

Minutes: Precinct Advisory Group meeting, Wednesday 1st August 2012, 9.30 am, Andrew Powell's office.

Attendees: Graham Hart (Chairman and community rep.), Carolyn Williams (community rep.), Steve Swayne (Green Hills), Joyce Newton (Swim Club), Mike Norman (MDSRC), Gail Denver (Pattimore House), David Lowden (MEGS), Max Whitten (Golf Club), Peter Stevens (LBCCG), Cr Jenny McKay; and Council Officers, Richard Hill (Precinct Director), Stuart Marsay (Project Manager), Anthony Ross (Environment Operations). (Barung Landcare, not represented).

Apologies: None

Graham welcomed attendees and said there was no formal agenda today; the purpose of the meeting was primarily for Precinct Director, Richard Hill, to clarify proposed plantings by Green Hills along the Obi Creek frontage.

Richard Hill presented a map of the Precinct stating that he wanted everyone to be very clear about where plantings would occur as part of the Green Hill grant. The map was used to indicate where Unitywater's easement is, where the pine trees are, where the fence will be going to keep cattle from the plantings, and to indicate other areas under discussion. Three areas are agreed to be planted (see attached map). The riparian strip outside MDSRC's provisional lease boundary, including species selection, was to remain under discussion between Council, MDSRC and Green Hills. Richard stated that the lease boundaries for MDSRC have now been surveyed. Green Hills will construct a fence along the surveyed lease boundaries for MDSRC and Golf up to the southern wetland. The purpose of the fence is to keep cattle out of the riparian strip once planting has occurred.

Anthony Ross also explained that a series of coloured, numbered pegs have been placed around the MDSRC and Golf areas up to the southern wetland and further downstream to the current effluent disposal area to define location of various items, such as Unitywater easements, areas to be fenced, lessee's areas, walking trail next to Golf's Licence to Use area etc.

Richard explained that in order for the Master Plan to reflect the changes, as advised by Mike relating to replacement of playing fields with an equestrian facility, a strict process has to be followed in order for Council to approve the necessary changes to the Master Plan. The process is as follows:

- ◆ MDSRC is responsible for getting written support from all sporting and recreational groups affected by the relocation of various sporting groups to the showground and Witta in order to allow MEGS to relocate the equestrian activities from the showground and elsewhere to the Precinct.
- ◆ Council needs to receive the signed off documents from these groups.

- ◆ Council then requires a proposal from MEGS/MDSRC justifying the changes to the Master Plan to allow the equestrian group under MEGS to occupy the land currently allocated to MDSRC in the Master Plan.
- ◆ SCC will then look at what is required to lease the MDSRC area to MEGS if the changes are to proceed.

Mike Norman said that the new President of MDSRC, Greg Williams, has delivered the documents, re the changes to the Master Plan to accommodate MEGS, to the relevant user groups.

Richard also said that if MDSRC, MEGS and Green Hills reached agreement about plantings along the riparian strip outside the MDSRC lease area prior to this process being finalised in SCC, then that would be acceptable to SCC. However, if it subsequently proved that any plantings were inappropriate then Green Hills would carry the risk that plants could be removed.

Jenny reiterated that Council is looking at the district's sporting and recreation plans holistically - including Master Plans for the Showgrounds, Witta and the Precinct. This study included the local schools, though recognising that responsibility for these was not Council's. Jenny asked if there was anyone present who was unhappy with Equestrian activities going onto the Precinct. A show of hands revealed unanimous agreement to the plan as outlined so far.

Anthony said that Unitywater is happy to accept a pathway on their pipeline easement, and in their lease area (linking the northern portion of the Precinct to the Obi Creek) but no plantings. Plantings (see area A on attached map) by Green Hills are to be restricted down stream of Unitywater's main easement from the northern wetlands area, but stop before the pump shed. Green Hills will erect a semi-permanent electric fence, paid for by LBCC, to exclude cattle along the route defined by Council.

Mike pointed out that the pathway on the MDSRC lease was not finalised and now needs to be clarified, that it should not go through the middle of the area but around it for safety reasons.

Steve Swayne said that Green Hills had not yet formed a plan for the plantings around the MDSRC area and that the August tree plant has been postponed.

Jenny asked that all groups place correct info on their websites so the community is well informed about what is happening on the Precinct.

Gail Denver offered the MDSRC electronic weekly newsletter as a noticeboard for Precinct news/activities.

Anthony addressed the issue of the large area of pine trees near the outfall into the Obi Cree from the northern section of Precinct. Green Hills seeks to remove these trees. Council has discussed terrestrial rehabilitation plans for the entire riverine corridor but

before making any decisions on these stands of slash pine trees is investigating their heritage and ecological value. Council has spoken with Stephen Porter about the history of the plantings.

Graham asked if anyone had any objection to the removal of the pines once the process Anthony described was followed; all agreed to await further advice from Anthony.

Graham thanked Richard and Jenny for their work in steering us to this point, and left the meeting; Carolyn Williams assumed the chair.

Matt Bateman (Barung Landcare) addressed the PAG meeting about a successful grant to benchmark the current biodiversity on the Precinct and to monitor how it will change for the better with developments. Emphasis will be placed on engagement of the community and stakeholders in collecting data. BL will hold workshops that will be both science and community focussed. A data base will be established and managed by council. The project is scheduled to conclude by June 2013. Peter Stevens added that LBCCG has funded a PhD project on certain endangered species on the Precinct.

Max requested that a copy of all grants applied for which affect other stakeholders on the Precinct be supplied to the PAG so they could be understood and supported. It was noted that the golf club has environmental expertise to offer and has several areas to rehabilitate and care for, including habitat regeneration for 4 species of butterflies. It was agreed that BL and all clubs should be involved in the environmental tasks.

Jenny thanked Joyce and Kim Easton on the work they have done in working towards the correct siting of the aquatic centre; she noted that The Goodlife Centre at Buderim has been extremely helpful, sharing its business plans and info. Council has now put out the tender for the site feasibility study so work can begin asap. \$40,000 has been allocated for the study. The Swim Club is already working with the consultants, looking at 3 sites in Maleny plus the Precinct.

Jenny reported that Council is still working hard on the boardwalk between town and Gardner's Falls but that further discussion is needed with landholders for progress to be made. She noted that the cuts in the forward budgets on all levels is making projects more difficult.

Meeting ended 10.40 am