



Community Conversations Talking Points

30 November 2023 – Sulphur Creek and Preservation Bay

Mayor Cheryl Fuller hosted a Community Conversation at the Sulphur Creek Hall on Thursday 30 November 2023 where residents of Sulphur Creek, Preservation Bay and surrounds enjoyed supper and an informal chat on local issues.

Conversation talking points taken on notice prior to the meeting are below.

Q – Could you please tell us of any plans for mobility scooter access through the train crossing at Johnson Beach for the new walking pathway?

This upgrade was not included in the project scope for the shared pathway as it was an existing crossing. The issue has been raised in the past and the upgrade has been listed. At this stage a design, scope and costing has not been completed and hence a definitive timeline for upgrade has not been determined.

Q – Phone call from Victor Arthur – I would like to see a toilet block installed near Howth roundabout near the new carpark please.

The Department of State Growth will be constructing a toilet at the eastern end of the heavy vehicle parking area as a part of that project. Council is not aware of the date for construction.

Q – Phone call from Victor Arthur – Could we have the speed limit reduced from the overpass over Creamery Road to Preservation Drive? We are concerned about the speed to the larger trucks and the presence of children crossing the road in the area.

There are currently plans to address safety concerns on Creamery Road to the south of the overpass. Your request will be passed to the Parking and Traffic Management Committee to consider the speed limit to the north at its February meeting. If a change is deemed warranted a recommendation will be forwarded to the Department of State Growth with an expected approval in March 2024.

Q – I'm unhappy with parking opportunities to access Preservation Bay and Midway Beach. Surf Club parking reduced, Preservation Bay roadside parking eliminated, eastern end Midway Beach parking removed, Sulphur Ck roadside parking reduced,

"freedom campers" occupying car parking spots. Why are "freedom campers" dumped on this part of the coast? They stay for months at a time, leave rubbish, and use the area as a toilet.

Parking close to the current crossing onto Midway Beach was restricted due to congestion issues raised by TasRail and TasWater. Additional parking has been provided and recently sealed nearby at the grassed area of Midway Point. Parking on the grassed area is also allowed. It is intended that the pedestrian rail crossing will be relocated further to the east near this parking area, providing more convenient access to the Midway Beach in the future. Hall Point is also a point of access for the beach.

Loss of parking spaces on the northern side of Preservation Bay due to the shared pathway is acknowledged, however parking for approximately 13 cars near the beach access opposite Creamery Road has been provided and there is available parking on the southern side of Preservation Drive.

The Council must balance the needs of the community and ensure that camping on Council-controlled land is done in a way that is socially, economically, and environmentally responsible and caters to all users.

Camping at the Surf Club, Midway Point, and Hall Point has previously been raised as a concern. Camping is no longer permitted at Hall Point and at the Surf Club. Midway Point is available for short-term camping. Council has recently undertaken work in this area to better delineate parking areas for day users and camping areas, improving the compatibility of both uses (day use and camping).

Oliver Mann

Q – What are the regulations for camping at Midway Point (e.g. self-contained camper vans only, no tents)?

Campers are permitted to stay for up to 3 nights and must be self-contained.

Q – Is there a limit to the number of camper vans permitted there at any one time?

There is no limit on the number of vans able to stay at the site. This may be considered in the future if the need arises.

Q – How many nights can campers stay there?

Campers are permitted to stay up to 3 nights.

Q – When will signage be put in place, detailing the conditions of use?

Signage has been placed at the site since opening clearly outlining terms of use for campers.

Q – Will the regulations be enforced by Council?

The rules are being reinforced by the Council's Compliance Officers, who visit the site at least once a day. Midway Point, for example, was visited on 45 occasions throughout the month of December. 38 cautions were issued, and non-compliant campers were asked to move on. Overall, the rules have been able to be reinforced, and there have been no long-term stays. Campers are generally doing the right thing and complying with the Council's terms of stay.

Q – What is the intention for camper use of the flat area and gully east of the camping ground, on the seaside of the surfies' parking area? This area was heavily used in the past by campers, and is easily accessed by driving down the slope, where there are no bollards or poles.

Campers are not permitted in this area.

Sally and Stephen Fisher

Q – Could the council please look at green and general waste tokens, issued once a year with rates notice as they do in Burnie. As we often have waste that would take 3–4 fortnights to dispose of by FOGO bin.

The kerbside collection will not be suitable for all households. There are options available to households requiring larger volume to purchase additional services. Introduction of tokens or similar would need to be considered with an entire review of how waste charges are calculated for all services across the Central Coast. The option will be included for consideration when this next occurs.

Q – When taking grandkids to the play area here at the hall, we have noticed there is no fencing around the play area. With road traffic, cars pulling into use toilets and cars using the hall, we believe a fence around the play equipment would be a good safety measure. As we all know how very young children can be off in a flash into harm's way.

This issue has recently been discussed with the community garden group and will require a budget allocation. The next opportunity for consideration is in the budget process for 2024/25.

Q – Lastly, we have lived in Sulphur Creek for the last 8 years, our property backs onto the highway. We knew the highway was there when we purchased our home. The road noise was tolerable then. But the last few years the noise seems to have increased 10–fold. It starts early about 4am and goes longer till 8pm, all days including weekends.

It is impacting on our wellbeing and enjoyment of our lives at home and our sleep.

We do realise the highway is not the council's responsibility. But we think a submission for noise barriers from the council to the relevant department would be looked on more favourably than from a few residents. After talking to our neighbours, we also believe traffic on Creamery Road is getting noisy and faster coming down to the intersection.

The issue of a sound barrier has been raised in the past. The council contacted the Department of State Growth, who advised the barrier would not be extended further to the east. It is therefore recommended that given this earlier refusal, the next step is for the residents to approach State Growth and the relevant Minister if an unsatisfactory response is received.

Q – Clinton John Rice – Beach access – we would like increased access to the beach all year round, not just over summer. Some of the access points to beaches are shut off.

Designs have recently been finalised for an improved access from Midway Point to Midway Beach and the access part-way along Preservation Bay Beach. The Midway Point access will be DDA compliant with the access point crossing the railway closer to the Midway Point car park. Purchasing of materials and off-site fabrication is currently scheduled to commence in February 2024, with onsite construction to be completed prior to 30 June 2024. Actual dates for construction are subject to timing of works to suit Tasrail track access requirements.

It is a requirement of Tasrail that all unlicensed crossing points are to remain closed.

Q – The new park in Penguin, is not really built for younger children. I feel the equipment is built for older children. I think having a BBQ installed would be good also. I feel that Council is not being inclusive enough and providing equipment for all.

The playground equipment chosen for the new Penguin playground included the play values of 'toddler' for the main structure and 'inclusive' for the swing set.

Another component for the playground currently in development is the public art sensory sculptures to encourage inclusive play.

It is not intended to introduce another barbecue facility in this area, they are already closely available at Johnsons Beach, Hiscutt Park and Zvoni Gornik Lions Park.

Q – There is a lot of rubbish collecting alongside the southern side of the highway. Previously locals would go and clean this up from time to time, however with the new pathway development it is now too dangerous to cross the road. Can we have this cleaned up or close the roads so locals can do it. Also, the bin on midway point is overflowing and needs emptying please.

Council supports organised clean up days such as Clean Up Australia. Residents or groups can register for sites as a part of the process. Rubbish and litter can also be reported to Council via phone or the recently introduced Antenno App.

The Midway Point bin is now being emptied more frequently due to the number of campers. The current bin is to be replaced with larger bins to improve capacity.

Q – Tommy Edwards – Western end of preservation bay, please put sign up about to notify people about the different currents.

A – Additional signage is to be installed as part of the completion of the beach access works. Beach safety signage can be included. The access is to be constructed between February and June 2024, subject to timing of works to suit Tasrail track access requirements.

Q Why is it blocked off for families to park at the surf club? There is no parking.

There has always been some restriction to the area and beach access to accommodate the Surf Club activities and the Tasrail crossing. The area in front of the building now serves as a shared zone for shared pathway users and surf club operations with a need to restrict public parking on the area to keep it open for these uses.

Q – I am concerned over all the bollards that have been placed near the Midway point parking which reduces the space. Why have you stopped people backing off the road into the parking area. It seems you have put bollards in places that are not necessary.

Bollards have been placed to delineate access roads, parking areas and to protect native vegetation. Additional useable grassed area was introduced by moving the open drain near to Preservation Drive.

Q – Pedestrian Islands are dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. School busses stop near here and is a traffic hazard.

Pedestrian islands are there for protection and safety of those wishing to cross the road. Drivers should adjust their behaviours when approaching these structures. The pedestrian islands are designed to assist school aged children when crossing to catch the bus. When introduced a lower speed limit will also assist further with safety.

Q – Matt – Feels that the markings on the road are old and this may be why the islands have already been hit due to poor visibility. There are bike riders and larger vehicles coming through and we feel the speed limit needs to be reduced.

An application to the Department of State Growth Transport Division for a reduced speed limit is already being progressed with initial data being captured and compiled to support the application. The application will be finalised in February, with expected approval from State Growth in March 2024.

Q – Fence for kids for the playground

This issue has recently been discussed with the community garden group and will require a budget allocation. The next opportunity for consideration is in the budget process for 2024/25.

Q – Can we have an annual pick up for hard waste in our area?

This service has been considered in the past and was determined not to proceed due to large costs for a limited number of community members.

Q – Katrina – Is the height increase for the caravan park going to result in other higher buildings going up in the area.

A – Council will assess all submissions on a case-by-case basis, the caravan park is a special case and council has supported the amendment to the height restrictions for that particular development. The penguin CBD height restrictions is different to where the caravan park sits. The acceptable height for the CBD is 8.5 and higher outside of this area.

Q – The shared pathway I feel is one of the best in Australia, however the section going up into Howth which is bitumen has large cracks and gaps in it. Can we please have this section looked at?

The condition of the pathway will be investigated, and appropriate maintenance will be determined. The cost of the works will be estimated, and a budget submission included in the budget process for 2024/25 for consideration.

Q – Dogs – what do we need to do when the next beach review happens – how do we get a dog free beach?

A – We do review the dog free areas periodically and undertake public consultation as part of this review. We are due to review again in 2025. Council will seek feedback and invite participation in this process, and the community will have an opportunity to put forward their needs and views.

Q – Barry – How often are the vans being inspected at Midway Point to make sure they are self-contained and compliant? There is no toilet in the area, and it has to be monitored more.

A – The rules are being reinforced by the Council's Compliance Officers, who visit the site at least once a day. This level of monitoring is considered appropriate. Overall, the rules have been able to be reinforced with campers generally doing the right thing and complying with the Council's terms of stay.

Q – Dogs are still appearing on the beach in the wrong place, it is a penguin habitat area, and we would like to have a big sign with beach rules and have this area patrolled.

A – Our compliance officers do regular patrols but cannot be always there. Unfortunately, some people do the wrong thing. Council has however recently introduced some weekend patrols. Council has an ongoing program of education and awareness including brochures, social media posts and signage.

Q – John – Will you be charging a fee for campers when the permit system is implemented.

A – Council has not considered the introduction of a fee for short-term camping at this stage. Costs to the Council at the moment are minimal; however, this is something that must be monitored. The sites must be managed appropriately and if costs increase this is certainly something that will be considered to ensure minimal cost of managing the sites to the community. Council is looking to introduce a permit system in the new year following the introduction of a new By-Law.

Q – On creamery road we want the speed limit changed from 100 km per hour, it is a busy dangerous road with soft edges. There are no turning points and cars come

upon you quickly when trying to enter and exit the road. Can we have the speed limit changed?

There are currently plans to address safety concerns on Creamery Road to the south of the overpass. Driver behaviours and speed on roads is a wider problem and is a challenging situation to address. The process when a reduction is requested is to initially capture enough evidence to justify a speed reduction, a request is then forwarded to Department of State Growth. As part of this Council provides a recommended reduction.

Your request will be passed to the Parking and Traffic Management Committee to consider the speed limit to the north at its February meeting. If a change is deemed warranted a recommendation will be forwarded to the Department of State Growth with an expected approval in March 2024.

Q – Peter Newton – Creamery Road – delineation between seabreeze and creamery road. We need new line markings on the road.

Urban road T-junctions do not generally require give-way arrangements as the road rules clearly state the requirement for give way. In certain circumstances, e.g. access to busy or higher speed roads, or where sight distance may be compromised give-way lines and signs may be installed.

This request will be passed to Council's Parking and Traffic Management Committee for assessment in early 2024.

Q – Judy – Thankyou to council, love the Antenno app, the pathway is fantastic, it's great for the community. Midway point reconstructions are also fantastic. However, the fence line has been vandalised in places and may be dangerous as people have bent the fence to gain access to the beach.

We appreciate your input and support for these areas. The damage to fencing and rectification methods and improvements will be considered as a part of the construction contract defect process, to be scheduled in 2024.

Q – The walkway there is a gravel section at the corner area near midway point and we feel someone might have an accident there. Can this please be fixed?

This will be followed up with the project manager as this was an oversight during the construction and was intended to be sealed.

Q – Can we have a speed camera put in occasionally?

Speed cameras are controlled by State Growth and Tasmania Police. A request for a particular location can be made using the link below.

https://speedcameras.tas.gov.au/camera_locations

Q – The drain along the road is quite deep. Can we have this looked at?

There is a future project to investigate and consider drainage improvements along Preservation Drive. All projects currently listed in Council's long term financial plan are to be reassessed, scoped and re-prioritised as a part of the 2024/25 budget estimates process.

Until a capital item for improvement is approved, general maintenance of existing open drains will continue in their current form.

Q – Can you tell me why the fence along the creek is the height it is? Some places its high and other places lower?

Fencing was a safety requirement for the new shared pathway due to the close proximity to the railway line. Height of fencing was generally determined based distance to the railway or other safety considerations such as topography and was finalised after a thorough negotiation process with Tasrail.

Q – Would it be possible to have hard pipe toppers along the fence pathway (similar to other areas of the path) to stop vandalism? Instead of just the raw edge?

At the time of tendering for the contract it was not deemed necessary to have the top rail and was a substantial cost saving. As there are some areas where damage is occurring to the top of the mesh, improvements will be considered as a part of the contract defect process, to be scheduled in 2024.

[Received via email from Bob Harder.]

Q – Combined footpath/bicycle path – I am very pleased that the path has at last been completed and the amount of use it gets. I am somewhat concerned about the safety aspect of the users. Are there any regulations such as warning bells for bikes and scooter, max speed limits on bikes and especially on E scooters which are causing many incidents on the mainland and their use is rapidly increasing. Maintenance issues are also a concern, of the four pedestrian crossings three have been damaged at least once and are still damaged, the only one not damaged is under a streetlight.

Consistent signage to indicate path etiquette are to be developed as part of a broader masterplan on pathway infrastructure such as seats, planting etc. Signage

is to be installed on completion of this work. Generally, these are not enforceable like road rules but are expected user behaviours.

Damage to pedestrian crossing island arrangements occurs in many areas, mainly due to driver inattention. Council is pursuing a lower speed limit and considering improved line marking at the crossings to improve their visual conspicuity.

Q – Drainage – This is a problem along most of the main road especially from Midway Point to Overall Street. Lack proper drainage also causes gravel being washed on pathway. I showed Mark a photo of the drain opposite the Hall.

A maintenance program for the shared pathway has been developed and appropriate plant and equipment purchased to assist with this in order keep the path clean of debris and adjacent areas appropriately mowed and maintained.

Q – Bus Shelters – Thanks for raising the bus shelter opposite Overall Street. A bench seat and a small window would also be appreciated.

Provision of seating and natural lighting have been completed in January 2024.