

OCEAN GROVE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER.

Issue No. 3

1 September 04

Public Forum with Lisa Neville MLA for Bellarine:

Unfortunately Lisa Neville was unable to attend the public forum that was advertised for July 14th. However she will be at our next Public Forum on:

Date: Wednesday September 8
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Grove Centre.
Crn. Presidents Avenue & The Avenue.

This is your opportunity to listen to and ask questions about issues that relate to the residents of Ocean Grove.

Due to Lisa Neville cancelling her attendance at the July Public Forum, the committee decided to hold a community workshop in lieu. Some of the topics that were discussed and the responses given by the participants are as follows:

Development & Growth in Ocean Grove.

Ocean Grove has been estimated to grow by up to 50% in population over the next 5-7 years. The community has the opportunity to have its say about how the growth will affect the town and what the town will look like.

“Q” - Which of the following would you like to see in Ocean Grove?

- a) The look and feel of a seaside village
- b) Limits on the height of residential, commercial and tourism developments
- c) Less subdivision and development

Group responses:

There was general agreement that the town should have no dramatic changes and that a seaside village look should be maintained. Comments given:

- No traffic lights, but better traffic management for whole town
- Better signage
- Appropriate landscaping
- Preserve dunes and also green belt to the north
- Environmental recognition
- Integration of parklands/recreational space
- Expansion of town centre, as population grows, should be carefully managed

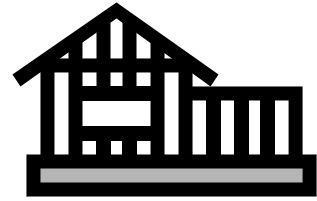


- b) Limits on heights of buildings and density of development was supported by all groups

- Commercial limit 3 storeys
- New overlay 7.5m, remaining residential 8.5m

c) Whilst one group said “yes” to limiting sub-division, the general feeling was that development in certain areas and in an appropriate way is supported.

- Diversity in sub-division
- Greenbelts
- Infrastructure incl services, roads and recycling
- Safety
- North to highway, east to Banks & Bonnyvale Roads
- Less small blocks in sub-division



d) Other suggestions for what groups would like to see in Ocean Grove

- Hotel
- Sporting amenities
- Playgroups
- Bike tracks
- Public transport

Recreation & Leisure needs.



Reference: Bellarine Peninsula Recreation & Leisure Needs Study. The 2001 Census indicated that 23% of the population on the Bellarine Peninsula was under 15 years of age. Predicted growth in the area is likely to increase the number of young people living in Ocean Grove and surrounds.

“Q” - What are 5 major recreational/leisure needs in Ocean Grove and surrounding districts to cater for the emerging number of young people?

Group responses:

It appeared that the majority of our audience attended tonight’s meeting out of interest for this topic. Some general comments are below (note comments are “listed” so there will be overlap in groups responses):

- Expand Surfside Centre (commercial & community needs, incl pool, another basketball court, additional meeting rooms – permanent and flexible, proper gym.
- Soccer field, Shell Rd
- Create Shell Rd as main sporting oval – includes developing clubrooms, pavilion and netball courts. Relocate Ocean Grove Football Club from Memorial Park to Shell Rd
- Proper skateboard and BMX park
- Upgrade facilities at Collendina and Memorial Reserves
- Enhance passive recreation – bike/walking tracks linked to parks.
- 3 categories -
 - Structured sports: football, cricket, soccer & hockey
 - Unstructured: skateboards, surfing
 - Swimming pool: swimming sports, diving (scuba), water polo, hydrotherapy
- Upgrade tennis courts
- Ocean Grove needs an athletic track around a soccer field
- Bike/running track Ocean Grove to Pt Lonsdale
- Aquatic centre could be at corner Grubb Rd and Highway (more central)



Needs of an ageing population.

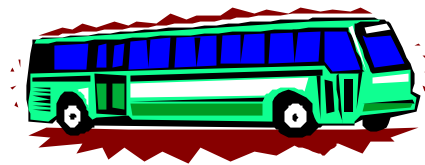
The 2001 Census indicated that 35.9% of residents were over 45 years of age with 13.8% being over 65.

The Bellarine Recreation & Leisure Needs Study indicates that a staggering 38.2% of the Ocean Grove population lives with a disability.

“Q” -What are 5 things that will be required to cater for an ageing population?
(for example: wheelchair/scooter access to shopping precinct (roads and footpaths))

Group responses:

- a) Public transport
- b) Activities to keep active – mind and body
- c) Hall – more options / larger
- d) Retirement village
- e) Increased medical and community health services
- f) Increased community facilities for activities
- g) Enhance footpaths/access
- h) Aged care residential facilities
- i) Assisted living units / cluster housing
- j) Car service centre



BELLARINE PENINSULA RECREATION AND LEISURE NEEDS STUDY - PUBLIC MEETING.

Jason Moran the Project Manager of COGG convened this meeting.

Several committee members attended this meeting.

There was also a good attendance by members of various sporting groups and those interested in establishing a new skating facility.

It was pleasing to see that this study is attracting the interest of people from the wider community who are happy to give their support to this project.

The meeting was vibrant and much positive discussion took place particularly concerning an aquatic centre, development of Shell Road and a skating facility

However, there was concern and disappointment to hear that the Leisure Needs Study will not be completed until May 2005.

The study was due to be completed December 2004 – it is now running 5 months late.

The association feels that it is imperative that this be a discussion item at the public forum next week when Lisa Neville will be in attendance.

YOUR COMMITTEE IN ACTION!

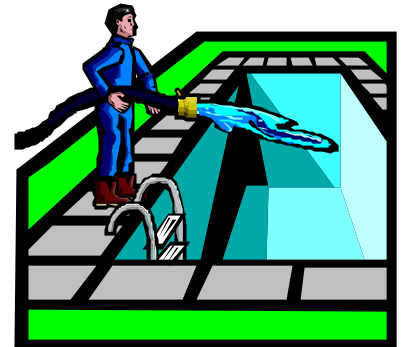
Your committee's response to the "Bellarine Peninsula Recreation & Leisure Needs Study" – Public Discussion Paper was as follows:

Our submission emphasised that Shell Road should be developed as the premier sporting hub for Ocean Grove and we strongly recommended that Ocean Grove (Shell Road) is clearly the best location on the Bellarine Peninsula for an aquatic centre. The reasons given were:

- (a) It would be patronised all year round by locals and holiday-makers.
- (b) Ocean Grove has an aging population requiring possible hydrotherapy treatment.
- (c) Ocean Grove is the only recommended site for a swimming pool on the Bellarine Peninsula that people would be able to walk to.

We also recommended that a new Skate Park be relocated somewhere on the Shell Road site to cater for a wide section of the community.

We welcome the fact that at last weeks council meeting at St. Leonards, a number of councillors including the Sport and Recreation folio holder – Councillor Craig Farrell and our Ward Councillor – Councillor Rob Binnie publicly stated that a public swimming pool on the Bellarine Peninsula was COGG's number one priority for new capital expenditure on sporting and leisure facilities.



Tourism update:

Tracey Jamieson has been appointed by Geelong Otway Tourism to be "Destination Bellarine Tourism Officer"

The association has invited her to our next committee meeting for discussions on tourism development in Ocean Grove – we will keep you updated.

**See you all at our Public Forum with Lisa Neville
next Wednesday 8th September.**

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