

Hallidays Point Community Conversation – 11 April 2019

- Q1. Can council revisit dogs on beaches. We have far too many dogs running off lead on the beach, pooping and chasing wildlife.**
- A. Council is happy to undertake investigations into these aspects of beach management.
- Q2. We need a strategy plan for Rainbow Flat. A strategic plan was drawn up for our area in 2002 but the plan was not adopted. It is now time to revisit this Plan and incorporating a site for a community hall and a comprehensive plan saving our sensitive depleted bushland where once incredible varied flora and fauna thrived. This can co-exist with cycleways and walkways created across Rainbow Flat from the Lakes Way to Old Bar Road.**
- A. To create a local community plan the local community groups need to come together and work on documenting what they believe is in the best interests of your community. This is not for one group solely to do, it is a document that encompasses plans for the future and needs involvement from many community groups working together. Council help to support and guide this process, however it is a document that is owned and created by the community.
- Q3. As MidCoast Council seem to be in favour of multiple development in this area, could you either build foot paths or ensure the Development Applications include the provision of walkways/cycleways connecting the various development areas, such as Tallwoods, Black Head, Diamond Beach, Red Head, Seascape and including access by the Hallidays Point Public School students to the Diamond Beach Sports Field and so called tourist precinct in North Diamond Beach. Plus enable all children to either bike or walk to the local public school and Community Church. There is a desperate need to get mobility scooters off the non surfaced roadsides (usually they occupy the centre of the narrow roads). Footpaths are not only a Safety Need, they will also provide children with exercise. This is a growing community for families and working parents, however the vast majority of our population are retired and do not wish to drive short distances to gain access to facilities.**
- A. Council is working on developing a Pedestrian Access & Mobility Plan for the MidCoast area. This plan will bring together the strategies of the previous Council's and provide a framework to assess the needs of communities. The plan will consider the existing infrastructure as well as current and future demands in an effort to prioritise future works. It will serve as a base to require works from new development and also allow Council to pursue grant funding opportunities. A Section of footpath from Diamond Beach Road towards town is planned for construction in the near future. We are hoping that with a good plan we can address some of the piecemeal work done as part of the existing developments.

- Q4. Cycleways - it is an easy ride from Black Head to Tuncurry via the bush track through the nature reserve. Cycle trails are a major tourism drawcard. What are the chances of having this track upgraded so that it is a known cycle route for both locals to commute to Tuncurry/ Forster and as a tourist trail?**
- A. Connecting Hallidays Point is a priority of Council and we are working towards this. We understand cycleways are important to the community and need to look at how we can support this. We are currently working on developing a bike plan which will help us to prioritise future works and seek grant funding. The opportunity to attract grant funding to upgrade the existing track is promising.
- Q5. I would like to see plans for footpaths in the Diamond Beach, Hallidays Point area in addition to road upgrades.**
- A. Connecting Hallidays Point is a priority of Council and we are working towards this. We understand cycleways are important to the community and need to look at how we can support this. We are currently working on developing a bike plan which will help us to prioritise future works and seek grant funding.
- Q6. The road from the Black Head Bowling Club to back beach is used by MANY local people for walking / hillclimb exercise. This is a shared road with vehicles including large off roaders and horse trailers and pedestrians. Could signage be prominently placed indicating a shared road with a speed limit of 15km/hr such as those common in Sydney?**
- A. Council can undertake an investigation in this area, complete high traffic surveillance and go to the local traffic committee with a recommendation for a local traffic zone. This can take up to six months.
- Q7. Horse damage at back beach carpark area?**
- A. We are currently investigating the damage and possible repair works and will continue to look into this matter.
- Q8. What is the current status of the Manufactured Home Estate (MHE) vs Tallwoods Village location? Given that Council rejected the DA, has now declared that MHEs cannot be built on land zoned R1 and the matter is before the Land and Environment Court.**
- A. An appeal has been lodged with the Land and Environment Court by the developers. Council is continuing to assess the application and it is expected a report will go to the elected council in May for determination.
- Q9. In June 2016 Council prepared preliminary documentation proposing a rezoning in the Diamond Beach Village area that would allow medium density development up to four stories. There was significant reaction against this at the time and discussion with Council officers was that it would not go ahead and that it would be reported to Council that it should not proceed. Nothing has since been heard about the proposal for almost three years now. Is this proposal now dead?**
- A. The draft Manning Valley Strategy was never finalised, but did address this issue by removing medium density housing from Diamond Beach. More recently Council has been developing a draft Housing Strategy for the MidCoast region. This document will be presented to the elected Council mid-year for public exhibition. This will cover density, scale and heights of buildings. There will be an opportunity for community

comment during this time as we will be undertaking extensive community consultation on the draft strategy.

Q10. Why doesn't council ever slash the grass along Blackhead Road and Lakes Way? It looks an absolute mess.

A. Council continues to slash in accordance with a maintenance schedule. In areas such as this we slash to a set width, we do not always slash to a boundary. Currently we are working towards improving service levels however, Black Head Road/Lakes Way is due to be slashed in approximately four weeks. It will not then be scheduled to be slashed again for 9 to 12 months.

Q11. Why doesn't council ever do litter pick-ups along Blackhead Road and Lakes Way? What is the council's long term plan for addressing the major roadside litter problem we have in this area?

A. Every community struggles with litter. We are working with industry partners JR Richards and the EPA and MidWaste on greater awareness, education and strategies to change attitudes to prevent littering. Currently most dumping, of a larger scale is dealt with under our illegal dumping policies.

Q12. Why is lot 213 DP 1098493 zoned partly General Residential when it contains a drainage retention pond, is used to convey storm water run-off and part subject to flooding?

A. This lot is entirely zoned general residential. Much of Council's public infrastructure, such as stormwater and roads, are located on land zoned residential, as the zoning in many cases reflects the zoning of the neighbouring properties.

Q13. I would like to see more youth community space and free events in our area. We see a great need for youth to be educated in health and positive choices and unfortunately there is nowhere in Forster for kids to go.

A. It is currently Youth Week and there are many activities on and listed on our website. We also have a Youth Liaison Officer who coordinates and organises great events for the youth in our community. We would encourage our community to have a look at what is on offer.

Q14. Community help is available to help with Diamond Beach care. What is Council prepared to do?

A. Council has an active volunteer program and is always keen to work with members of the community who have an interest in volunteering.

Q15. What plans does MCC have for beautifying the entrance to Diamond Beach? Diamond Beach could also benefit from some care and the retail section is neglected.

A. The community has identified through this process that beautification is important to them, so we will be looking at options and opportunities in this area and report back to the community.

Q16. Can we have a Local Community Plan?

A. We are currently in the process of developing a program to deliver local community plans for the MidCoast. We will be supporting communities to develop local plans. These are an opportunity to bring all groups together to work together for a common

vision. Council will support the community to develop a plan in line with our process, however it does have to be owned by the community.

Q17. What standing does a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) have with Council?

A. It is a document that informs Council's strategic plan and operational plan. It sets vision for the community. It is noted by Council, however it has no statutory authority over the LEP.

Q18. Where does Council's Housing Strategy fit with the LEP and Development Control Plan (DCP)?

A. The Housing Strategy will inform and guide the preparation of the LEP and DCP.

Q19. Blackhead Road and The Lakes Way is very dangerous, what is going to be done about it?

A. In the coming weeks there will be minor upgrades, this is not a dramatic impact but many of these roads are now going to be the responsibility of the State. This is an election promise and there are many roads, such as this that will go back to being maintained by the State.

Q20. What is going to be done to improve Tallwoods roundabout?

A. This roundabout forms part of a development and Council's construction schedule has this due for works in July-September 2019.

Q21. What are the consequences of not maintaining the roads. Is Council then liable for incidents, injury or deaths?

A. Council has an obligation to demonstrate that it is doing the best it can with the resources that are available. We do not automatically assume liability for a defect even if we have knowledge of the defect beforehand. We do have to use a risk based approach towards prioritising repairs. Factors affecting risk can include the defect location, road speed and level of use.

Q22: What plans do you have for caring for Diamond Drive?

A: There are plans in place for upgrading the intersection of Blackhead Road and Diamond Beach Road together with the first section of Diamond Beach Road up to the Seascapes subdivision. This upgrade is triggered by expansion of the Seascapes subdivision itself. Further plans are in place for road improvements in our forward works program.

Top priorities

Overarching principle - consider the environment and safety in all the work that we do.

1. Roads/footpaths/cycleways connectivity
2. Street lighting
3. Manufactured Homes Estates
4. Beautification
5. Park facilities
6. Drainage

Full list of priorities identified

Group one priorities

1. Signage – shared zone – near Bowling Club to Back Beach
2. Define Blackhead as a ‘Village’ create a village atmosphere
3. Roads – Glen Court; review if safety of road – review if initial road plans; improve Tallwoods Drive
4. Cycleway – Blackhead to Diamond Beach
5. Vehicles/bikes on beaches – management
6. Improving beautification/arts/destination of region
7. Beautification of Tallwoods roundabout - make proper
8. Future Housing – Housing Strategy
9. Walkway/cycleway to Tuncurry

Group two priorities

1. Public amenities for Diamond Beach
2. Street lighting Diamond Beach area
3. Road condition in area
4. Cycleways/pathways
 - Past school and down to resorts
 - Connectivity of villages
 - Diamond Beach – Blackhead
5. Glenn Court Hallidays Shores
6. Number of bus services to Taree/Forster – lobbying
7. Western Road shoulder opposite Hallidays Point Public School
8. Proposed rezoning Diamond Beach Village – dead or not
9. More community engagement – transparency
10. Faster response times to enquiries
11. Risk assessment clarity
12. Staffing levels
13. Prioritisation of projects
14. Less secrecy

Group three priorities

1. Footpaths/Cycleways – Tallwoods to Black Head Beach
2. Road repairs/rebuild
3. Street lighting and street sweeper
4. Seaweed removal – beach cleaning/raking
5. Green space – koala safety

Group four priorities

1. Manufactured Homes Estate/ Leadership
2. Drainage – Red Head and further
3. Tourist Plan
4. Coastal walkway and cycleways
5. Parks development
 - Skate park
 - Community meeting place
6. Beach side scrub
7. Roads / Road repairs – Lakes Way/Blackhead Rd intersection; build second arterial road, upgrade Old Soldiers Rd

Group five priorities

1. Path from Tallwoods to the beach; pathways in village; pathway to surfclub (suitable for mobility scooters)
2. Road Repairs – Redhead Rd, Blackhead Rd near Federation Dr and from Diamond Beach Rd
3. Over development of area – access to DA documentation (online or over the phone) – timely response from council re submissions
4. More bus services (subsidised bus funding, advertising of current bus services)
5. Council communicating more with community
6. Council policy War Memorials

Group six priorities

1. Maintenance of Blackhead Road
2. Tallwoods roundabout with street lighting
3. Line marking and street lighting cnr Diamond Beach Road and Blackhead Road
4. Street lighting Black Head and High Street
5. Keep rural/beachside village environment, more than just banning the MHE
6. Seaweed on beach
7. Bird watching information on website – major attraction of our region

Group seven priorities

1. Diamond Beach Makeover
 - Tree lined Diamond Beach Dr
 - Plants – school pick up
 - Given development it cannot be neglected anymore
 - Pathways – kerb and gutter
 - Centre strip planting
 - Retail section care
 - Diamond Beach development strategy from Council
2. Long term plans for linked shared pathway, nature trail/shared pathway to Tuncurry, cycleways, healthy lifestyle activity areas for children/playgrounds
3. Beach Access control Back Beach – safety, no vehicle access, conflict with Horse
4. Sport Field at Tallwoods multiuse – cricket, football, general recreation
5. Natural Systems Management and community education; invasive weeds, garden weeds, encroaching biodiversity controls eg. Black Head Bowling Club – vegetation control

Group eight priorities

1. Skate Park – Outdoor sports/recreation park at Diamond Beach
2. Roads
 - Hallidays Point School – Diamond Beach Rd, road not wide enough, uneven, no gutter, poor drainage, road is unsafe
 - White line markings/cats eyes, cannot see at night
 - Blackhead Rd lighting near tavern
3. No Manufactured Homes Estate or at least reduced number permitted – do not downgrade the area
4. Small accommodation development like Villas/units for people who cannot maintain larger properties
5. Greater pension discount on council and water rates; income based

Group nine priorities

1. Unprotected drains on side of road
2. Dust pollution from Failford Quarry
3. Water seepage breaking up road – Bullocky Way