

## Community Conversations Talking Points

### 23 March 2023 – Heybridge & Howth

Mayor Cheryl Fuller hosted a Community Conversation on Thursday 23 March 2023 at the Blythe Heads Hall where residents of Heybridge, Howth and surrounds enjoyed supper and an informal chat on local issues.

**Conversation talking points are below:**

**The street sweeping schedule has been different, is it still going to be once a year?**

The street sweeping works on a rotational basis, not an annual basis. Heybridge is generally swept twice per year.

**Maintenance schedules on the football ground and clubrooms** – the ground was cut and a community member had to pick 20 wheelbarrows of grass off the ground before it was able to be trained upon. Community members have also been spraying the weeds around the ground and doing other maintenance, should this be the Council's responsibility? Also noted the condition of the ground has improved significantly since the chicken wire has been placed around the ground to stop the wallabies from entering the ground.

There are service levels across the municipality for each ground and facility dependent on the use and time of year. This ground gets mowed twice per week during summer cricket season and once per week during winter football season. Council normally sprays weeds, however recently the cricket club members offered to do this. We often work together to provide the appropriate standard.

**Signs and bags about dog droppings** – becoming a real issue – some signage to direct and also some bags for the dog droppings would be beneficial. A lot of people use the recreation ground to exercise their dog as it is fenced in and secure. 80% do the right thing and pick up after their dogs.

Signage on the football ground will be investigated as dogs are prohibited on recreation grounds.

**We desperately need a public toilet at the recreation ground.**

As part of the design of the new premises for the area we may look at new toilets that can be entered from the outside and used as public toilets. These things will be addressed when we look at the design of the community centre and how it is used and operated, there will be clear lines of who is responsible for what.

Tenders were advertised and are currently being assessed and a report will be prepared for the April Council meeting for approval and further steps.

It will be constructed as soon as possible with the intent that it will be completed for the 2024 football season.

**Playground area does not have a public toilet for the kids to utilise and the equipment is desperately outdated.**

The Council has a Public Toilet Policy and associated Plan. The potential use of the Fire Station was discussed with TasFire and that was not a possibility. Discussed the potential of moving the playground and bus stop to the community centre area. The bus access may be a problem and will require further investigation.

**Is there a plan to continue the footpath from where it stops around the bus area down to the community centre?**

It is in the future, not a high priority but if toilets and playground centralise around the community centre it will heighten the priority.

**A community member raised the following issues:**

- **Graffiti removal from River Road as soon as possible**
- **Speed limit signs placed along River Road**
- **More signage warning people of the bus stops** – to remind people that there is a bus there and they should be slowing down, i.e. 40km/h when lights flashing
- **There is a real issue with hooning and speeding on River Road** – is there any way that Council can liaise with Police, when signage is put up can we pass a letter on to the Cuprona businesses to advise them to remind staff that there is a speed limit and there are children using the road?

The graffiti is on the schedule to be removed – unfortunately offensive and vulgar graffiti needs to be removed first and there is a lot of this in the municipality at the moment.

The addition of bus stop signage and speed limit reinforcement signs will be forwarded to Council's Parking & Traffic Management Committee for consideration.

Council can liaise with Police, and so can residents. The new portable speed cameras can be requested to certain locations.

**Resident thanked Council on getting the bollards put up on the corner of Cuprona Road – these are working and the trucks cutting the corners has drastically decreased. The road surfaces are deteriorating badly and the tar is being dragged along the ground and forming into a lump – becoming dangerous and noisy.**

Staff thanked resident for the information and will pass on to our Works Operations area for attention.

**Blackberries and rubbish between Sice Avenue and the railway line** – some of this land is railway, some is private and some is Council. Each group has a different excuse as to why it can't be cleaned up. Resident also advised that he believes that efficiency could be improved across contractors and the staff across the workforce. Why can't we just hire portaloos or portable toilets?

It is a difficult issue – we deal with this around the rail corridor on a very regular basis – Council is not allowed to work in the rail corridor as per TasRail rules – we will discuss further with TasRail.

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