

## Community Conversations Talking Points

### 12 October 2023 – Penguin

Mayor Cheryl Fuller hosted a Community Conversation at the Dial Park Sports Complex on Thursday 12 October 2023 where residents of Ulverstone and surrounds enjoyed supper and an informal chat on local issues.

#### Conversation talking points are below:

**Do Council have a position on the old recreation ground in Penguin. Where are we at with that?**

*Council owns only a small part of the recreation ground and are currently in discussions with Homes Tasmania with the view of creating residential development in line with previous community consultation. Further consultation will be undertaken once these initial stages have been completed.*

**There are aggressive dogs currently roaming through the streets in Penguin. Recently my daughter and wife had to run back into the house. The dog in question recently attacked their owner and they were hospitalised from this. This winter there were 6 dogs, there are now 3 and they are loose often. We need some more support and assistance regarding the dogs.**

*Director of Corporate Services advised that dog owners must keep their dogs contained within their property and agreed to meet with the gentlemen after the meeting one on one and get the details.*

*Following the meeting, the Director followed up with this gentleman to better understand the situation and the ways in which the Council can assist. Council has attended the property and has agreed to monitor and impound any dogs found at roaming at large.*

**Are we going to be installing Electric Vehicle Chargers installed in penguin?**

*Our Place – Our Future; first steps, councils new short term strategy under Pillar 4 Transport & Connectivity identifies as a priority an Electric Vehicle Plan. This plan, once created will guide the location and type of chargers.*

**A path from Penguin Beer co onto the walking track would be beneficial to avoid walking through the gardens, The bottom of the steps at Watcombe beach also now has no path.**

*A pathway connecting Main Road and the shared pathway near Surf Club road is currently being designed as part of a Vulnerable Road User Grant. Work is expected to be completed this financial year.*

*We are aware of the concern at Watcombe Beach. The initial grass did not grow well resulting in an untidy surface. This has since been top dressed and reseeded with better growth. Rather than introduce further concrete to the parkland area it was determined to trial this section in grass for a further period. If the trial is successful the area is to remain as grass, if unsuccessful other options will be explored.*

**Can there be FOGO bins placed at the lawn cemetery?**

*FOGO collection at the cemetery is a great idea. We will be investigating provision of FOGO in public areas over the next six months and this will be included as part of that process.*

**Are we going to be installing toilets and showers at the Sulphur Creek/Preservation Bay area somewhere along the Shared Pathway?**

There are public toilets adjacent to the Sulphur Creek hall and at Johnsons Beach Road in Penguin. We are currently investigating costs for temporary showers and toilets for the area somewhere near to the Penguin Surf Club.

**Johnsons beach is now a dog area – Penguins are starting to nest down at the rocks from the caravan park – can we make it so that dogs can only go onto the Eastern side of the beach.?**

*Council last reviewed its Dog Management Policy in November 2022. At this time, Johnson's Beach was made a designated off-lead area due to its sheltered location, access and amenities. In formulating the Policy, comments were sought from Dr Perviz Marker, Penguin Ecologist at UTAS who indicated that there were no visible signs of little penguins at Johnsons Beach. Council will reassess this when it next updates the Policy.*

**The Penguin Miniature Railway Committee – it has been recommended that this be concluded. Using this opportunity to make it public that this will be concluded soon.**

*After Consultation with the committee, The Penguin Miniature Railway Committee has been disbanded.*

**What is the progress on the Dial Park upgrade?**

*We met with Stadiums Tasmania last week to introduce ourselves. The Department of State Growth are responsible for the 25 millions dollar budget allocated to this area. No formal conclusions have been made. Penguin Football Club is the primary user of this area and they have put together a comprehensive list of what could make this space better.*

**Do we have any information about what is happening with the Caravan Park? Why do you have a heigh restriction if it is not adhered to?**

*As this proposal involves an amendment to the Planning Scheme, the process required under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 is different to that which applies to most development applications. One key difference is that the Tasmanian Planning Commission, not Council, is responsible for approving or refusing the proposal.*

*At its June meeting, Council agreed to initiate a Planning Scheme Amendment process so that the proposal could proceed to public exhibition and the community could have its say. The proposal was publicly exhibited for a period of 28 days, notices were placed in The Advocate and letters were sent to adjoining landowners, occupiers and relevant agencies.*

*A number of people wrote to the Council, both for and against the proposal, and staff prepared a report for the September Council Meeting which addressed each representation.*

*At the September Council Meeting, Council endorsed the draft amendment, albeit with additional draft permit conditions, some of which related to Little Penguin and shorebird management.*

*The matter will now be considered by the Tasmanian Planning Commission, which will hold public hearings prior to having the final say on the proposal. People who made a representation to Council, will be contacted by the Commission ahead of the hearings.*

*There is no maximum height in the Open Space Zone, however proposals involving a building height beyond 10m must demonstrate that they will not cause an unreasonable loss of amenity, having regard to matters including but not limited to, the topography of the site, sunlight to private open space and overshadowing on adjacent places. This is addressed on page 41 of the report prepared by ireneinc Planning and Urban Design which forms part of the application. Some other parts of Penguin – but not this site – are covered by the Penguin Specific Area Plan where the maximum building height is 10m.*

**Does Council have any consideration for better signage for the sports precinct?**

*Signage for Dial Park will be investigated for improvement during the next three months. This will involve directional signage from the Bass Highway and local streets as well as signage at the precinct. Signs similar to new signage near the basketball stadium and school car parking area are quite costly. Once appropriate signage has been determined this item can be prioritised with other competing projects in the 2024/25 budget process.*

**In relation to the Caravan Park. Is Council aware how the Caravan Park Service was formed? The park is owned right to the waters end. I am not happy with the suggested development being approved. Are Council familiar with the formation of the Caravan Park and the problems that come with it?**

*Council was required to assess the proposal against the requirements of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Central Coast. Part*

*of this assessment included consideration of a geotechnical report prepared by a suitably qualified person. Refer also to the answer provided at Question 10.*

**We should not be changing the caravan park and not having another facility in Penguin where people can camp in tents?**

*The Penguin Caravan Park and the land it is situated on, have been in private ownership since around 2000, when it was transferred from the Crown. Whether a proponent is planning to build their own home or start or grow a business, they're entitled to put forward a proposal that achieves their personal and business goals while demonstrating compliance with the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.*

**Under the Planning Scheme the Penguin Caravan Park piece of land has a requirement that there is a geotechnical assessment undertaken? My representation was not fully answered?**

*The Director Community Services spoke to the person who asked this question immediately after the Q and A session, and has subsequently written to them about their concerns.*

*The suitability of the ground for any proposed development will be assessed under Building Act requirements, if the proposal progresses.*

**The signage regarding dogs on beaches is very confusing, all beaches in Penguin are now dog beaches and it is very unfair to the swimmers. The letters that dog owners received was different to what is listed at the beach. Are we going to get a dog free beach in Penguin?**

*The Director Corporate Services committed to checking the signage at Johnson's Beach for accuracy. A subsequent inspection identified an incorrect sign at the eastern end of the beach, which has now been actioned for correction.*

*Council reviews its Dog Management Policy regularly and last did so in November 2022. Community consultation occurs at this time and the Council aims to strike a balance between the needs of the community and sensitive habitat. Updating the Policy includes an extensive public consultation process.*

*Johnsons Beach and Watcombe Beach are designated off-lead beaches in Penguin. Even though this is the case, dogs still need to be under effective control. That means a dog should be within sight and is expected to follow the owner's command.*

*The Main Beach in Penguin is a dog on-lead area. The consultation process strongly favoured restrictions to remain at this beach for the enjoyment of non-dog owners.*

**I would like to congratulate the Council on Barry's appointment as the new General Manager.**

**The following questions were received on notice prior to the meeting:**

The state of the footpaths in the Penguin community is not good. The path from commonwealth Court to Dial Park and Olympic court have cracks and are uneven, this is a real safety hazard especially for the elderly and people with prams. This is not a good look for the community as it is one of the main walking entrances to Dial Park.

*There are many areas where footpath conditions require improvement and an annual budget is provided for this purpose. This area will be inspected in November to determine priority and method of repair.*

Bin day litter is a big problem in my area. The streets are usually littered. This morning, as with most bin days, Adina Court was strewn with litter from wheelie bins. This morning I picked up a 27 litre bag full of rubbish and this was just what was in front on my house and near by houses. There was much more litter further down the street. I also couldn't pick up some rubbish such as crushed polystyrene left as beads and small plastic paper bits. Bins constantly fall over (slopping land, wind, animals, over full bins) and, expect for myself and one other neighbour, no one picks up their rubbish. It washes down drains or blows down to the beach. Council should make it mandatory that bin contents is bagged. I hate plastic bags myself but there are decomposable bags.

*Use of appropriate bags is a good way to reduce litter from bins when conditions are poor, but would be difficult to mandate. Placing heavier items at the bottom can also assist. This issue will be added to our education program and the bins in the area monitored for overfilling.*

It would be great for further information regarding ongoing coastal pathway connection between Penguin and Ulverstone.

*The section between Penguin and Ulverstone has been investigated on two occasions to date. It is a difficult section due to the terrain and proximity of the railway. Council has an action to investigate this further subject to appropriate funding to allow relevant surveys and more detailed investigations to occur.*

Also types of accommodation for visitors into the future. It seems that Penguin has opted for the apartment/airbnb visitor and is not as welcoming of the cheaper camper/ caravaner options. I am mentioning this as I have returned from a trip with my 10 year old daughter travelling around Australia that I do not think I could have easily afforded if I wasn't for the option of caravan parks, I love an egalitarian Australia and I think that we are moving so quickly away from this.

*In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for short-term, low-cost camping in our beautiful municipal area.*

*Uncontrolled camping has presented some challenges to the Council in recent years however Council recognises the benefit to the community from allowing short-term camping.*

*The Council must balance the needs of the community and ensure that camping is done in a way that is socially, economically, and environmentally responsible as such will shortly be proposing a new By-Law to assist with controlled camping and ensuring that the municipal area welcomes and benefits from visitation in a responsible way.*

**Lisk and Witten – raised a number of concerns as follows:**

**Westridge Road signage – there is no clear indication of speed limit. Everyone thinks it is 80–100 kmph. The problem is, it is heavily used by walkers and dogs, 3–meter–wide tractors, trucks and semi–trailers daily.**

*This issue has been passed to the Parking and Traffic Management Committee to consider and was explained at the October 2023 meeting. Investigation will occur over the next two months. The committee will respond to you to advise of outcomes.*

**Need a sign near Chris McKenna’s driveway advising of last turn around for dual axle and semi–trailers.**

**Both myself and my neighbour have had our fences smashed by speeding cars and a semi–trailer which involved the police.**

*This issue has been passed to Council’s Parking and Traffic Management Committee and was explained at the October 2023 Meeting. Investigation will occur over the next two months. The committee will respond to you to advise of outcomes.*

**Proposed solution to Penguin parking – I have already discussed this with the Mayor. One proposal is one–way west–bound through town, angle parking on southern side of the road, long vehicle parking on the northern side of the road (trucks and caravans only). This does two things – it gives a huge amount of car parks, it gives trucks and vans somewhere to park and unload and it reduces greatly the risk of people crossing the road to shop. It costs very little for a few one–way signs and paint on the road. Ban all caravan parking except near the church and on the northern side of the road.**

*The ideas and suggestions for parking are noted for consideration when reviewing the Parking Plan this year and if a CBD upgrade is considered in the future.*

**Can we please have public toilets for the surf club and a patrolled beach without public toilets.**

*We are currently investigating costs for temporary showers and toilets for the area near to the Penguin Surf Club.*

**Thank you to all of the community members who participated.**