdoor Dining Area. Our next report is seeking Council's consideration of the response to the petition 'Beach Hotel Outdoor Structure'. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Gazzard. Is that as per the recommendation?

CR KATE GAZZARD: Yes.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. And a seconder? Councillor Hodge. Councillor Gazzard, did you wish to speak?

CR KATE GAZZARD: Yes, thank you. So we received a petition regarding the Beach Hotel outdoor structure, which in the Jan Juc Village the Beach Hotel during COVID opened up their outdoor dining area which, you know, there are a lot of bad things about COVID, but some of the community bonding and the outdoor and sort of parklet dining areas were I think a really actual - a positive that came out of it.

The problem with - so the outdoor dining area is lovely, but now that all the COVID restrictions are gone, the Beach Hotel only had another six months to have the outdoor dining area open. We got a petition with 1,464 responses to extend the outdoor dining area. So this recommendation is that we move forward with noting the petition, developing a policy and guideline to extend outdoor areas and we can - there was a parklet policy so that we can keep our outdoor areas thriving and particularly in the streets and in our dining areas even - sorry, I'm really babbling - contributing to the sense of community in our dining areas.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Hodge?

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CR ROSE HODGE: Thank you, Mayor. Yes, I live about 400 metres from this area and if you know the Jan Juc Village, it does need a bit of vibrancy around it occasionally. And after - with COVID and everyone sitting outside, it really rejuvenated that area. Most of the shopkeepers were happy. There are residents there. The police were a little bit concerned, but I know our officers are talking to the police about that.

We won't be the only Council doing this. I know there's many other Councils in urban and Bayside that have experienced what we went through and now they're going through drafting clear processes for place making and it's requests from the community that they've really enjoyed in this time that can they continue. And sometimes we've got to set aside business as usual and really look at new things that can incorporate the community and incorporate places that people like to visit.

It's next to a doctor's and a coffee shop and a physio and it really stimulated that area and I'd like to see it go forward. It's not too good in winter, so we don't know if it's going to continue through winter time, but I really hope our officers work not only with the owners of the Bells Beach hotel, the police and the local residents that are there too, because it does abut on to a residency. But I've certainly had no complaints there and living so close to it myself, I did see the benefits and it would really be fantastic to see those benefits continue after COVID.

So we'll see how we go. Anything new can go up and down and a few bumps along the way, but I think the community have realised now after COVID these outside places are really, really important and I think the Jan Juc Village is one of those places where it would really benefit the area and the businesses around it with a couple of car parks. There's not a lot to ask.

So I look forward to moving ahead with a policy on this and hoping the people of Jan Juc and the people that attend that area really see a different change in the vibrancy and how it's a better place making and friendly area. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Any other Councillors wish to speak?
Councillor Wellington?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thanks, yes, look, I'm happy to support this because it's about developing a policy and guidelines. I just have a word of caution. As a longstanding Councillor with an interest in planning, I often get people contact me from outside my ward about planning issues and amenity issues are probably the most common that people are concerned about being a minority where a whole community wants the exciting outdoor entertainment,

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but the people who are immediately affected can often be sort of almost viewed by others as oh, well, you know, put up with it because everyone else is enjoying it.

You know, there's got to be a balance and under the planning scheme amenity still does rate a mention. In fact, I think the planning scheme generally produces the right outcomes to these sort of applications. So it has to be a reasonable amenity impact and no individual's home and experience in their home should be sacrificed for - you know, completely sacrificed for the sake of the majority in the community.

So it's not a numbers game. It's about what's reasonable in the context. I'm not familiar with Jan Juc Village really other than in passing and I've certainly not had any complaints from anyone there, but I have had complaints along the esplanade at Torquay about the temporary facilities that were put up I think maybe last summer and also about a home-based business there where people were - you know, the complaints about music, loud music, and incessant exposure to doof doof music was one of the complaints I got from somebody in Torquay as a result of the temporary permit given to someone over the COVID period.

So I'm not saying this is not a good spot, it may well be a great spot. I went to a coffee shop this morning in Highett and it was fantastic outside and lovely and I don't think was causing a problem for anyone, but I do hope that we have a good balance in assessing these kinds of proposals to make sure that we don't sacrifice individuals unfairly for the greater good.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: Yes, I agree with that and I think that's the good thing about a policy and guidelines-based approach to this, rather than an ad hoc type of approach, is that it provides - well, two things. It provides us with a mechanism to work through it sort of methodically and to unpack all the issues and presumably include permitting or licensing arrangements that address the kind of issues that Councillor Wellington just talked to and also it provides transparency for the community to understand where we're at on it. So I fully support this recommendation. Thanks.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Barker?

CR PAUL BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. I appreciate the concerns that were the catalyst for this petition to be raised, but I would call on anyone creating a petition to do their best to ensure that only relevant signatories sign the

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petition. When petitions like this are heavily weighted with supporters from outside of the municipality, it devalues the total number who've signed. But regardless of that, what I do hope comes from this is that public space is activated for long term with consideration for neighbouring residents.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you.

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I would like to advocate the fact that there are many people who visit our municipality and I think that their thoughts are also important because it helps businesses with their revenue and we are a large tourist area and it also includes the hinterland as well and I know that in relation to this petition there are issues that are relevant to other parts of our shire as well because there's an increasing trend for pedestrianisation and also the fact that to make it easier for people who are disabled or elderly to have access to certain public areas. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard, did you have any closing remarks?

CR KATE GAZZARD: Thank you. Yes, I agree with what the Councillors have said. In this case, it has really revitalised the Jan Juc Village and it's next to Swell, which also has an outdoor dining area and it does have more of a sense of vibrant community, particularly in the summer months when we have lots of visitors. I think in winter it will obviously be a little quieter. But I think it will be great if we have a policy that can help our businesses thrive and help our community thrive as well.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

Can I now call for a motion to suspend standing orders for 10 minutes? I know we've all been sitting for two hours now and there's probably need for a cup of tea. Councillor Bodsworth, and seconded by Councillor Stapleton. All those in favour. And the motion is carried. So it's now (inaudible) resume at a quarter past 8.

(Short break)

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And can I have a motion to resume standing orders, please? Councillor Bodsworth, and seconded by Councillor Barker. All those in favour. And we will now resume Standing Orders of the meeting. So welcome back, everybody.

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We now move on to item number 8, Quarterly Budget Report - March 2023. The purpose of the next report is to receive and note the Quarterly Budget Report for March 2023. This includes the Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Capital Works. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Hodge. Is that as per the recommendation?

CR ROSE HODGE: Yes, thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Bodsworth, thank you. Councillor Hodge, would you like to speak?

CR ROSE HODGE: Yes, look, just very quickly on this one. The report documents Council's financial position and variations to budget and if you look at it, it's easy to read, it's got the financial statements of the income revenue, balance sheet, changes in equity, cash flow statement and capital works, and sometimes people are very interested in that, and you'll note numbers next to it and that's variations of the budget and all those variations are listed below. So it's an easy document to read and it's a requirement that we show you it for transparency in our finances. So if you do have a read of it, it's quite easy to read and I'm sure you'll enjoy some - well, enjoy some of the financials that are in it. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: No, thanks, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Any other Councillors? Councillor Barker.

CR PAUL BARKER: We continue to receive more money from taxpayers from around the state and country than initially budgeted for and given the surpluses, I see it's quite apparent that largely we don't need this external support. I'd love to see us wean ourselves off the teat of external taxpayer funds, but that's only going to be possible when we get back to basics and stop interfering in topics that are outside of our remit.

If you have a look at the state budget released today, you'll see that property owners are getting slugged hard for the financial mismanagement over previous years. We as an organisation cannot continue on a business as usual plan. We'll need to rein in our own spending to limit our impost on the wallets and purses of residents and ratepayers. For the purposes of this motion, I will support the noting of the item.

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MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Hodge, did you have any closing statements?

CR ROSE HODGE: Oh, it's just a term of words I wouldn't use of wanting to get off the teat of the ratepayer, but if some people want to say it as, so be it. I just hope people accept this report as is.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: I now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to item 9, Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Update. Item 4.9 is seeking Council's endorsement of a revised approach to deliver projects under the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. Do we have a mover? Councillor Stapleton. Is that as per the recommendation?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Yes, thanks, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Schonfelder.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Can I just ask a question?

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Yes, sure.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Can I just ask a question, Mayor? I think there's a slight error in the motion. Part 2 says "reallocates \$2.1 million of Council funds currently assigned for projects identified in 1c above". I don't know - I can't see a 1c above. I think it means in item 1.1, 1.2 and --

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: I'll just seek clarification on that one, please. Thanks for drawing that one to our attention. Ms Seymour?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: I think you're right, Councillor Wellington. But perhaps our GM of Place Making and Environment may wish to clarify.

MR CHRIS PIKE: Through you, Mayor - and thanks for picking that up, Councillor Wellington - yes, that's a formatting mistake. That should be 1.3, rather than 1c.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Actually, I'm not sure that's correct either because the three items, the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre project isn't identified previously in that motion at all. I think it would be better just to say "pending approval", et cetera, "currently assigned for projects identified as

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follows" because I don't think the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre project is otherwise included in the motion.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Wellington. I'll just allow Councillor - Mr Pike to give us some confirmation on that one.

MR CHRIS PIKE: Through you, Mayor Pattison, so they should be two different lists. The 2.1 million of Council funds - so in point 2, the "\$2.1 million of Council funds currently assigned for projects identified in 1.3", these are projects that would be effectively removed from the renewal program, thereby freeing up funds which would be allocated according to points 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, so they should be different lists.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Sorry, I just - I don't think that's correct. I'm sorry to be pedantic, but we do need to get the motion right. I think the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre project, item 2.3, isn't identified anywhere above, so obviously there's been a different set of projects proposed at some point and that's just been carried over, but it doesn't at the moment --

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: I'll just seek further clarification. Thanks for raising your concern. I think what Councillor - what Mr Pike has said stands, that we're talking about a reallocation of funding - is that correct, Mr Pike, it is as per you said that 1.3 replaces the 1c?

MR CHRIS PIKE: That's right. So those projects identified at points 1.3.1 to 1.3.4 are projects that are currently within Council's draft budget to be funded from the asset renewal program and the proposition in 1.3 is to move those into phase 3 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, thereby freeing up \$2.1 million of funding in Council's budget. Point 2 and the subsequent points propose an allocation of that 2.1 million across the three projects, being the Horseshoe Bend Road/Blackgate Road Intersection, the Multi Arts Centre project, and the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre project.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I'm sorry, but --

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you for clarifying that. That does make sense to me.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: It doesn't make sense, I'm sorry.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: It does, and can we move on with Councillor Stapleton moving her --

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CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: The motion is flawed, I'm sorry.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Unfortunately - if we can allow Councillor Stapleton to speak to the motion, I'm sure she can clarify that for you.

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Perhaps, before I speak to the motion, just to make sure we're all comfortable with the motion that's been moved, my read of it is simply an issue of commas, and I know some people don't think grammar is very important, but I think in this instance after 1c, which should actually be 1.3, there should be a comma, so "1.3 above", comma, "as follows". So number 2 is talking about how that 2.1 million is going to be reallocated and those three projects listed there make up the reallocation of that \$2.1 million.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Yes, no - thank you, I understand that, but item 1.c does not mention the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Care project.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: No, it's not supposed to be mentioning it.

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: It's not supposed to be mentioning it.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Sorry, item 1.3, it says "projects identified in 1.3 above" and then the Horseshoe Bend Road project is there, the Multi Arts Centre project is there in 1.3 above, but the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre project is not there, so --

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And it's not supposed to be because it's saying we're taking - as Councillor Pike - Mr Pike, sorry, explained, we're reallocating funding and we are then using that funding that's been freed up. So if we move on to the motion and we allow Councillor Stapleton to speak to the motion, it will become clearer for you as others debate it.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I doubt it, Mayor Stap - Mayor Patterson.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: We'll move on with the motion, thank you. Councillor Stapleton please speak to your motion, thank you.

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Thank you, Mayor Pattison. So I will move the motion as per the recommendation, noting that in item 2 officers will update the projects identified in 1c to 1.3 and possibly put in a comma after "above" just for clarity.

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So clearly already the community will have heard that this is quite a complex agenda item, albeit, in essence, it's a really simple outcome. So the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund is designed to enable councils across the country to deliver priority projects for their communities and the Federal Government knows and the State Government that local government is not in a position to deliver all of the priority projects that it needs to do. So this is one such grant process that's available to local councils to deliver important road renewals, road projects and community infrastructure.

This motion before us is asking Council to revise the selected projects that we have nominated for that fund and the order of delivery of those projects to ensure that our commitments can meet the existing and revised timeframes that have been provided by the Federal Government.

So without getting too bogged down in the details, it is important to note that Council remains committed to delivering the Multi Arts Centre project in Torquay and the Horseshoe Bend Road/Blackgate Road intersection as part of phase 4 of the program, which is scheduled for completion by June 2025. In addition, by supporting this motion, it will enable Council to deliver extra projects to reduce the road renewal backlog and reallocate some funds to partially close the funding shortfall for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre.

All the details of these various projects and the amounts allocated to them are in the agenda report if people are interested in reading it, but the bottom line is that the revised approach to this funding program will ensure that the projects we are committed to already will be completed and that we can bring forward some important road renewals in the process as well as allocate 1.05 million to reduce some of the funding gap in relation to the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre project.

Hopefully that helps to sort of explain to the community what the fund is about, why we have this agenda item before us. All the projects that we're committed to will still be delivered and as far as the motion is concerned, I'm really comfortable that item 2, reading through it, "Pending approval of Council's Phase 3 nominations by the administering federal government department, reallocates \$2.1 million of Council funds [that are] currently assigned for projects identified in 1.3" and the "as follows" is in reference to the reallocation of the 2.1 million, not in relation to the projects listed at 1.3. So the motion is to reallocate that 2.1 million of Council funds to Horseshoe Bend Road/Blackgate Road, the Multi Arts Centre project and the Surf Coast

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Aquatic and Health Centre project. Hopefully that helps to clarify some things for Councillors and the community. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Stapleton. I appreciate the clarification. I hope that's clear for others now. Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to speak?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Yes, please, Mayor. I'd like to just emphasise that on page 394, Horseshoe Bend Road/Blackgate Road Intersection project due to a related third party infrastructure delay and that's an electrical substation that requires relocation, that is the main reason why that project has just been postponed. It will still be delivered. So I just thought I'd emphasise that and it does happen quite often that we have to liaise with other third parties and delays occur from time to time. Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion?

CR PAUL BARKER: Yes, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Barker.

CR PAUL BARKER: Thanks. Putting semantics aside, I think if you're dealing with this sort of money and you can't have your t's crossed and i's dotted, there's a significant potential issue there.

The LRCI is a Federal Government program. The Federal Government is in a trillion dollars of debt. To expect that they will continue dishing out taxpayer funds is economic insanity. I'll not be supporting any effort to make our children's future being laden with a mountain more debt on top of what's already a monstrous amount. If we can't look after own back yard with our own funds, then we've royally screwed up. If it's a federal road, the Federal Government should pay. If it's a state road, State Government should pay. If it's a local road, local government should pay. I won't be supporting this motion.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Wellington?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I'm not going to support it because I can't follow it and that's not - I'm not very good on finances, but I can usually follow a motion and I simply cannot follow this. I can't follow the figures and we're talking about multiple millions and the explanation just made no sense to me at all.

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So I'm not going to support it on that basis. I think we are talking about very large amounts of money and the motion needs to be very clear and it's clearly got an error in it identified in 1c which has now been replaced with 1.3. But it still doesn't make sense to me on that basis, so I won't support it.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Stapleton, do you have any closing remarks?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Look, just essentially that it's been proposed that we bring forward some asset renewal projects so that Council is able to commit to project deadlines required by this funding program and as a result, it frees up some of the funds in our asset renewal budget to allocate to other priority projects.

Accepting this motion will fulfil the aims of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, which are to support local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects, support local jobs, and build the resilience of local economies and communities. I think it's a really important fund that enables councils to achieve really important projects in their communities. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. All those opposed. And the motion is carried.

We now move on to item 10, 2023 DEVELOP Artist and Creatives Grants. For this item, we have a recommendation requesting Council notes the awarding of the 2023 DEVELOP Artists and Creatives Grants. Do I have a mover of a motion? Councillor Barker. And a seconder? Councillor Bodsworth. Councillor Barker - oh, sorry, I should have asked, is it as per the recommendation, Councillor Barker?

CR PAUL BARKER: Yes, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Would you like to speak?

CR PAUL BARKER: Just briefly, thank you. I think this will be one of the only times you'll see me move a motion that involves grants, but simply because it's only noting a grant, I can live with that. It pains me a little bit, but anyway.

The voluntary interaction between consenting adults, this philosophy is what drives me. Grants are antithetical to this philosophy. If you think forcibly

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taking other people's money and dishing it out willy-nilly is a wise thing to do, go for it, but I think it's heartless and it's theft and it's a redistribution of wealth that is totally unjust and unfair.

I'll support the motion as it's only noting the grants, but just so you know, grants are contributing to the long-term economic stress of future generations. If you should choose to support grants in the future, so be it. Just know that the tradeoff is that you're going to negatively impact the financial future of our children and their children's future.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Bodsworth, would you like to speak?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: Just - well, I'd like to congratulate both the successful and the unsuccessful applicants for this grant round. The DEVELOP Artist and Creatives Grants are part of a larger suite, a larger grants program that the Council administers. They're all administered in accordance with a range of sort of set criteria, so there's at least - regardless of - notwithstanding Councillor Barker's opposition to the grants concept, the grants program is well structured and it has led to many, many years of amazing outcomes throughout the shire. I'm sure there's people in this room who've been successful grant applicants in the past, and we've got another grants item coming up next, the Events Grants.

I know that the money that is put out into communities via grants is multiplied many times by the people delivering those projects and I may well say the same thing with regard to the next item and I think it's important for us as Councillors to continually be reminded of the - all the grant applicants have to do acquittal reports to acquit their grants and it's an important part of that for us to understand as Councillors where our grant funding went and how it multiplied throughout the community and led to both financial and non-financial benefits as well as understanding any problems and how they can be fixed.

So I fully support this and I congratulate the successful people and I'm looking forward to seeing what the outcomes are.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Wellington?

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thank you. I just wanted to mention the Marjorie Lawrence Celebration of Soprano festival, which I think is going to be a really, really significant event. I don't know whether people on this Council truly understand the impact Marjorie Lawrence had on music globally, on singing globally. She was a world-renowned soprano and she grew up in Deans Marsh

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and her father built the Winchelsea Globe Theatre for her to have an event space. Then she went on to become a world - you know, a globally recognised soprano.

This event - Winchelsea has got a great history in music and this event is about promoting awareness of her career and her impact and the idea is that there will be - there's been a documentary made about her which is a fascinating film, it's just fabulous, and that will be shown and then there will be a music competition and this is actually contestants - the contestants to be attracted to this are really high-level singers themselves, so these are people with very significant talent and experience who will be singing in this competition and it will be a great event and it will attract people from across probably the state and possibly even across the country because she was so well known and so well regarded.

The issue, of course, is the Globe Theatre and my understanding - is Tony Phelps still here? Yes. My understanding is that it's been - the event has been postponed until the following year because the Globe Theatre has no floor and it really just - you know, because of the termites. It's a tragedy really for the people who've worked really hard to get this event planned and they've got all the contacts with, you know, the promoters of these kinds of events which are all done by people who are just passionate about good music and it would be - it is going to be a wonderful event, but it's critical that the Globe Theatre is not subject to project time like the leisure time centre or the shire hall, with the greatest respect. We have had multiple - as I think Jenny pointed out earlier, Jenny Matheson pointed out, we have multiple facilities in Winchelsea that have been closed for long periods of time and they're all attributed to project management problems.

We cannot allow that to happen to the Globe. This grant will get used next year and hopefully can be used next year if it's allowed to carry over in some way. But it's a very significant event and it's going to be held in a very significant venue, the Globe Theatre, and that theatre, this Council needs to see this as a theatre emergency, okay? We've got a climate emergency and we're, you know, doing a bit on that. This is an emergency for this community to get that theatre up and running again. It really is. And I think there needs to be extreme transparency about the project management of it. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard?

CR KATE GAZZARD: Yes, I think - are we down to the 4 point - the events grants?

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CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Sorry, my apologies.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: We are currently on the DEVELOP grants --

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I beg your pardon.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: -- but some important words raised around the next item, Councillor Wellington. Councillor Gazzard, did you want to speak on the DEVELOP --

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: I can say it all again.

CR KATE GAZZARD: Just regarding the Artist and Creative Grants, I think these are really important. Art is such an inspiring area, particularly for young people, and it's a real way of the community coming together and celebrating, so I think supporting financially through grants is one way that we can help. So I'm really excited by these grants and I'll support this motion.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Stapleton?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Yes, just quickly, I would like to acknowledge that the DEVELOP Artists and Creatives program was new last year and obviously it's resonated with the artists in our community because we've had an increase in applications of 300% from 2022. Putting those numbers into perspective, we've had 27 applications this year. So 300% is a lot, but it's relative to the number of applicants that obviously applied last year.

But the good news story here is that it has resonated with community and the quality of those applications that have come through have been outstanding and I note that Council has been able to endorse eight projects for full funding. You can read through the various projects in the agenda report. They're from various parts of the shire, including the Winchelsea Ward have a project called No Through Road Collective by three local artists. There's artists from the Torquay Ward and the Anglesea Ward and the projects just sound amazing. I note that the scores for some of the top projects were above 90, which is significantly higher in terms of assessment compared to last year's program.

So it's a terrific grants program. It's really making a difference to the arts and creative community across the Surf Coast and, yes, I encourage Councillors to support it. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Barker, did you have any closing remarks?

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CR PAUL BARKER: I can appreciate what Councillor Stapleton raises about more people seeking funds, but if you've got the grants magic money tree dishing out funds, the demand is going to be quite high. I'd rather we tighten that or remove it altogether and then we won't see that amount of people reaching out for it again, but I'm only one voice of nine, so the grant magic money tree continues.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We move on to the 2023-24 Event Grants Program Funding. And do we have a mover of a motion - sorry, this relates to 4.11 and requests Council notes funding awarded to 21 Event Grant recipients under the 2023-24 Event Grants Program. Councillor Bodsworth - as per recommendation?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: Yes, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Schonfelder. Do you want to speak, Councillor Bodsworth?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: Yes, please, mayor. So Councillor Wellington kind of stole - she didn't steal my thunder, but suddenly I was struck by thinking oh, no, I didn't mention the Marjorie Lawrence memorial festival and then realised that we were talking about different items. But yeah, I was really pleased to see. That sounds really exciting and I totally agree with what Councillor Wellington said on that one.

So events are a huge part of life on the Surf Coast, the Surf Coast and hinterland, in the Surf Coast municipality. Events are really important to local communities, they're important to event providers, to local clubs. They bring a great sense of pride. They bring a great vitality to our streets and places where the events take place. They bring a lot of people to visit, a lot of whom visit again. We have reporting that shows that, and as I mentioned before, we have reporting also showing that the multiplier effect of the funding that is handed out to support events.

So there's a few that I'd like to mention. In particular there are 10 outdoor sport and recreation events supported, five of which use trails. So I'm a passionate advocate of outdoor recreation and trails and I know that there's the Winchelsea Arboretum Trail project here, which I think is fantastic. I think these event grants underscore the importance of trails out there in the

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community and we as a Council need to make sure that we're looking after them as they deserve.

Another one that I'd like to mention is the Sound Doctor music events that take place in the Anglesea Memorial Hall. The thing I really love about the Sound Doctor is that it's utilising a much loved community facility, a historic hall. It's allowed that hall to be refitted with state-of-the-art AV equipment and it's bringing in world-class acts to use that fantastic old facility. So it's a great mixture of contemporary acts, absolutely top-quality presentation and a great use of a historic community facility.

Another one that's been funded is the Aireys Inlet Dark Sky event. The Aireys Inlet community has worked hard towards having Aireys designated as a Dark Sky destination, which is a really great idea that fits well with our economic development strategy and the ideas of slow and purposeful tourism, which is not that people come rushing in and go rushing out again, but they come into our community, spend some time there and experience really rich experiences of the local place. So the Aireys Inlet Dark Sky event is all about that. I was at the last one and it was really amazing.

As I mentioned, the Marjorie Lawrence memorial festival, I'm not going to talk any more on that because others might like to. There's also a seaside community celebration at the Anglesea Community Precinct, which is an area with currently a master plan being prepared for it, a tremendously important area and that event sounds fantastic as well.

So, yeah, we're noting this one, but I think it's a great program and thanks to all the people who help make our event such a success.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Schonfelder?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I'd like to touch on the Marjorie Lawrence Celebration of Soprano. The current or the former Mayor Libby Stapleton and Councillor Wellington and I attended the premiere of Marjorie Lawrence: The World At Her Feet and it was absolutely fantastic and the way that Marjorie Lawrence rolled her Rs - my sister is able to do it and a lot of Scottish people are able to. It's quite remarkable.

The Marjorie Lawrence Celebration of Soprano is "a multi-day event that celebrates and promotes the awareness of one of Australia's greatest international opera stars - Marjorie Lawrence. The event also aims to promote the careers of those aiming to follow her through a singing competition" - I

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believe it should say "crowning", it says "crowing" there - "crowning the inaugural Marjorie Lawrence Award."

A brief overview of the event includes on Friday night the viewing of Marjorie Lawrence: The World At Her Feet, and I will be attending that. I'm sorry that it's delayed by a year and I agree with Councillor Wellington that the Globe Theatre is a very important asset that needs to be renewed as soon as possible. That documentary will be followed by a country supper. Saturday afternoon and evening there will be 12 contestants singing two arias each with adjudicators providing feedback and choosing the top four, with a three-course dinner to follow, and then Sunday afternoon the four finalists compete for the inaugural Marjorie Lawrence Award and cash prize.

In March this year I visited the daughter of John Brownlee, who is my fourth cousin, and he was the mentor for Marjorie Lawrence and as Councillor Wellington rightly said, Marjorie Lawrence was at one stage the most famous person in the world and was the equivalent - not exactly the same, obviously, but the equivalent of Madonna, you could say, in our recent lifetimes and I think it's something to be very proud of, the fact that Marjorie Lawrence even continued performing after getting polio and she was actually disabled and continued to teach and continued to perform. And I know people from Deans Marsh and Winchelsea in particular are very proud of her achievements and I think having this celebration of soprano is a wonderful way of commemorating her. But as Councillor Bodsworth said about the other events, I think they're fantastic also. Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors wish to speak? Councillor Stapleton?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: I'll just keep it short and call out a couple of community events that haven't been mentioned yet - the Deans Marsh Community Festival, which I know is a favourite in the Hinterland community and one that I and many others across the Surf Coast enjoy going to, so it's great to see that one on the list.

The Surf Coast Kite Festival, kudos to those guys. Last year the organising committee created an event that was carbon neutral, thanks to another Council grant, and it's a whole lot of fun getting out there and seeing young kids and families flying kites. So good to see that one.

The Art of the Minds festival is a really important festival that's held every October to highlight mental health issues. Keep an eye out on the sort of range of community events that come up under the umbrella of the Art of the

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Minds. They do some really great events, really important topics, and they have a really important presence in the community. So I encourage you to get along to some of those.

And finally, the Surf Coast Roller Discos - boy am I excited about that. Some people here may be aware that I've recently taken up roller skating, so if you want to see Councillor Stapleton trying to get around on a pair of roller skates, get along to one of the Surf Coast Roller Discos, which is a new event I see, and hopefully I'm able to participate on my feet, or at least on my wheels. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard?

CR KATE GAZZARD: The Events Grants are a really excellent way of injecting into our community economy, actually. Many of these events people come from around Victoria and Australia for the weekend and they'll stay in our shire and go to small businesses and support the shops around, so I think they're really good for boosting our economy and they're so important for making - I guess like memory making and bookmarking time, which for me personally the feeling of all of the lockdowns and COVID without any kind of events and things that you can attach a memory to, it just dragged into this long kind of depressing period, whereas now that we can come together again and celebrate and showcase our beautiful like trails and celebrate music, it's just such a great way to come together. So I think I support this wholeheartedly. I think all the events are so important.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. And Councillor Bodsworth, any closing remarks?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: No, thanks, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Oh, sorry, Councillor Barker, did you want to speak to this?

CR PAUL BARKER: Yes, thanks, Mayor. In addition to what I said about grants before, I think they're a good way for public servants and elected representatives to feel good about supporting good causes. If they are good, they'll be able to attract voluntary provided funding. If they aren't, then they'll fall on their face.

It doesn't matter how good you think these ideas are, what they still are is forcibly taking the hard-earned money from residents and ratepayers and putting them towards a certain cause. You can't tell me there's any particular

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cause - even if you found the cure for cancer, I wouldn't support the forcible extraction of people's money to fund it. Because it's noting, I'll support it, but any time grants come up, you'll not see me support the spending of your hard-earned money on some project.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth, closing remarks?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: No, thanks, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: I now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to item number 12, the EOI Assessment for 2 Fraser Drive, Aireys Inlet - Process, outcome and approve preferred EOI Respondent. Item 4.12 is seeking Council's endorsement of Housing Choices Australia, being the preferred proponent of the Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing Project Expressions of Interest Process. As part of this recommendation was redacted in the agenda, I will ask officers to share the unredacted recommendation on the screen before we proceed.

Now, it will be quite small and probably most of you here can't actually see the screen, so I'll read it out to you so that you know what it's saying there because the names of the preferred EOI wasn't included in the paper that was published. So "That Council: 1. Endorses Housing Choices Australia as the preferred proponent of the Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing Project Expression of Interest to continue to the co-design phase of the project and work with the Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing Project Community Advisory Group to develop a design concept. 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute a 'heads of agreement' with Housing Choices Australia for the purpose of developing a concept design, management model, land release model and any other relevant matters to inform the parties' future decision-making. 3. Considers a more detailed proposal for the development of affordable housing at Fraser Drive, Aireys Inlet at a future meeting of Council."

Do I have a mover of a motion? Councillor Stapleton, that was - your hand was up very quickly there. As a local Aireys Inlet resident, I can understand you're enthusiastic. And seconded by Councillor Schonfelder. Councillor Stapleton, would you like to speak?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Thank you. So addressing the affordable housing crisis remains a key focus for our Council and I'm very pleased to move this motion tonight to endorse Housing Choices Australia as the preferred proponent for

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the Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing Project at 2 Fraser Drive following the expression of interest process that has been undertaken.

This is a really significant step in the process to deliver this project and I'm so excited by the opportunity it presents to do things differently on the Surf Coast. It is important to note that Council received three very high-quality submissions to the EOI process and it is clear that each of them spent significant time on their applications.

Proposals were comprehensively assessed by a panel and the recommendation before us is based on Housing Choices Australia having the greatest alignment to Council's objectives for the site as well as the community's vision, which has been identified through extensive community engagement.

The vision and objectives of the site are documented in the agenda report but, in essence, the aim of this project is to achieve a high-quality, social and affordable housing development that is compliant with the Surf Coast Planning Scheme, is innovative in its design and function, and meets specified design criteria, such as enhancing neighbourhood character, exceeding a seven-star rating and optimising the health and wellbeing of residents.

In addition to their management and financial capacity to deliver on the project, proponents needed to provide a proposed design approach and demonstrate their understanding of the Fraser Drive site, which includes obligations to existing social housing units and a commitment to support and consider the interface with the existing community garden and public open space.

They also, importantly, needed to embrace the opportunity to work alongside the Community Advisory Group to deliver the most suitable outcome for social and affordable housing at Fraser Drive. The Community Advisory Group will be an integral part of the next phase. It is made up of 10 community members and includes a wealth of experience and expertise, from specialist designers and builders, to people with lived experience in social and affordable housing, local residents and key stakeholders. They will participate in a community co-design process, including an upcoming designing workshop, and work with Housing Choices Australia to develop a concept for this project, and that's what I really love about this project is that the housing provider will be working so closely with community and with Council to make sure we get an outcome that is benefiting all parties.

While we don't know exactly at this point what the housing will look like and how many people it will house, we do know that we now have the opportunity

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to work with a highly credentialed housing provider which has the capacity to work with community to deliver this project. Housing Choices Australia is a not-for-profit registered housing agency that provides safe, secure and affordable homes for people on low and middle incomes. They have a demonstrated commitment to the region already and they're keen to work with Council and the community to consider all options for the best outcome possible for all parties.

This is a really important milestone as we take another step to being part of the solution to address the affordable accommodation crisis and I encourage Councillors to endorse this motion tonight. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Thank you, Mayor. And I know it was said earlier tonight that one Councillor stole the thunder from another and I think that Councillor Stapleton has stolen my thunder and has expressed the desire aims of this item quite eloquently.

One of my favourite sayings is that the value of compassion there's no price it can bring and I think it really draws on the fact that the community that we want to have on the Surf Coast is a community where we welcome all types of people and we're able to have housing available to people who are not necessarily high income earners. I know we don't have a magic wand and we don't have a magic bullet to fix housing concerns, but I find that this initiative is in a way a bit like a pilot program just to see how it transpires.

It's not entirely dissimilar to the Winanglo initiative that's been developed in Winchelsea and I think it's something that really should be encouraged. And I know that when it comes to different areas, including Winchelsea and the Hinterland, where property prices have increased substantially, there are members of families many of whom cannot remain living in the area that they grew up, so that's something of a concern. So I'm really proud to be a member of a Council that's trying to - in I would say a small way trying to address this challenge.

So I really look forwards to what transpires, particularly in relation to the design of the housing complex. I would encourage the design to be sympathetic to the neighbourhood of Aireys Inlet and to have like a seaside beach-type architecture and this has happened in Torquay, fortunately, with different developments that have happened there to try to keep that. That's a part of our Council plan to have a small town feel, and I know we've come a long way and Mr Pike has said previously with briefings that we've come a long

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way with social housing and different types of community housing when it comes to the stigma and the fact that some Government Housing people dislike having that in their area. So I'm really excited about this, Mayor. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Do we have any other Councillors that wish to speak? Councillor Bodsworth.

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. I agree with what's been said already and I particularly like the report. I think it's a really thorough report.

The fact that we got three really high-quality respondents to the EOI I think is a good indication that the work that we'd done leading up to that had been good-quality work. We had a quality process that resulted in some good-quality applications.

So I think we're in a really fortunate position hitting this point in the process. As Councillor Stapleton said, I'd particularly like to acknowledge the good faith and good work of the Aireys Inlet community in this process. There was a lot of unease about the prospects heading into this process, but I think that was really methodically worked through and very respectfully and really a great example of engagement with the community on a very respectful partnering kind of a basis, which has been a really big part of the success of this up to this point and gives me - makes me feel confident that in the future this process will continue to be successful.

So yes, others have spoken about the importance of affordable housing. I don't think there's any doubt about that. So yes, I'm really pleased to see this and endorse it for the next stage.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Wellington.

CR HEATHER WELLINGTON: Thanks very much. I'm happy to endorse it for the next stage too. I do still - I'm still somewhat unclear, and I'm not sure whether the shire community is clear, about the intended client group and whether this is about developing homes for people who live in the shire and want to stay in the shire, which is what the Winchelsea project was very much about, it was about providing options for older people really as people age to stay in their community in affordable housing, or whether - so as I said, this is an asset, this land, which as I understand it, is owned by the community or it's owned by the Council on behalf of the community and I'm presuming that there will be a model of more or less transferring this very valuable piece of

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land perhaps. We'll have to see, I guess, what comes back with the proposed model.

So we might be - and with Winchelsea the land was virtually donated, I guess, to Winanglo, but it was also originally donated to Council.

So I'm just kind of interested in seeing who's the client group. Are we simply contributing to the State Government's agenda about social and affordable housing across the state, in which case I would say the State Government should be the funders of that, or are we contributing to a social and affordable housing solution for the residents and ratepayers of our shire?

That's never been clear to me about this project and I'd very much like to see that laid out because if it's about the State's agenda, this would have to be, I suspect, one of the most valuable pieces of land that could be used for that purpose and there might be other ways of doing it that Surf Coast Shire ratepayers don't need to pay for, effectively.

So I'm happy for this to move on to the next step, but I'm very keen to see the model and the client group and how it's going to be assured that that model will in fact be implemented for the benefit of the people or the communities that have contributed to the purchase of this land because it is their asset and, as I said, we hold it on their behalf even though I see it's mortgaged. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Barker.

CR PAUL BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. Firstly, I feel for those that fall on hard times and do find the affordability of housing a challenge. But do you continue to engage in symptom management or do you address the causal factors?

Now, this Council has a history of advocating for issues that are state or federal in nature and I'd like to talk briefly about some of the causal factors that can contribute to someone falling on hard times and not being able to afford housing. Some of those include taxation, reducing an individual's capacity to actually afford housing. Then you've got building regulations, stamp duty, zoning, a whole bunch of other hurdles that governments chuck in the way.

Now, governments at every level break your legs, steal your wallet, give you some crutches and expect you to be thankful. I'd rather work on removing the hurdles than giving out crutches and giving a little bit back to those who fall on hard times. I want to take the hurdles away so that we don't need to continue this symptom management.

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As part of that broken leg, we've got a femoral bleed and this is just putting a band-aid on it. Now, I know it probably makes you feel good to put a band-aid on a femoral bleed, but does it really help in the long run? I don't think so. So are we going to continue to engage in symptom management or are we going to advocate to state and federal levels to remove some of the hurdles to allow people to afford their own homes, rather than forcibly extracting money and creating these special little enclaves that can only house so many people that's then going to cause an amount of people to be haves and have nots. If you get into this place, good for you, but what if you're the next one that doesn't make the cut?

Stop focusing on these projects that make you feel good and if you are going to create these climate emergencies, advocate for the banning of offshore gas exploration. Why don't we have an economic emergency and advocate to state and federal levels to remove the hurdles that create victims within the community that then require help? Most people are quite resilient and if you take away the hurdles, they'll be able to continue.

I think this project has potentially got some merit, but the problem is that it is focusing on the symptom and not the cause and because of that, I will not be supporting it.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Stapleton, do you have any closing remarks?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Thank you, Mayor. Yes. Look, I guess it's important to note that there are a range of factors that influence the lack of affordable housing we have not just in our shire but across the country and Council certainly takes its opportunities to advocate to State and Federal Government to make changes at a policy setting that will hopefully impact the broader community and not just the Surf Coast Shire. But for us as Council we are responsible for the Surf Coast Shire and we're doing what we can to address the impact of the lack of affordable housing in our community and Aireys Inlet, or the Fraser Drive project in Aireys Inlet, was identified as one of only a few blocks of land or locations in the shire that were suitable for the development of social and affordable housing. So it is a really important opportunity for us to make a difference at a local level.

If this motion is supported tonight, our CEO will execute a heads of agreement with Housing Choices Australia to move this on to the next stage of the process, which includes the development of a concept design, management

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model, land release model and any other relevant matters such as financing arrangements.

I agree with Councillor Wellington's point that it's really important that we understand who the potential clients are going to be. I know that officers have indicated that there's over 600 local people who are already on the social housing register in need in our community, in Anglesea and Aireys Inlet, so the need is definitely there, but we do need to make sure that that local need is prioritised in a fair and equitable way with others who also need housing.

Councillors will obviously consider a more detailed proposal for the development at a future meeting and I look forward to seeing what that looks like. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And opposed? And the motion is carried.

We now move on to item 13, Tree Risk Management Plan 2023-2027. Council is presented with the Tree Risk Management Plan 2023-2027 for adoption this evening. Do I have mover of a motion? Councillor Bodsworth. As per the recommendation?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: Yes, thanks, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Hodge.

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: So this Tree Risk Management Plan, it's a really important piece of work. It provides a systematic approach to the management of risks from trees on Council-managed land. It's part of fulfilling our duty of care to the public to take all reasonable steps to keep members of the public safe on Council land. There was no feedback from the consultation period.

This Tree Risk Management Plan is about taking a proactive approach to the management of trees and Council employs a highly skilled tree management team who are capable of bringing a professional approach to the management of trees. It also aids the retention of trees that don't pose unacceptable risks, which is an important part of it in that we don't go around getting rid of trees unless that's necessary and this management plan provides that framework to know when it's necessary or not.

People who are interested should look at - there are a number of different parts of it, but you'll find in there timeframes, for example, of how quickly tree

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risks will be attended to. It's an important thing to know. If you're a person who's out and about in your community, for example, in Winchelsea, where you've got a lot of big trees and trails, the Tree Risk Management Plan contains important information to help you know how those are managed and also the timeframes for responses to tree hazards that either are picked up proactively or reported by members of the public. So a really important piece of work, a really good piece of work, and I'm happy to recommend it to you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Hodge?

CR ROSE HODGE: I think Councillor Bodsworth has covered everything - all the major points and I too agree with this. It is a duty of care. I mean, one of the saddest things that can occur when people are killed by falling branches and it's so difficult to know when that's going to happen, or whatever, but having this in place and arborists going around checking, we're trying to cut down any risk that we can. It's probably an impossible task, but this policy really sets out what we intend to do and how we can do it, and as Councillor Bodsworth said, it's our duty of care and this is one of the processes that we're doing it with our tree management. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Schonfelder?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: I'd just like to state that the purpose of the Tree Risk Management Plan is to set out a system for Council to inspect, identify and evaluate health condition and defects that may contribute to the loss of structural integrity in trees and then program and undertake maintenance works for those trees.

We're very fortunate in the Surf Coast Shire to have so many beautiful trees and this also includes Norfolk pine trees which may be in part of GORCAPA land, but I'm not aware if any trees within the shire have been classified as trees of significance and I would suggest that, in particular, in Winchelsea there are some scar trees that were very significant to First Nations people and very old trees that are on council land and as Councillor Bodsworth and Councillor Hodge have earlier stated, this policy refers to trees on Council land.

So I do also agree with Councillor Hodge that when it comes to risks of the condition of trees, it is very serious and I know that myself when I was younger, I used to water ski and I was told that when you go camping, you don't erect a tent underneath a red gum tree because they're referred to as widow makers and the limbs fall with no - many times with no sound. They just simply fall. And they can crush cars. And I know we try to do the best that we can do because we don't want to cut down every tree that exists to try

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and achieve a safe community, so there is a balancing act in relation to it all. But I think it's a fantastic policy and I encourage it. Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth, any closing remarks?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: No, thanks, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to item 14, which is the Surf Coast Shire 058 Graffiti Management Policy. The purpose of this policy is to present the Graffiti Management Plan to Council for adoption. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Hodge. And seconded by Councillor Gazzard. I'm assuming that's as per motion.

CR ROSE HODGE: Yes, as per, thank you. It's a pity Councillor Allen isn't here tonight from Lorne. He's been a major driver of this because of the graffiti that's been in Lorne, and we have that problem right across the shire.

But this policy principle is a guide and commitment to minimalise the negative impacts of illegal graffiti and the policy will go on to say we encourage prompt reporting, so you can go on your phone or ring up the shire and report it, because that's the first port of call, minimalise incidence of graffiti, facilitate engagement and education of stakeholders, and support the community to minimise incidents of graffiti on private property because that's a concern as well.

I noticed in Torquay just the other day, and I don't know how they even get up on the roofs of buildings to graffiti the second storey, but if we can work with those landowners of private property to mitigate the risk of not only whoever is doing it getting up there, but to minimalise how they can get up there and not be able to do that.

We try to - I know years ago we were able to get a grant and actually give graffiti removal kits to shop owners because they seem to be targeted a lot. It's also we've got to report it a lot better and quickly too and it's not our infrastructure, such as Powercor boxes and traffic boxes, and if you see it, please report it, and if you send it to us, we'll advocate and go on for it.

But it needs to be removed as quickly as we can, especially some of the obscene graffiti that sometimes is on. But hopefully with this policy we can

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work with people in the community, business people and hopefully lower the negative impacts of what graffiti can do because it's such a blot on our society and the beauty of this area and our buildings.

So thanks to officers for putting through this. We did put it out for community consultation. I think 13 people answered back. I think most of them were from Lorne, so Councillor Allen did a good job doing it. So it's good to see it in an actual form and a policy that we can work with and move on in the future that we can hopefully have, as I said, that negative impact of graffiti on our property. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard?

CR KATE GAZZARD: I agree with what Councillor Hodge has said. I think there was a study done that showed the presence of graffiti doubled the people who littered and committed other crimes nearby, so something that we need to act on promptly, and all the more reason to support our arts so that young people have avenues to express themselves, rather than doing it on our public buildings.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Schonfelder?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I'd like to highlight the fact that the offensive graffiti, Council will endeavour to remove it within 24 hours. Council will prioritise the removal of any graffiti deemed offensive on Council assets, including buildings, open space and private property where consent has been provided.

In relation to the standard service levels, it's within 20 business days and times can be delayed due to inclement weather or complexity of the surface. As far as private property is concerned, it's the responsibility of the private property owner and also with the public infrastructure owner it's the responsibility of the asset owner. Thank you very much.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Hodge, any closing remarks - Councillor Barker, did you want to speak?

CR PAUL BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. Page 367, point 15, procurement of graffiti kits, what will that cost us?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: I'd have to take that on notice, Councillor Barker, unless our GM of Community Life has any knowledge of that.

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MS GAIL GATT: Thank you, Robyn. I don't have the exact cost of that, although I know we have looked into it. We're talking about a sum of money that can be accommodated in our operational budget. It's not a huge amount of money, I just don't know the exact cost, but we're talking in the order of about \$2,000 for a number of - for sort of I think in the order of 20 to 30 kits.

CR PAUL BARKER: Okay, thank you. Based on that information, I can support the policy, but when it comes to the financial implication for the hard-earned money that ratepayers are contributing, I think it's important that we know what we're spending money on with regards to certain policy settings.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth?

CR MIKE BODSWORTH: Just one quick thing to add that I appreciate about this which is that the work that officers have done putting this together in consultation with other authorities, like the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority with regard to coast and crown land reserves and also with utility companies like Powercor, Telstra, Barwon Water because obviously it's going to be far less effective if we're doing this on our own than if we're able to do it in cooperation with other managers of surrounding land and facilities that also get graffitied. So just a particular highlighting of that. But otherwise I support it. It's good policy.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Hodge, any closing remarks?

CR ROSE HODGE: No, I think it's all been covered, thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to Project Budget Adjustments and Cash Reserve Transfers for May 2023. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of the project budget adjustments and ratification of the project budget adjustments endorsed by the Executive Management Team outlined in tables 1 to 8 of the report. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Stapleton. As per the recommendation?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Yes, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And seconded by Councillor Gazzard. Did you wish to speak, Councillor Stapleton?

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CR LIBBY STAPLETON: Just quickly. This is a regular report that is provided to Council at each meeting to help ensure financial viability and transparency to ensure strong financial management by recording the allocation and movement of project funds that may impact on the budget and to help ensure projects are successfully delivered. So on a regular basis money does need to go in and out of different funds and be reallocated and this essentially is outlining where that money is moving, if any money is moving, and what needs to come back to Council for ratification or approval.

Just one item in that table that I'd like to note is the \$45,000 that's been allocated to an environmental study on the impacts of stormwater on Deep Creek. I'm really pleased to see that that money has been allocated. These funds were originally set aside for Council's Strengthening Town Boundaries Project, which was superseded by the Distinctive Areas and Landscape Project, known as the DALP.

So this recommended allocation is for an environmental study to improve Council's understanding of the impacts of stormwater on Deep Creek and includes the development of a waterway management plan. We know this is really important. It's extremely important to Council, given that Deep Creek is identified as an area of biodiversity significance in the statement of planning policy, and with proposed developments on the horizon close to Deep Creek, we must have a deep understanding of the potential cumulative impacts on our waterways as a result of these proposed developments.

There's nothing else in the report that I really wanted to highlight, so I just encourage Councillors to approve and ratify the various adjustments. Thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard? No? Do any other Councillors wish to speak?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: I'd like to just very quickly say I'm very pleased that there's the supporting growth initiatives for the Winchelsea South East growth corridor planning. There's funds held in reserve for - sorry - for implementation of growth initiatives. Release of funds will enable commissioning of studies to aid planning for the Winchelsea South East growth corridor which is to - which is further afield where the reserve is here and heading towards more of a southerly direction, which also borders the river.

It includes urban design guidelines, a vegetation and biodiversity assessment and an arbour cultural assessment. There's also supplements for the 2023 and 2024 draft budget allocation for a stormwater study and inhouse liaison with

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the Education Department regarding a possible school precinct, and I know that I went to the closest secondary school to where I live, which is Christian College in Highton, and I think the community here would really welcome the possibility of having a secondary school. So I find that something that's really important for our community. Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Thank you. Any closing statements, Councillor Stapleton?

CR LIBBY STAPLETON: No, thanks.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: No? We'll now put the motion to vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - Planning and Environment Act 1987. This item seeks Council's endorsement of authorised officers under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 through the updated instrument of authorisation and appointment. This report results from recent staff appointments. Do we have a mover of the motion? Councillor Barker. As per the recommendation?

CR PAUL BARKER: Yes, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And seconded by Councillor Schonfelder. Would you like to speak to it, Councillor? No. Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to speak?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: No, thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Any other Councillors? No? We put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to the final - it's the final one - wake up, everybody - the final motion for tonight, the Conflict of Interest Records. We have a recommendation to note the Conflict of Interest Records since the previous Council meeting. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Schonfelder. As per the recommendation?

CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: Yes, Mayor.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Barker. And Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to speak?



National Disability Award winner
Australian Human Rights Commission winner

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CR ADRIAN SCHONFELDER: No, thank you.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: Councillor Barker.

CR PAUL BARKER: No.

MAYOR LIZ PATTISON: No? Anyone else? We put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

And that is the end of our meeting. So I now declare the meeting closed at 9.29pm. Thank you so much, everyone, for coming to our community meeting in Winchelsea. It's been a great success and we've loved seeing you all here tonight, so thank you very much. And safe driving home. Good night.