

People Strategic Reference Group

Date: Wednesday 28 June 2023

Time: 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

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

<i>Members</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Apology</i>
Councillor Suzy Brandstater (Chair)	✓	
Councillor Beverley Spearpoint (Deputy Chair)	✓	
Caroline Argent, Director Customer and Corporate Services		✓
Michelle Sheehan, Manager Community Services (MS)	✓	
Matt Gould, Mayor	✓	
Greg Duffy	✓	
Lisa Richardson		✓
Hugh Gent	✓	
Dennise Hanmore - guest	✓	
Kazan Brown - online	✓	
Elizabeth Gunter	✓	
James Johnson	✓	
Edward Stunnell	✓	
Michael O'Shaw		✓
Karen Fist	✓	

<i>Guest Speakers</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Apology</i>
Troy Baverstock - Uniting	✓	
Lisa Fowler – Uniting (LF)	✓	
Shayne Walsh - Community	✓	
Stephen Gardiner – Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Robyn Cooper – Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Carolyn Whitten – Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	

Item	Key Speaker (s)	Agreed Actions/Recommendation
1. Acknowledgement of country	Chair	nil
2. Disclosure of interests	Chair	nil
3. Attendance and apologies As noted above	Chair	Noted Tina Meyer has resigned from the group and a new member will be added via the EOI process
4. Confirmation of previous minutes	Chair	Karen moved Hugh seconded
5. Presentations		
5.1. Companion Animals – Breeding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation on was given on a longstanding matter relating to companion animals, animal breeding and land use by staff from Council's Sustainable Growth and Health & Regulatory Services Departments. • Since at least 2012, there have been a number of Council resolutions related to where Animal Boarding and Training Establishments are permissible, the need for a 'keeping of animals policy' and hobby versus commercial dog breeding. In response to a renewed interest, a report will be considered by Council later this year on the matter. • In response to complaints about barking/breeding or training, a common-sense responsive management approach is applied by Council's Regulatory Services Team. • An update was provided on the current status of the Select Committee inquiry into puppy farming in NSW. A recommendation from the inquiry is for the NSW Government to address a disconnection between land use planning laws and animal welfare considerations in local government decisions regarding companion animal breeding facilities. Of particular interest, if implemented, there would be definitions to distinguish between different scales of animal breeding (micro-breeders through to companion animal business). • It was recommended that an interim response to the matters is implemented until details of the updated legislation are known. The interim response involves the preparation of an information sheet on the planning pathways for animal breeding and to continue the common-sense responsive management to complaints. • Questions from the group included, approach to limit of dogs and how this would apply to working dogs, what the term 'companion animal' refers to, certification requirements for breeding dogs. 	Carolyn Whitten / Robyn Cooper / Stephen Gardiner	Nil

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from the group also noted that Wollondilly has a good name in this space, and an acknowledgment that problems tend to arise with commercially drive puppy farms. The Group supported the recommended approach to wait for the updated legislation before developing any policy or planning changes and supported the interim approach. 		
<p>5.2. Shayne Walsh – Lived homelessness experience Shayne presented his personal life journey and experiences with homelessness.</p>	Shayne Walsh	Nil
<p>5.3. Uniting – Homelessness in Wollondilly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lisa commenced the presentation by asking the group what their idea of homelessness was to gauge their understanding Lisa discussed the homelessness support that uniting provides Discussed varying types of homelessness – eg couch surfing Uniting works with 12 to 24-year old clients to provide capacity building with case management Discussed the lack of refuges locally Uniting works across Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly The group discussed a collaboration to deliver a homelessness focused project/awareness program. Cr Spearpoint – asked regarding agencies that are linked in the North Ward (Warragamba). Suggested a link with Warragamba Silverdale Neighbourhood Centre Edward suggested it should be one person’s role in Council to look after Homelessness in the Shire. It was determined that Council does not have funding for one staff member to focus solely on Homelessness, however, they have community project officers that work in the space within current resourcing MS suggested link2home cards – LF provided an overview of the Link2Home service, including the challenges with the service The group discussed developing a resource fact sheet for homelessness awareness. Consider the use of volunteers to assist with this LF – would we consider a youth refuge locally? It was determined that it is Council’s role is to advocate for Homelessness, not service provision 	Lisa Fowler & Troy Baverstock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: Council collaborate with other organisations and seek to develop a collective resource for Homelessness ACTION: MS to provide contact details to Uniting for Warragamba Silverdale Neighbourhood Centre ACTION: MS to have community team to reach out to Uniting to get a stock of Link2Home cards for Council customer service RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Council write a letter to the NSW Government seeking funding and support to establish a Homelessness refuge for youth and adults in Wollondilly.

<p>6. Reports, minutes or actions from advisory groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth – No matters referred and no questions • Indigenous Culture & Heritage group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mayor provided update on Council’s current position regarding Uluru Statement from the Heart - Provided an overview of the Indigenous Culture and Heritage Advisory Group meeting and the recommendations determined at that meeting. <p>Recommendations from previous AG meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That prior to undertaking any activities in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart significant consultation occur with the Indigenous Culture and Heritage Advisory Group. 2. That Council explore the opportunity to have an external person/expert to come and do a presentation to the AG members on the Voice to provide clarity and understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Inclusion and Access Group – No matters referred and no questions from the People SRG. 	<p>Members</p>	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That prior to undertaking any activities in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart significant consultation occur with the Indigenous Culture and Heritage Advisory Group. 2. That Council explore the opportunity to have an external person/expert to come and do a presentation to the AG members on the Voice to provide clarity and understanding
<p>7. Items of interest / project working groups Carried over to next meeting due to time restraints</p>		
<p>8. General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troy – mentioned they have nearly completed a joint project with River Road Creative to develop a film relating to homelessness • Edward – would like to see projects carried over from each meeting and an action list for the People SRG. • Dennise – suggested register of events to be held at the library. 	<p>All</p>	<p>ACTION: MS to develop an action log for People SRG</p>
<p>Next Meeting: 13 September 2023</p>		