 MINUTES

**Youth Advisory Group**

**Date**: Thursday 9 February 2023

**Time**: 4:33 pm to 6:23 pm

**Location**: Council Chambers / Boardroom (Shire Hall) and via MS Teams

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| ***Members*** | ***Present*** | ***Apology*** |
| Councillor Bev Spearpoint (Chair) |  |  |
| Councillor Suzie Brandstater |  |  |
| Rob Moran, Community Projects and Events Team Leader  |  |  |
| Emily Plews, Youth Development Officer |  |  |
| ***Youth Advisory Group Members*** |  |  |
| Diaan Nasser, Youth Advisory Group  |  |  |
| Sam Lawrence, Youth Advisory Group |  |  |
| Jacqueline O’Neill, Youth Advisory Group |  |  |
| Mary-Anne Ball, Youth Advisory Group |  |  |
| Jordan Sefton, Youth Advisory Group |  |  |
| Finn Campbell, Youth Advisory Group |  |  |
| Mel Wardle, Youth Advisory Group |  |  |
| Henry Adam, Youth Advisory Group |  |  |
| ***Guests*** |  |  |
| Mayor Matt Gould |  |  |
| Dale, Belgravier Leisure Centre |  |  |
| Byron, Belgravier Leisure Centre |  |  |
| Brooke, Belgravier Leisure Centre |  |  |
| Caroline Argent, Director Shire Connections, Executive Services |  |  |
| Michelle Sheehan, Manager Community Services, Community Services |  |  |
| Shaun Beckley, Executive Planner – Business & Investment, Shire Futures |  |  |

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| **Item**  | **Key Speaker (s)** | **Agreed Actions** |
| 1. **Acknowledgement of country**
 | Chair  |  |
| 1. **Attendance and apologies**

As noted above | Chair |  |
| 1. **Disclosure of interests**
 | Chair | No disclosures made |
| 1. **Confirmation of previous minutes**
 | Councillor Brandstater |  |
| 1. **Introductions**
 | Each attendee introduced themselves  |  |
| 1. **Business Arising**
 | ***Shaun Beckley, Executive Planner- Business and Investment, Shire Futures**** Shaun explained Council’s role in supporting businesses and new developments bringing new facilities to Wollondilly
* Council has a legal obligation to set planning framework including what and where new developments such as shopping centres can be built
* Shaun explained the key steps in new developments coming to the Wollondilly- once planning framework is established, someone brave with money and an idea needs to take a risk in establishing a new development
* The development plan needs to be approved by Council
* If the development is approved it will be built
* Council can’t build new recreational developments such as bowling but Council works and supports developers to build facilities like bowling
* Shaun informed the YAG as Wollondilly Shire’s population grows we will have new opportunities come to the LGA
* Wilton’s new Town Centre development is coming along with a range of shops and entertainment facilities, Council will advocate and support businesses to establish entertainment facilities at this new development
* The Wollondilly Cultural Precinct (Picton) will bring a Performing Arts Centre- this new development opens new opportunities for entertainment for all the community including young people
* Shaun will continue to advocate and support business to establish new entertainment and opportunities for young people within the Wollondilly

**Group discussion*** Community Projects and Events Team Leader suggested the possibility of the new Performing Arts Centre having movies showing when able
* Chair, Councillor Spearpoint suggested the Performing Arts Centre could be used to display art
* YAG member wanted to know the likelihood of a cinema or entertainment for young people being at the new Town Centre in Wilton
* Shaun responded Council can set up an area as an entertainment area and highlight the benefits for the community and the developer but it is against the law for Council to tell people/ business owners what to sell and where to sell it. Council expects with the population boom more retail, entertainment and recreational options will come out to Wollondilly.
* YAG member asked what is the procedures to make a development happen
* Shaun- engaging the land owner, working with developers, marketing the need for retail, entertainment ect. Shaun will then support the business owner/ developer through the Council processes. Council can write to companies to promote the opportunity to come out to the Wollondilly
* The group thanked Shaun for his time
* Any questions following on from the discussion can be sent to the Community Project Officer who will pass them onto Shaun

***Bryon, Dale and Brooke- Belgravier Leisure Centre**** Brooke invited the group to a forum at the Pool on the 15 of March
* Bryon explained how the Pools want to engage with young people, such a youth programs to support young people
* Byron asked the group for their input on what young people would like to use the Leisure Centre for? The Leisure Centre at Picton has a gym, outdoor pool, indoor pool, a hall and basketball courts
* YAG suggested- Disco, Chess competition on the basketball courts
* Age limit on accessing the pool’s facilities is 16 but this can be overcome if programs are developed with qualified professionals
* YAG member suggested Picton High School gets out early on a Tuesday- this would be a prime opportunity to have a program as there is a lot of young people available and close by in location
* Community Project and Event Team Leader suggested working on a grant in partnership to fund youth projects at the Leisure Centre
* YAG member enquired about employment opportunities at the pool for young people
* Byron explained the pools are always looking for staff- young people can’t watch pool until 16 years old, a cert 3 and cert 4 qualification is needed to watch the floor but there are other opportunities such as front desk and young people don’t need experience but need to have a great attitude
* Byron also mentioned School based traineeships are an option

***Wollondilly Council to lobby to State Government for a new high school- letter attached to minutes**** YAG wants to know what was written in the letter to the Minister for Education and Early Learning- Ms Sarah Mitchell MP, the Minister for Infrastructure, Cities, Active Transport and Regional Development- Mr Rob Stokes MP, the Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development- Senator Bridget McKenzie and the Shadow Minister for Education- Mr Alan Tudge MP
* YAG asked what is the process if there is no response to the letters sent out

  ***Community Project Officer and YAG to work together to identify and create opportunities for young people to engage in the community**** YAG and Community Project Officer have identified Pride Month in June as an opportunity to celebrate and educate

***Australia Day Committee will introduce Special Awards as necessary to acknowledge young volunteers******Community Project Officer is still learning how to use Instagram properly*** | * Community Project Officer to attach letter to the minutes and follow up on the process of advocating for a new High School
* YAG and Community Project Officer to work together to develop an event for Pride Month
* Community Project Officer to continue to learn and develop skills
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| 1. **General Business**
 | ***Community Bus**** YAG expressed the need for a community bus
* Mayor Gould explained there will still be a community bus model provided to the community of Wollondilly, Council is looking at the best way of providing a community bus to the community

***Volunteering**** YAG wants to know how to engage more young people in volunteer work
* Community Projects and Events Team Leader mentioned working with schools to promote volunteer work to young people, suggesting Volunteering Macarthur- Sector Connect as a good way to link young people in with volunteer work
* Chair, Councillor Spearpoint suggested Facebook as a good place to find volunteer work
* Community Project Officer discussed Council working along side the Duke of Edinburgh to try and engage young volunteers to be a part of YAG
* YAG member stated their Highschool only volunteers for work placement such as food tech
* YAG member expressed how volunteering information is hard to find, they want to know how volunteering works, where organisations promote the need for more volunteers

***Vaping issues**** YAG is concerned regarding how easy it is for young people to access vapes
* YAG understand vape jurisdiction is generally under control by the police or even the government but any involvement by the council in this area is positive
* Chair, Councillor Spearpoint suggested inviting Camden Police Area Command’s Youth Liaison Officer to attend meeting to discuss further
* The PCYC and Youth Solutions were also mentioned as organisations who could come to a YAG meeting a talk about the issues of vapes
* YAG explored the idea of harm reduction of vaping through educational programs
* YAG wants to know what are the laws around vaping- suggested a presentation addressing this question
* YAG wants a parent, carers and teacher’s information night on how to help young people with addiction
 | * Community Project Officer to send YAG more information regarding the community bus models and options
* Community Project Officer to connect with schools and Sector Connect to promote volunteering opportunities
* Community Project Officer to send out more information regarding Duke of Ed program and Councils’ partnership
* Community Project Officer to invite a guest speaker from Volunteer Macarthur to next YAG meeting
* Community Project Officer to invite a professional to come a discuss vaping issues with the group
* Community Project Officer to work on parent, carer and teacher’s information night
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| **Next Meeting –**  | Thursday 11 May 2023, 4.30pm to 6.30pm, Banksia Boardroom, The Shire Hall |  |
| **Meeting Closed –**  | 6.23pm |  |