

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary meeting

## MINUTES

**Tuesday 19 November 2019, 6.30-8pm**

Committee Room, Council Administration Building, Speers Point



<b>Present</b>	Christine Aus, Robyn Charlton, Steve Dewar, Samantha Doove, Gabrielle Glappison, Amanda Herrald, Mark Howells, Jean McGarry, Ken Stokes  Rachelle McConville (LMCC)  Tom Boyle (LMCC)
<b>Apologies</b>	Avril Lockton, Naiomi Finlayson, Nico Marcar

### 1. Conflict of interest

### 2. Discussion – Council’s Active Transport Strategy, Tom Boyle

Council is currently reviewing the existing cycling and footpath strategies to develop an integrated Active Transport Strategy.

#### Sustainable Neighbourhood priorities

- All SN groups have identified the need for safe, connected active transport options throughout the city in their Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plans, including footpaths, cycleways, and supporting infrastructure such as shade, trees, density etc.
- Identified by community as a priority for sustainability (ie reducing emissions) as well as significant contribution to health and wellbeing that walkability offers. Need to move away from private transport.
- Identified particular need along west side of lake, for example connecting Kilaben Bay to Rathmines. There is opportunity to connect a shared pathway to the rail network.
- Recognise the need for infrastructure to support everyday (as opposed to just recreational) active transport, and connection throughout households / neighbourhoods.
- Opportunity to research and consider alternative materials and design of pathways, for example incorporating permeability / water sensitive urban design principles, and potentially allowing more affordable construction or maintenance.
- Community concern about how wider priorities is decided. (eg Why a new library or other projects over footpaths?)

**Funding sources include:**

- Completed by developers (either at time of development, or through '7.11' Development Contribution plans)
- Council rates generally only cover maintenance.
- Grant funding available for major projects.

### **Strategy development**

- Current footpath and cycleways strategies are 20 year plans with little flexibility. Intending to develop new strategy that provides a more flexible prioritisation framework that can inform 4 year capital work delivery programs and annual operating plans.
- Challenge to be strategic and equitable in prioritising new infrastructure.
- Active Transport Advisory Group (Nico is a member of this group), contributing to the development of the new strategy, and considering opportunities for example how to increase contributions from developers.
- Recent ATAG meeting minutes currently available, <https://www.lakemac.com.au/activetransport>. Considering options to distribute these eg in the Eco Advocate.
- Community engagement will occur early in the new year. Will seek community input about priority projects, as well as a suitable methodology to prioritise and plan future infrastructure projects.
- Note that the new strategy will be directed by overarching plans:
  - Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan and associated Transport Plan (NSW gov)
  - Imagine Lake Mac, which will be superseded by Shaping the Future (Local Strategic Planning Statement), currently on public exhibition to 29 November, <https://shape.lakemac.com.au/shaping-the-future>.

These strategies inform the city's growth, development, landuse zoning and density etc.

### **Potential Alliance role**

- Workshop with SN participants. Need to consider workshop objectives, for Council to listen to feedback, and clarify scope.
- Consider results from past engagement activities
- SN network valuable to disseminate information and seek wider community involvement.
- SN groups have previously completed research about alternative building materials and design – valuable to provide this info to Council. Previous experience with Brighton Avenue footpath grant.

## **3. Previous meeting**

### **Ordinary meeting minutes 15 October 2019**

*Motion: That the previous meeting minutes, dated 15 October 2019, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Robyn. Carried.

### **Business arising**

None noted.

#### **4. Treasurer's report**

##### **4.1. October Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's report not available for October. Defer to December meeting.

##### **4.2. Internet banking**

Agreed at August meeting that we need to switch to internet banking, so that we can make payments more efficiently.

Jean to report back about research regarding setting up internet banking account, and options from different banks. Agreed that information about Newcastle Permanent and Greater Building Society would be suitable.

#### **5. Correspondence**

- Invitation to participate in Community First Credit Union's Community Referral Program
- Notice of AGM and request for board member nominations – Sent to SN network
- T-shirt specifications received from EmbroidMe Cardiff
- Expression of interest (Robyn) sent for board member training offered by Council
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 21 October and 14 November
- Details for celebration event and request for 5min talks – sent to SN key contacts
- Response to service request from Council (from letter sent in February) regarding Shared pathways in western Lake Macquarie.
- Granted permission for Children's University to display Alliance logo at their Graduation Ceremonies, as we are one of their Learning Destinations.
- Submitted two entries in the Lake Mac Awards, Sustainable Neighbourhoods in the Community Group category, and Nico Marcar as Environmental Leader.
- Expression of interest for Photographer / Videographer volunteer role
- Reminder from Department of Fair Trading regarding annual association requirements.
- Invoice sent to Council for Toronto Picnic in the Park event grant.
- Request for updated membership registers – sent to SN key contacts
- Certificate of Achievement – Received as a semi finalist for the Regional Achievement and Community Awards

#### **6. Requests and risk assessments**

- 6.1. Stall at Cardiff Festival**, 16 November – Cardiff Area SNG. Circulated and approved via email.
- 6.2. Instagram competition** – Cardiff Area SNG. Circulated and approved via email.
- 6.3. Lake Mac Repair Café**, 16 November – Warners Bay Area SNG. Circulated and approved via email.
- 6.4. Picnic in the Park**, 29 November – Toronto Area and Five Bays SNGs. Circulated via email. Approved.

#### **7. Reports / for information**

- 7.1. Strategic Plan progress.** Progress update circulated via email.

**7.2. Annual Report 2019.** Has now been finalised and available to members. Will also be available here: <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/annual-report.html>.

### **7.3. Community First Credit Union - Community Referral Program**

Approached by CFCU to be part of their Community Referral Program. Proposal is for Alliance to refer people to their loan products (including home loans, green loans etc), and receive payment for every settled loan.

Board members discussed over email, and resolved to not take up the offer.

Key discussion points included:

- Unsuitable for Alliance to support or advertise one financial product / organisation to individuals
- Personal experience in banking with them was average
- Grants currently sufficient

### **7.4. Plastic Free Cafes**

We've been unofficially notified that the Plastic Free Cafes grant has been successful. Please note we are not able to publicly announce until upcoming Minister's announcement.

The project will focus on the litter created by single use plastic items such as takeaway coffee cups and plastic straws, found in local café and shopping precincts. We are aiming to address the problem at it's source by encouraging the use of reusable alternatives over single use plastic items. Key activities include:

- **Encouraging coffee drinkers to purchase and use a reusable coffee cup.** We will purchase good quality silicone cups that are collapsible, and collaborate with local café owners and staff to display and distribute the cups at the point of sale. Cups will be 'sold' for \$1 each, to ensure they are valued and reused, and funds raised will be used for project activities. We will also encourage café owners to offer a discount to those who bring their own cups. We will also purchase a smaller number of reusable straws to promote their uptake as well. We intend to give these to cafes to use as a trial for their dine in customers.
- **Choose reusable public campaign.** Our education and engagement campaign will focus on the key message to Choose Reusable. We will present the switch to reusables as the new social norm, and a key action on the way to creating a Plastic Free Lake Macquarie. The anti-littering and Tosser! message will be a key component of the campaign, as well as education about the correct way to dispose of takeaway coffee cups.
- **Litter clean ups.** Completing Eco Angel clean up events to help reinforce the cleanliness of the hotspot areas, and further enhance community engagement and project visibility.

There is opportunity for all groups to get involved and support delivery of the project in your local area. Project schedule is proposed from October 2019 – June 2020, but anticipate a delay considering funding has not yet been officially announced.

Chris mentioned rebranded café at Charlestown Pool (managed by Council) – good opportunity to collaborate with them.

Rachelle will circulate draft project plan and materials.

### **7.5. T-shirts**

Only received 3 orders, so will need to defer and promote to membership more. Suggest waiting until about March / April.

Will refund payment to Robyn. Chris's payment to remain in Alliance's bank account, and Rachelle will ask Naiomi what her preference is.

#### **7.6. Membership**

Amanda Herralld submitted her membership form and paid the \$5 fee. Given to Jean for bank deposit.

#### **7.7. Event and project reports:**

- **Bees Wax Wrap workshop** - The Bees Wax Wrap workshop went very well. 16 attendees (all female) and 3 workstations. In no time at all they were all chatting and helping each other make the WRAPS. I had some very positive comments from participants. Robyn, Karen and Vicki were there helping. Tree House Creative cancelled at the 11th hour due to unexpected personal commitment.
- **Pamper Care project** - A huge month for the Pamper Care Project and Anti-poverty week events. 15 men and women received assistance with food and personal care items. Over 15 people received specially made packs and other discretionary items during antipoverty week, making life a little easier for them. 7 people received a free cut courtesy of the Community Hair Project. Thanks to all who have donated to the Project and CHP for donating their time.
- **SN Celebration event** – Successful event with about 30 attendees. Valuable to hear from Graham Prichard about Council's Tree Replacement Program and plans to develop a more comprehensive Urban Forest Strategy. Also great to hear from each of the groups present who provided 5 min talks about their 2019 highlights.

Rachelle will send out Trees presentation notes to network, following meeting next week.

Steve mentioned world city of trees project.

- **Toronto Picnic in the Park**

Event grant from Council successful, \$2000 to cover entertainers and workshops.

#### **7.8. Upcoming events:**

- Repair Café, Warners Bay, 16 November
- Boomerang Bags Sewing workshop, 24 November
- Dreaming of a Waste Free Christmas workshop, 1 December
- Waste to Art exhibition – closes 1 December

#### **7.9. Next meeting**

- Tuesday 17 December, 6pm
- Focus on 2020 planning
- Dress festive!

**Meeting closed: 7.45pm**