



MINUTES

Of the Seniors Advisory Group Meeting held on

18 January 2019

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**MINUTES OF THE SENIORS ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY 18 JANUARY 2019
AT 10:00am
AT THE CRANBROOK REGIONAL COMMUNITY HUB**

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Chairperson, P Slater declared the meeting open at 10:03am.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

Peter Slater	Councillor
Toni Melia	Shire of Cranbrook – Emergency Services & Recreation Officer (ESRO)
Trish Standish	Shire of Cranbrook – Manager of Finance and Administration
Laura Adams	Frankland River Community Centre (FRCC) Manager
Adrian Bridge	Frankland River
June Roberts	Frankland River
John Gillam	Cranbrook
Bess O’Neill	Cranbrook
Jenny Shaw	Cranbrook
Judy Binet	Cranbrook
Robert Andrew	Tenterden

Apologies

Peter Northover Shire of Cranbrook - Chief Executive Officer

Visitors

S Etherington Councillor – Shire of Plantagenet

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved: R Andrews

Seconded: J Shaw

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Formalizing Prescriptions to Cranbrook

The Shire of Cranbrook has spoken to Plantagenet Medical on a couple of occasions now with regards to the provision of this prescription delivery service. Plantagenet Medical while supportive of the proposed service, is currently in the process of looking at the legalities involved for their staff obtaining, transporting

and in effect disseminating the prescriptions, on a once a week basis to coincide with the doctors visits to Cranbrook. They have advised that they will inform the Shire by the end of February 2019 if they will be able to undertake this service.

As requested the Shire ESRO has also spoken to Judy Fox about the process they undertake to assist locals with prescription medication delivery – the scripts are picked up by Eddy Fox when he travels to Mount Barker for mail runs and delivered complimentary through the local mail run.

Discussion

Information noted by the SAG – it was reiterated during discussions that the service, if provided, will be predominantly for standard repeat prescriptions.

4.2 Community Bus Step

The Shire has investigated the addition of a step to the Community Buses - the Shire MOW has advised that the steps will be installed early in 2019 once the Linking Communities Project has finished.

Discussion

Information noted by the SAG.

4.3 Seniors' Computer Classes

As discussed at the previous SAG meeting the Frankland River Community Resource Centre have been successful in receiving funding from the Be Connected Network. They have advertised individual one on one training sessions in The Franklander in 2018 and will be advertising the same option in the Cranbrook Newsletter in February 2019. A flyer has been produced and placed on the Shire Facebook page as of 4 January 2019 and is scheduled to post every couple of weeks.

There will also be an Expression of Interest in the February issues of The Franklander and Cranbrook Newsletter with regards to holding a formal group training session with interested seniors.

L Adams to provide further information on the sessions.

Discussion

L Adams encouraged SAG members to undertake the sessions - they were tailored to the individuals skill level and if they were interested, to encourage their friends and contemporaries to participate in the training as well.

Classes and individual sessions would also be available to be held in Cranbrook at The Hub or at the local library on the public computer if requested.

4.4 Tenterden Community Meeting

Council have requested agenda items for discussion and preferred dates for the meeting. Once the date is confirmed the meeting will be advertised and placed on the Councillors calendar early in 2019.

Discussion

R Andrew raised his concern about how to go about getting people to attend the meeting and the general apathy of the community to be involved. Suggestions made by the SAG included:

- A “Meet and Greet” event
- Providing a fun incentive for people to attend
- Community breakfast or sundowner event

It was discussed that neighbours didn’t know their neighbours – and what happened in an emergency event? T Melia discussed the possibility of the establishment of a Tenterden “Bushfire Ready Group” and that the Tenterden Agriculture Institute had been advised of the meeting and members encouraged to attend.

SAG members encouraged to send through questions and agenda items that they would like raised in the meeting within the next week or two.

4.5 Cranbrook Town Footpath Audit

The audit has commenced and will continue in the first half of 2019.

Discussion

Information noted by the SAG.

P Slater encouraged members to download the Snap. Send. Solve app if they owned a smart phone or tablet device.

T Melia advised the process of the service to the SAG members and encouraged the members to use it and promote it their contemporaries in the community, as an immediate way to alert the Shire if they came across a hazard.

4.6 Linking Communities Project

Uptake to this service has improved, particularly on the Mount Barker bus since the last SAG meeting – however we would like to encourage SAG members to please engage with other seniors to continue to utilise this service. As discussed previously ensuring that we have had a significant uptake to the project will assist the Shire with seeking funding for future projects for our seniors.

The Linking Communities Project will finish on 6 March 2019 and the Shire would like to gratefully acknowledge the volunteer support from community members who have donated their time to drive the buses each week.

Committee to discuss future possible projects to assist seniors with transport limitations once this project has finished.

Discussion

T Melia advised the group that the service will be finishing in mid March 2019 and that Shire staff had been in preliminary discussions on how to ensure a transport service for seniors into the future. These discussions included looking at other funding providers and transport services that were being developed around the region and their viability to the Shire of Cranbrook.

S Etherington advised the committee that they were having the same issues with transport for their seniors in Mount Barker, but that they were lucky to have a taxi service that was providing \$7 fares for return trips for seniors to medical appointments etc. in Mount Barker.

SAG members questioned the possibility of the Council advocating for additional funding and provision of services in the rural areas – P Slater to discuss with Council.

4.7 Seniors Week

The Shire of Cranbrook was successful in receiving funding from the Department of Communities to host a 2018 Seniors Week Event. This year's event was a free bus trip to Katanning for lunch and sight seeing activities. Due to funding limitations only those people who secured a seat on the buses were able to participate in the event.

The Shire has received positive feedback about the day from the seniors and would like to thank Karlene Standish for donating her time to drive one of the buses.

Discussion

SAG members advised that they had a great day and wished it could have gone on longer as they were having such a good time.

4.8 Lighting – Brooking Street, Tenterden

Shire CEO and Manager of Works (MOW) are scheduled to meet with Great Southern Mains Roads in late January 2019 to discuss R Andrews and the broader communities concerns about the street lighting in this area and the presence of road trains parking near this intersection.

Discussion

Information noted by the SAG.

4.9 Tenterden Rubbish Tip

Shire MOW has advised that a bollard and locked chain infrastructure will be constructed at the site in early 2019. It is hoped that this will deter people from continuing to dump rubbish at the site, but will allow future access to authorized persons.

Discussion

Information noted by the SAG – R Andrew advised that he had seen people illegally dumping at the site again last week.

4.10 Tenterden Townscape

There is concern in the community regarding the lack of footpaths in the Tenterden town site. People walking or walking their dogs have no room for them to get off the roads due to the drains etc.

The Shire MOW has advised that currently there is no allocation in the Shires Five Year Corporate Business Plan for a footpath project to be undertaken in the Tenterden townsite.

Committee to discuss options moving forward.

Discussion

Information noted by the SAG – R Andrew reiterated his concern about the hazard the large drains and overgrown verges posed to people walking around the Tenterden townsite.

4.11 Crossing Albany Highway in Tenterden

Shire CEO and Manager of Works are scheduled to meet with Great Southern Mains Roads in late January 2019 to discuss concerns about the safety of this intersection.

Discussion

Information noted by the SAG.

4.12 Great Southern Highway Truck Bay

The Shire would like to advise that the construction of the new ablution facility for the truck bay is currently out for tender, with the closing date for this process occurring in February 2019.

Construction of the seating and shade areas has been completed, with the handover for the site from Main Roads to the Shire of Cranbrook finalised in December 2018.

Discussion

SAG advised by T Standish that the tenders for the ablution block would be going to the February 2019 Council meeting and that acquittal of the project would occur by December 2019.

4.13 Community Nurse & INR Machine

Shire staff to clarify the frequency of the practice nurse and will organise a meeting with Shire representatives, Plantagenet Medical, Pioneer Health, Mount Barker Hospital Director of Nursing and the Frankland River Community Centre Manager to discuss additional nursing services to the community. Due to busy and conflicting schedules, a date for this meeting has not yet been confirmed, but is anticipated to occur prior to the next SAG meeting in April 2019.

The INR machine was located and has been returned to The Hub medical rooms.

Discussion

Noted by the committee.

J Roberts advised that Frankland River had not had a community or surgery nurse visit for some time – T Standish advised that this would be included in the discussions held with Plantagenet Medical.

4.14 Information Sheet: Aged Care Services

At the October 2018 SAG meeting A Bridge stated that he was looking to develop an information sheet for seniors and carers to assist with the list of services and requirements for different services for seniors within the community, with a draft copy to be viewed and discussed further at the January 2019 SAG meeting.

A Bridge to provide an update.

Discussion

See attached Progressing from Independent Living to Residential Care document produced and provided by A Bridge, discussing the processes involved with assisting seniors requiring additional assistance and assessment for advanced care services.

Action

1. Shire to include information to assist seniors and their families on a variety of subjects on their Facebook page and in the newsletter each month.
2. Shire to look into developing a "One Stop Shop" day for senior's information in 2019.

4.15 Meals on Wheels

At the previous SAG meeting B O'Neil raised the possibility of a Meals on Wheels service for local seniors.

The Shire ESRO has liaised with the Shire of West Arthur staff responsible for the delivery of Meals on Wheels project to that community. Due to the Shire office being closed until 7 January 2019 the Project Manager could not provide all the details of the project, but has advised that prior to the date of the SAG meeting, they will send through a comprehensive outline of what had been undertaken.

Facts that were able to be provided in the interim were:

- Shire successfully applied for funding to undertake a feasibility study for the project – details of where the funding was sourced from will be provided in the outline
- Shire staff member is employed 4 hours per week to manage the project – this includes volunteer management and rosters, shopping for supplies and liaising with clients, it does not include cooking times
- Volunteers prepare and cook the food – all volunteers must have undertaken a basic Food Handler Course which can be completed online
- Clients are offered the choice of 2 meal selections per week and can order as many of each as they would like e.g. 4 option 1 and 3 option 2 to cover a week
- The meals are placed in microwave, oven and freezer safe containers for cooking and storage
- Each meal costs \$7 and includes a desert
- Meals are prepared and delivered once a week
- Seniors are able to select meals via a menu form in the community newsletter.

Discussion

Information noted by the SAG. T Melia advised that unfortunately the staff member who will send the information through is still on leave and that the information will be brought to the next SAG meeting in April 2019.

5. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5.1 Frankland River Hall Town Meeting

The Shire is hosting a meeting for all Ratepayers and Residents of Frankland River and surrounds on Tuesday 5 February 2019 at 2.00pm, to discuss options for the possible upgrade and refurbishment of the Frankland River Town Hall to better suit the communities needs into the future.

Committee to discuss any issues or considerations that they believe would benefit seniors with the upgrade.

Discussion

L Adams advised the SAG that the meeting had been promoted in the Frankland River area.

T Standish alerted the SAG that when work commenced on the hall, it will be out of commission for a length of time and that the community needed to think what their options were for community functions / activities during that time.

L Adams queried if the project could be staged? T Standish advised that that couldn't be determined until after the town meeting when the Shire had a full view of what the community wanted from the project.

5.2 WA Seniors Card Member Benefits - Information

- To be eligible for the WA Seniors Card program, you need to be aged 62 years or above, a permanent resident of Western Australia and work less than 25 hours per week, averaged over a 12 month period.
- As a WA Seniors Card member you will receive a card that is your WA Seniors Card and Transperth SmartRider in one. The SmartRider side will give you access to travel on Transperth services for free or on a concession basis.
- The National Seniors Transport Scheme provides Seniors Card members with concessions on transport throughout Australia. You can use your WA Seniors Card to receive a concession on public transport throughout Australia. If you are travelling to NSW you will need to apply for an Opal Card prior to arriving. Further details are available at the Opal Website.
- You can use the WA Seniors Card side to claim a range of State Government concessions and discounts from more than 700 businesses across Western Australia.

Cost of Living Rebate

- Each July, the State Government makes a payment to registered WA Seniors Card members.
- For 2017, the Cost of Living Rebate is \$86.85 for singles and \$130.24 for couples.
- New WA Seniors Card members must apply by May 31 of each year to receive the rebate.
- Phone: WA Seniors Card Hotline - 6551 8800 or 1800 671 233 - Website: www.seniorcard.wa.gov.au

Local Government Rates, Emergency Services Levy and Water Rates

- WA Seniors Card members can receive a rebate of up to 25% of their rates, conditions apply.
- WA Seniors Card members with a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card can receive a rebate of up to 50%, conditions apply.
- The Water Corporation registers eligible pensioners and seniors for this rebate on behalf of local government.
- Phone: Water Corporation - 1300 659 951 - Website: www.watercorporation.com.au

Motoring

- WA Seniors Card members can receive 50% off their driver's licence renewal fee.
- WA Senior Card members with a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card are exempt from a Driver's Licence renewal fee and can receive 50% off vehicle registration.
- Phone: Department of Transport: 13 11 56 - Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs

Photo ID Card

- WA Senior Card members can receive 50% off their Photo Card fee.
- WA Senior Card members with a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card are exempt from a Photo Card fee.
- Phone: Department of Transport: 13 11 56 - Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs

Travel

- Regional coach/rail WA Seniors Card members can receive 50% off all regional point-to-point travel with a SmartRider card.
- Interstate Seniors Card holders also receive a concession.
- Phone: TRANSWA - 1300 662 205 - Website: www.transwa.wa.gov.au

Recreational Fishing Licences

- 50% discount for WA Seniors Card members.
- Phone: Department of Fisheries - 9482 7333 - Website: www.fish.wa.gov.au

Spectacles

- WA Seniors Card members can receive up to \$53.85 off a pair of spectacles every two years.
- Claim form available from optometrists, optical dispensers and the Department of Health.
- Phone: Department of Health - 1300 367 398 (Once answered, select option 3) Website: www.health.wa.gov.au

Other

- WA Seniors Card members receive discounted entry to:
 - The Art Gallery of WA
 - Museum of WA
 - Perth Zoo
 - Rottnest Island accommodation
 - National Parks
- Further information about State Government provided WA Seniors Card member benefits can be access from the Concessions WA website: www.seniorcard.wa.gov.au/eligibility/

Discussion

Information noted by the SAG.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Water Pressure

J Binet raised her concern about the lack of water pressure in the town in the event of an emergency.

T Melia advised:

- It was a state wide regional issue that all smaller towns and some regional centres faced

- That the Shire had recently had an infill of hydrants in the Cranbrook and Frankland River town sites which provided better, but not total coverage of the town sites
- SAG members to complete an Evacuation Assistance Form if they were concerned about their ability to safely evacuate in an emergency. Forms are available in the Green Means I've Gone Bags, from the Shire Administration Office and Frankland River Community Centre.
- T Standish advised that she and P Northover had met with Water Corporation prior to Christmas and they were aware of the water pressure issue but that there was nothing that could be done about it at this time.

6.2 Cranbrook Ambulance

J Shaw was concerned about response time for the Cranbrook ambulance without it being located in the Cranbrook town site.

P Slater advised that in the evening in particular, response times would be quicker due to all but one local volunteer for Cranbrook St John Ambulance living in Tenterden. He also reassured SAG members, that the response was the same as previously – that people just had to ring 000 and the volunteers are notified and deployed to assist.

6.3 Cemetery Niche Walls

P Northover requested that the SAG be advised that the Shire were considering some upgrades to the niche walls at the local cemeteries – small vases next to each of the openings. SAG agreed that this was a good idea

6.4 Independent Living Units (ILU) and Staff Housing

T Standish advised the SAG that she had attended a meeting that morning in the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup regarding the five new ILU's and one staff house to be constructed in Cranbrook. The construction of the ILU's and staff house are part of a much larger regional housing project worth approximately \$22 million, with \$12.5million in state and federal funding to construct an additional 52 houses / units in the region.

The project will be going to tender in the near future, now that the funding agreements have been finalised and signed.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Seniors Advisory Group Meeting will be held Friday on 5 April 2019 at 10:00am at the Frankland River Community Centre.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 11:28am.

Progressing from Independent Living to Residential Care

