

Town Centre Advisory Committee

Meeting Record

15 July 2020



Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	15 July 2020	
Time	Started at: 3.04pm	Closed at: 4.48pm
Chair	Mayor Lisa Matthews	
File Ref	F2019/00505	

Present:

Mayor Lisa Matthews, Councillor Chris Holstein, Councillor Jane Smith, Rod Dever, Robert Diaz, Matthew Hingerty (left 3.37pm), Juan Iocco, Matthew Lusted, Paula Martin, Brenton Pavier

Council Staff present:

Julie Vaughan – Director Connected Communities, Glenn Cannard – Unit Manager Community Partnerships, Shari Driver – Unit Manager Strategic Planning, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Deborah Warwick, Matthew Wales

The Chairperson, Mayor Lisa Matthews declared the meeting open and completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land Statement.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

The Chair called for any Disclosures of Interest. No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 19 May 2020.

The Advisory Group discussed the Action Log.

Item 4 Chamber of Commerce Updates (Standing Item)

- Bob Diaz (Entrance Chamber of Commerce) advised that their Board Meeting was held last night and Kirsty Brooks from Artscape presented to the Board. The AGM is scheduled for mid-August. Fright Night has been held off due to COVID19 social distancing requirements.

- Matthew Lusted (Wyong Chamber of Commerce) advised that the next face to face Chamber meeting is scheduled for 28 July 2020 and will be held at Motel Mezza with 50 attendees having a farm to plate meal. Paula will be attending to present on the Bigger Backyard Program. The AGM is set for August with half the board members up for re-election.
- Rod Dever (Gosford/Erina Chamber of Commerce) advised that the AGM will be held in October. They are working with Paula in relation to the Bigger Backyard projects for upcoming events. The Board Meeting was held last night, and discussions held around engaging with State Ministers in relation to visiting the area to receive presentations from members. The Board are also looking to get a speaker on the 1000GB city to come and present. A reminder has also been sent to businesses around the importance of reporting incidences and emergency situations.
- Paula Martin (NSW Business Chamber) provided an update on the Bigger Backyard project. 438 businesses have pledged a total of \$1.8million per month with an economic impact of \$64million to the Central Coast. Strong pledges have been received from professional services and building trades. Across all Town Centres there has been a dramatic drop in disruption to supply chains as well as a drop in disruption in channels to market which has reduced from 70% - 34%. The Business Chamber is in conversation with Central Coast staff to see when we could celebrate a Bigger Backyard event and official launch which will most likely occur in October.
- Matt Hingerty advised that the Central Coast Tourism Board meets next week and that they support the Council reforms and look forward to working with Council.

The Advisory Group discussed that a number of organisations are now choosing to have their staff work from home, so they are either reducing or exiting premises. Whilst this is a win for businesses as they are no longer paying rent on large floor spaces it is concerning for landlords and associated businesses. Paula Martin advised that Business NSW have been doing work in the Sydney CBD on this issue and looking at the impact to cities.

Action: Paula Martin to speak to Sydney Business Chamber about providing the Advisory Group with an update on what is happening in the Sydney Metro area and what initiatives they have in place to invigorate the city.

Item 5 Update on Place Plans (Action 11)

Glenn Cannard (Unit Manager Community Partnerships) advised that the Consultants for both the Kibble Park Place Plan and The Entrance Place Plan will be reaching out to members of the Town Centre Advisory Committee and Gosford CBD Committee for individual sessions and the opportunity to provide comment on the plans.

Action: Further update on Place Plans to be provided at the next meeting.

Item 6 Transformational Town Centre Projects (Item 13)

The Advisory Group discussed the impact of COVID19 on businesses including taking out insurance for an event and being held liable if someone does have an incidence of COVID19. It was identified that we need

to look at ways to get people back into the Town Centres and spending money including a program of events (not just one offs, regular weekly or fortnightly events).

Councillor Holstein advised of an initiative of Erina Fair the last 3 days which involved a range of young performers busking throughout the centre (in accordance with COVID19 regulations). Glenn Cannard advised that discussions have been held with police and as of next week Council will be allowing busking. The Events team have an approach ready to roll out in the Town Centres.

The NSW Government has released a COVID19 Safety Plan and businesses can register as being COVID safe which will involve them receiving signage (posters etc) that they can put up in the window to let the community know they are a COVID safe business.

The Advisory Group discussed whether we need to review any red tape in the Town Centres that might help businesses operate differently or longer hours.

Glenn Cannard advised that Council is just about to launch an EOI to activate 5 vacant buildings that Council owns.

Action: Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning to be invited to the next meeting to discuss compliance for businesses using Council footpaths / converting their businesses due to COVID19.

Item 7 Priority Action Areas for Remaining 12 Months

The Advisory Group discussed the following priority action areas for the remaining 12 months.

- Outdoor dining
- Shopfront activations (working with landowners and real estates)
- Car parking
- How to get people back into the Town Centres
- Streetscaping
- What each of the Town Centres has identified as its unique selling point

The Advisory Group also discussed the need for staff to sit down with key people to look at what each individual Town Centre needs as the priority action areas can be very different for each Town Centre.

Action: A joint meeting between the Tourism Committee, Employment and Economic Development Committee and Town Centre Advisory Committee to be arranged once face to face meetings can be held.

Item 8 General Business and Close

No general business was discussed.

The meeting closed at 4.48pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 15 September 2020
3pm – 5pm
Location TBC