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## HBRA Newsletter – March 2024

**Hello and welcome to all our Members, Residents and friends.**

This newsletter provides an update on our Committee's involvement in a number of community issues that have been progressed by HBRA.

Local councils work towards improving community well-being and providing better services. Their activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs; striving to improve quality of life and community well-being.

The matters we raise to the Council, and also to State Governments, not only secure better outcomes and understanding but also ensures that the different level of governments are being held accountable through our actions. HBRA is not aligned to political parties and acts independently of governments.

HBRA is managed by a volunteer committee of residents. The information gained provides and insight into the processes and workings of governments. It is interesting and whilst the Committee has a focus on outcomes the level of fellowship and fun is very high on our agenda. Keeps us stimulated at the very least.

HBRA welcome Janet Fletcher to the committee. Janet is very community minded and has previously served as a Councillor for the CoHB.

If you are interested in joining an organisation that endeavours to make a difference, please consider joining the Alliance.

Ken Daly stepped down as President this year after 3 years in the role. On behalf of all of the members of the HBRA, I would like to say thank you to Ken Daly for the massive amount of work that he has done, for his flexibility and his leadership over that time.

We welcome your feedback and involvement and encourage you to share the Newsletter to the wider community.

**Maurice Dunstall**

**President**

**HBRA**

## **Council Draft Annual Business Plan – 2022/23**

HBRA lodged a submission to the Council raising questions mainly focussed on rate income and expenditure. The submission and subsequent reply from Council was distributed to our members.

In essence HBRA believe that the substantial rate increases are hurting many rate payers who are experiencing other ever-increasing costs and that these rate rises are too high. The areas that HBRA questioned in the submissions focussed on were:

1. Overspending on events and the relevance of many of these rate payer funded events. Earlier this year Council produced edition of "Our Place" there are 16 ratepayer funded events – too many!
2. Costs and need for some of the proposed capital expenditure,
3. The current staffing structure of Council and the high-cost wages,
4. The cost of being over governed. Particularly where there are 1 elected Councillor per 2,700 electors compared to Onkaparinga Council where there are 1 per 10,000 per electors.

HBRA believes that the Council needs to be more proactive in questioning the various structures not limited to the ones identified above.

Annual budget papers are generally out for public feedback and consultation in April.

Rate payers are encouraged to review the documents when released and individually contact Councillors to question revenue and expenditure.

## **Rates 2022 – 2023**

The Valuer General has revalued the properties within the city and as a result many members are reporting increases in rates that are excessive.

Residents receiving increases above 10% can apply for a reduction. In essence this caps the rate at 6% for this financial year. Further information can be found on the council's website or contact the Council on 8229 9999.

If we lived in a truly egalitarian society rates would not be based on a Capital Value. Other Australian states have site values as a fairer method of collecting rates. The council offers and provides the same services to all residents. Again we encourage ratepayers to contact elected Councillors or the Mayor for clarification or justification.

## **Maturin Road Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre**

This is a contentious issue with a balance of the need for facilities for those in need and the rights of residents. We provided a brief on the situation to date.

In October 2022 the State government issued tender documents for Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation facilities. Uniting Communities (UC) tendered and was successful in being awarded a 3 year \$6 million contract to establish a facility at 5 Maturin Road Glenelg.

The residents only found out that the establishment of the facility by asking one of the tradesmen who was working on the internal improvements to the property.

UC did not apply for a Development Approval (DA) through the normal channels at Council. UC decided to apply for a DA directly through State Government. This despite UC advising residents on a number of occasions that they would work with Council for a DA.

Residents raised a number of issues with UC which resulted in a two meetings, one was opened to the public.

HBRA wrote to UC, and the relevant ministers. We received replies from all parties however none answered a number of the questions raised consequently forwarded further correspondence. As no replies were received to the latter correspondence. HBRA then wrote to the Premier asking that his ministers reply to our correspondence. Copies of all the correspondence has been forwarded to HBRA members.

HBRA's in the main has asked for correct processes be followed thereby protecting the rights of residents both at the facility and in private properties.

The state member for Morphett Stephen Patterson has been proactively representing residents in this matter, both in the media and in Parliament.

A number of residents have commenced legal action resulting in a Court case in December 2023. No further action can be taken until the Court hands down its judgement, the time frame is unknown.

Resident of Maturin Road, Dean Cooke provided an update on the matter at the AGM, details are in the minutes.

We will continue to monitor the matter.

### **AGM held in November 2023**

The keynote speakers were:-

**Peter Moloney**; Principal - Peter Moloney & Partners, who provided an update on the Chasecrown Seawall Apartment Development

**Dean Cook**; A member of the Maturin Road Action Group, who provided an update on the

Proposed Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre, 5 Maturin Road, Glenelg

**Jim Blake**; author of the book "Sea Change". A pictorial history of the City of Holdfast Bay. Jim is a volunteer at the Holdfast Bay Historical Centre and the book is available for sale for \$45.00.

All three speakers were well received by the over 50 members who attended. The minutes of the meeting have been distributed and provide more detail of their presentations.



Part of the audience at the AGM listen intently to an excellent presentation by Peter Moloney.

## **Weekly Green FOGO bin collections in Holdfast Bay**

Holdfast Bay is the first South Australian council to introduce weekly green-lid FOGO bin collections, with red-lid land fill bins collected fortnightly.

“FOGO” stands for “Food Organics Garden Organics”.

The HBRA committee support the Council initiative particularly as it has long term benefit to the environment and reduce costs to ratepayers. At this stage the system appears to be working well. HBRA will monitor the on going cost of the process.

## **40kph speed limit – Update.**

In 2022 there were discussions held regarding a speed limit of 40kph being placed across the whole Council area. HBRA received strong feedback from residents opposing the implementation of the speed limit.

HBRA provided a submission to Council that stated that the current 40kph speed limit areas are more than adequate and that a blanket approach was not necessary for a number of reasons.

After discussion at a Council meeting the matter was placed on hold. We continue to monitor Council on this matter.

## **School Crossings and Safety**

McAuley and Woodlands Schools

As previously advised our main concerns are the safety of the parents and children during school pick up and drop off times. The restriction of traffic during these times in our opinion does not provide an adequate and safe environment. In addition, the type of speed bumps installed along King George Avenue are inappropriate.

HBRA first wrote to Council in January 2021 and followed it up with further correspondence and telephone calls. This was again followed up by HBRA earlier this year with our correspondence and Council's reply being sent to members.

Earlier this year at a Council meeting approved specialised and improved crossing at both the schools. Later they approached residents to put a one-way street parallel (Colton Ave) to the McAuley school. HBRA has written to Council recommending that a holistic approach be adopted to the problem in lieu of piecemeal approach.

It is our understanding that this will now be the approach for McAuley school however not the Woodlands school.

HBRA will continue to monitor and follow up.

## **Glenelg Police Station Operating Hours and Procedures**

We continually hear that there is an increase in security and safety problems in Jetty Road Glenelg.

The precinct is an active social night area and is experiencing an increase in homeless and itinerates. We have previously written to the Police Minister asking for an increased Police presence with a permanent staff and longer trading hours to no avail.

There has been an increase in patrols by SAPOL We will continue to monitor the situation.

## **Seawall Apartment Development**

We previously reported that the controversial development plan for the construction of a 13-storey high-rise apartment block had been declined by the State's peak planning body SCAP. The plan exceeded the current zoning of 5 storeys.

Peter Moloney provided an update at the AGM as previously mentioned the details are in the minutes of the AGM. Peter has done a magnificent job at great personal cost objecting to the project through litigation. The developers continue to endeavour to appeal and resubmit plans for the development of the site.

We will continue to monitor and advise in due course.

## **Pedestrians and Cyclist along the Esplanade**

The Esplanade is shared by pedestrians and cyclist with different demographics. The greater number of people using the walkways are respectful and adhere to neighbourly safe practices.

HBRA raised with Council the issue of dangerous speed by and abusive behaviour by few cyclists, skateboarders and mainly electric scooters.

Council advised that the control of the Esplanade is under the jurisdiction of the State Government. HBRA wrote to Sarah Andrews who raised the matter with the current Minister. Consequently, the Minister advised that the Esplanade was under the jurisdiction of the CoHB.

The CoHB has advised that the control of the traffic is their responsibility however they have also admitted that it is very difficult to control, due to jurisdiction and staffing costs

It still does not solve the issue. Suggestions have ranged from an increase in bollards to the mandatory dismounting of riders in certain parts of the Esplanade.

We would be very happy to receive feedback and suggestions from residents on this issue.

## **State Ministers of Parliament**

HBRA has no political alliances or allegiances. However, when politicians do a good job, we acknowledge the work being done. Both Sarah Andrews and Stephen Paterson have been very responsive to HBRA in our dealings, and we thank them for their efforts with the community.

Don't forget that if you have a pressing issue then you can approach them directly.



Sarah Andrews having a quiet drink after finishing a volunteer bar shift at the Brighton Rugby Union Club.



Stephen Patterson collecting for the Salvation Army

## **Lithium Battery and Battery Disposal**

We reiterate our committee has been concerned about the dangers of incorrect disposal of lithium, button batteries, 6v lantern batteries and other household batteries.

Most Supermarkets and some hardware stores now accept used batteries and there are collection bins at Council premises. We encourage all residents to dispose of them in an environmentally safe way.

Please do not throw batteries in the Council bins, they do cause long term environmental damage.

## Membership

### HBRA:

- Provides support, advocacy and independent information to resident ratepayers of Holdfast Bay
- Seeks transparency and accountability of the expenditure by Council of your ratepayer dollar.
- Closely monitors how the elected members and the Administration are setting and administrating policies

As a Volunteer, non-political organisation, we do our best to assist local interest groups, and have a good network of supporters throughout the State.

Our membership fee has been kept at the very reasonable price of \$15 per household.

**Membership by Electronic banking fee remit \$15 to our bank, Bank SA BSB 105-015 Account No. 129415940 (Please include your name as the reference) or contact the Secretary to receive a membership form.**

For those who are former members or are on our mailing list, we welcome your renewed support.

New members are very welcome.

## HBRA Committee 2023/2024

### President

Maurice Dunstall  
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### Secretary/Treasurer

Barry Salter Ph 0407792950  
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### Public Officer and Committee Member

Committee member

Committee member

Committee member

Committee member

Committee member

Committee member

David Bishop

Ken Daly

David Bishop

Rosemary Clancy

Barbara Stopp

Ken Branch

Janet Fletcher