

Community Conversations Talking Points

24 August 2023 – Ulverstone

Mayor Cheryl Fuller hosted a Community Conversation at the Gnomon Pavilion on Thursday 24 August 2023 where residents of Ulverstone and surrounds enjoyed supper and an informal chat on local issues.

Conversation talking points are below:

In regards to our Penguin bins, please leave them as they are?

Council appreciates your view and will be engaging further with the community in regard to public area waste management and the penguin-themed bins in the near future.

The Hive is wonderful but outside is not very exciting – can we think about putting up some Aboriginal art or painting the walls etc.

The Director Community Services advised that while the focus of Council's Arts & Culture team has been on establishing Hive, public art will be a future focus. The Arts & Culture team has established some good working relationships with the Aboriginal community, and it is expected that local indigenous culture will be a feature of public art moving forward. Links to the Arts and Culture Strategy and Public Arts Policy are included here:

Arts & Culture Strategy:

<https://www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/220.2023-Arts-and-Culture-Strategy-2023-2025.pdf>

Public Art Policy:

<http://www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/220.2023-Public-Art-Policy-July-2023.pdf>

Community member thanked Council for support provided to the RSL, especially on the gardens. The proposal to have the Leven River as a boundary in any reorganised council structures – why would we separate this area. Please leave the Central Coast Council area as is.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager attended the face-to-face hearing with the Local Government Board on Tuesday 22 August 2023. No forced amalgamations will occur, and Central Coast have been very clear that if any amalgamations were to occur that they will

get none or all Central Coast. There is no intent from Central Coast Council for a reform that splits up the boundaries. The State Government has heard this loud and clear.

Regarding Buttons Beach and Buttons Creek – early this year after a storm one of the elms fell on an area where there are rows of tents in the summer, Council need to look at moving the dead elms that are there. Please can we also do something about the timber and logs on the beaches?

The shared pathway is to extend further along Beach Road between Buttons Creek and the eastern end of the overflow caravan park, the trees will most likely be removed as a part of this process.

Whilst the Council has some beach responsibility, we can only access to the high tide mark – we do not have permission to clear the beaches. We can provide and maintain the beach access, but we will advocate to the relevant government department.

I think every 500 metres there should be a beach access and we should also be cleaning the beaches – we also should have accessibility to the beach for wheelchairs etc.

A plan is being prepared to provide disability and aged care access in stages. The process will be to stage the provision of at least one access to each beach and then we will extend from there.

Safety regarding the parking at Railway Supermarket area, high turnover of cars – scooter was recently hit.

We are planning on meeting with the business owners in the area. We will discuss the parking in this area and how we can do it better. The Director Infrastructure Services will raise this issue with Council's Parking & Traffic Management Committee to review the current situation.

In regard to parking – is there any plan to have a new shopping centre precinct anywhere to keep up with population growth and take a load off the main shopping area? Please do not shorten the parking time limits.

This is on our action list and we will be meeting with the managers of Coles and Woolworths in the future to discuss parking, trollies, bikes etc.

Council advised that no one could take flood debris from the beaches – could we look at the legalities of this as people were taking the debris through the night – believed that neighbouring councils allowed this to be cleared by residents?

Nobody, including councils, is allowed to remove materials from beaches without permission from Parks & Wildlife. For a neighbouring council to remove materials they would also have needed to gain approval. Generally, Council only keeps the beach entry points clear for the community to access the beach and allows the natural processes to occur on the remainder of the beach areas.

Beach access – when flood and storm events occur, can we look at where access is made daily and work with that – and also look at the signage on where dogs can and can't go – this is on the roads and not on the beach.

Access is kept clear for licensed beach access only. Dogs are permitted on all roads, footpaths and shared pathways, provided they are on a lead that is no more than 2 metres long. The Council only provides signage at access points for designated on-lead beach areas, off-lead exercise areas, and prohibited areas. There is no plan to extend signage to roads and pathways at this time.

Concern regarding the Hive – I have been in there twice – there is no museum – should we locate where the old museum things are and have them on display somewhere?

The Director Community Services advised that several people have asked why only a small part of the museum collection is on display at Hive. He said this approach allows for new exhibitions to be developed on a regular basis and provides people with a reason to revisit Central Coast. The Director welcomed the opportunity to discuss this further with the community member and provided his contact details.

Can we have a small committee to run a day service suitable for elderly people, including activities and keeping elderly involved in the community? Could this also include weekends and evenings – could Council facilitate a location and tables and chairs set up, tea and coffee, snacks etc.? These could include board games, singalongs etc. This would be for people that are not able to partake in sports etc. but want to stay mentally active.

The Director Community Services advised that Council engages regularly with older citizens through its 77 elderly persons units and through Connect Café, and that the needs of older people have been a focus of recent discussions about whether Council's Disability Access & Inclusion Plan should be broadened to address the needs of access and inclusion more broadly. He said these issues would also be addressed as Council progresses its Community Health & Wellbeing Plan later this financial year.

Is there any possibility we can have more recycling bins in the streets?

It is something that is being considered, we do have some, but they haven't been rolled out everywhere. Unfortunately, we find that the recyclables bins are used as waste bins, we need the public to utilise these properly so that they can be rolled out. This is also a piece of educational work that needs to be undertaken by Council.

You mentioned change and improvement and I am wondering – the four years that I have been in Ulverstone my communication with the Council staff has been great! My overall view is that Ulverstone is a very nice sleepy hollow. What do you mean by improvement? Change for the sake of change is not necessary. What do you see needs improvement?

We are talking about organisational and culture change – I know my staff want a better culture and better workplace. We want to get rid of this negative energy – if we have a better culture – people want to do the work and make a difference.

Devonport has ruined their town due to the multiple shopping areas – can we add multistorey car parks under the shopping centres to reduce congestion?

Council is reviewing the Parking Plan 2015 this year; parking provision will be considered as a part of this review.

Can we put in loading and truck zones – they need to be put in near Begents and Furner's Hotel – people should not be parking in loading zones if they are not unloading goods.

The feedback is noted and will be passed on to our Compliance Officer for enforcement and monitoring purposes. The Council will review the need for the number of loading zones as a part of its Parking Plan review, which will consider the needs of all users.

I have noticed how busy Gawler Road is becoming – especially trucks putting on their engine brakes. Access to the footpath near the school is limited near Lovett Street and Trevor Street intersection – are there any plans to look at this section and traffic management?

Speed limits coming down Gawler Road can be looked at – the more urbanised an area becomes the more suitable it is to reduce the speed limit in the area – we can investigate traffic types and volumes in the area to see if warranted. We have had previous requests for exhaust/engine brake signs in that area.

Crossing Lovett Street has been an issue raised in the past – it is a very busy road – would be nice to make it narrower and slow traffic down and include some more trees etc. We are also looking at the ageing footpath which will be renewed in the future. We have previously investigated the intersection (roundabout / traffic lights etc.). Solutions are difficult to implement in the available space and it is hard to justify a cost expected to exceed half a million. Improvement for this area will be listed for consideration of options.

The boat ramp along at the Leven Yacht Club needs regular cleaning. Do we have Police patrols after 4pm or are we going to end up with the same youth crime rate as Burnie?

Our officers tend to clean up a lot of litter on a daily basis which consumes a lot of resources. In regard to the policing issue we have a Community Safety Partnership Committee that includes a member from Tasmania Police. The Committee recently held a lengthy conversation regarding youth presence with the Police – the Police officer in attendance advised of low levels of crime in Ulverstone compared to previous levels. To report any crime issues please call 131 444 [Police Assistance Line for non-urgent matters]. The Police have advised that unless they are made aware of this then they can't action anything. We are the safest municipality in Tasmania according to recent facts.

Eighteen months ago I had two trees planted on my nature strip – I would love to see our streets made greener. Do people know that we can ring the Council and get a tree planted on our nature strip?

Anyone can apply for a nature strip tree if they do not already have one – we are trying to get more trees everywhere. The Council's Greening Central Coast Strategy 2021 has a target of

30% canopy cover by 2030. Newsletter and other social media avenues will be utilised to advise of the nature strip tree arrangements.

Has Council changed the recent planning zoning to allow residential houses to be turned into commercial properties? This contradicts the homelessness issue.

All councils in Tasmania are being required to transition into the State Planning Scheme – we haven't changed the rules, but we have had to adopt the Statewide Planning Scheme. In regard to moving commercial operations into residential areas – some things are permitted, some things are discretionary.

Why are we spending so much money on consultant's reports and didn't follow what was recommended – two reports in particular: coastal inundation and the parking consultant's report – said we would buy land in CBD and reserve it for parking – why haven't we done that?

Council limits use of consultants where possible, however sometimes they are required because of specialised skills or to supplement Council staff experience. Potential purchase of properties was listed as a future consideration.

In the 17 years I have lived in Ulverstone, there have been many higher density dwellings built, as well as new residential areas opened up. Parking in town is now much more difficult. With the extra rates the Council now receives, could it be possible to buy a couple of properties near the current car parks when they come on the market, to increase parking capacity?

Parking provision is to be considered in the upcoming review of Council's Parking Plan 2015. Purchase of properties for parking purposes would be considered in this review.

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

1 – How will the bicycle track between Ulverstone and Burnie be linked?

A plan has not been developed for the missing section between Ulverstone and Penguin. Council is aiming to look at this in the coming year, subject to funding and resources. The section to the west of Heybridge falls within the Burnie municipality, this part of the request would need to be referred to Burnie.

2 – Is there any planned work for the West Ulverstone breakwater, it appears to be deteriorating rapidly.

Repairs to the breakwall are being discussed with Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife.

3 – I suggest that the breakwater wall at the mouth of the Leven River be transformed into a pier that would serve as a tourist attraction as well as a recreation resource for locals.

It would look something like the following.



Thank you for the suggestion. This can be considered as part of the Council's open space review.

4 – I would also like to submit a topic for consideration: 'Establishing a community edible plants garden project in Ulverstone township area

The West Ulverstone Community Gardens Steering Committee has recently been established, the idea is currently being progressed, we can facilitate exchange of contact details.

5 – Please advise the process for applying for street side tree planting. I wrote to the Council some time back on this issue but have not received a response.

Details of this matter have been forwarded to the appropriate Council officer to respond.

6 – Footpath repair: please consider footpath renewal at the Southern end of King Edward Street both sides from the bus terminal to the Red Cross. It is a mess even my dog will not walk on it. Tripping hazard and ankle twister.

Footpath inspections have recently commenced. The concerns on this area will be passed on and the area prioritised for inspection. Any immediate defects will be rectified, renewal will be programmed to align with priority across the pathway network.

Thank you to all of the community members who participated.