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| Subject: | Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee – Minutes of Meeting |
| File No: | COR2010/56/1 |
| Document Ref: | D15/92318 |
| Date and Venue: | Monday 17 th August 2015 Meeting Room 1, Level 5, Civic Centre |
| Time: | 6.00pm Started at:6.00 Closed at: 7.20pm |
| Chair: | Councillor Denise Pendleton |
| Meeting Support (MS): | Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors |
| Staff Convenor: | Nicola Booth – Section Manager – Natural Areas and Urban Forest |
| Circulation: | Councillor Information Bulletin |

Committee Role:

Advises and makes recommendations to Council on the matters relating to enhancement, preservation, conservation and management of natural areas, wildlife and their habitat corridors and local indigenous vegetation and environmental health and sustainability issues and initiatives within the City of Ryde. The Committee also act as a Project Reference Group for the development, implementation and monitoring of a Biodiversity Plan for the Ryde Local Government Area

Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference

| Present | Apology | Name | Position Title | Organisation |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| x | | Councillor Denise Pendleton | Chairperson | City of Ryde |
| x | | Councillor Terry Perram | Delegate | City of Ryde |
| | x | Tatjana Domazet | SUM – Open Space | City of Ryde |
| x | | Nicola Booth | Section Manager – Natural Areas and Urban Forest | City of Ryde |
| x | | Sandra Payne | Coordinator Bushcare Volunteers | City of Ryde |
| x | | Libby Lawson | Bushcare representative | East Ward |
| | x | Margaret Kelly | Bushcare representative | Central Ward |
| x | | Peter Brown | Bushcare representative | West Ward |
| x | | David Thomas | Bushcare representative | West Ward |
| x | | Bev Debrincat | Environmental/sustainability stakeholder representative | |
| x | | Jill Hartley | Environmental/sustainability stakeholder representative | |
| x | | Pamela Reeves | Environmental/sustainability stakeholder representative | |
| | x | Michele Cooper | Industry Representative | National Parks and Wildlife Services |
| | x | Justin Alick | Community Representative | |
| x | | Geoff Hudson | Community Representative | |

Additional Attendees

| Name | Position Title | Organisation |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Linda Smith | EA to the Mayor and Councillors | City of Ryde |

Details**Action****Responsibility and Date**

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| 1. Welcome by the Chair, Cllr Pendleton The attendees and apologies are as per above. | Noted | |
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| <p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 18th May 2015 were noted.</p> | <p>The minutes of the meeting dated 18th May 2015, were adopted.</p> | |
| <p>3. Actions arising from the previous minutes</p> <p>DCP Review</p> <p>A small committee is currently reviewing the DCP which covers tree lopping etc .</p> <p>An investigation of the way other Councils handle this matter is underway and changes to COR's DCP including language usage will be made if necessary.</p> <p>The draft review should be complete within a month and permission will be sought from Council's Planning section for the review to be brought to this committee for its input.</p> <p>If the report is to be made available to this committee, it should be forwarded prior to the meeting to allow pre reading.</p> <p>A member of Council' Planning staff is to be requested to attend the meeting and address this committee re any changes recommended.</p> <p>Biodiversity Plan</p> <p>Nicola advised that the draft targets and actions for the Biodiversity Plan have been received and are currently under review by staff.</p> <p>The matter will be brought to this committee for further consideration.</p> | <p>Information is noted.</p> <p>Permission to be sought from Council's Planning section for the draft review to be brought to this committee for consideration.</p> <p>A member of the Planning staff to be asked to attend any meeting of this committee where the DCP review is to be discussed.</p> <p>The information was noted.</p> <p>The matter to be brought to this committee for consideration.</p> | |

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| <p>4. General Business</p> <p>Resignation of committee member – Margaret Kelly</p> <p>Nicola advised of the resignation of Margaret Kelly. The Committee accepted the resignation.</p> <p>A new committee member will be sought from the Bushcare groups in Central Ward.</p> <p>Presentation on the Parramatta River Catchment Biodiversity Project.</p> <p>Ryde, Hunters Hill, Canada Bay, Ashfield, Strathfield, Auburn and Parramatta Councils were involved in the above project.</p> <p>A grant of \$100,000 was received to carry out the study which mostly examined existing records rather than undertaking new surveys.</p> <p>Major findings were that sightings of native birds outnumbered those of exotic species.</p> <p>A large number of native birds and species were found throughout the study area.</p> <p>The most observed birds were the black winged stilt and the bar tailed Godwit.</p> <p>Birds and frogs were the most prevalent species identified.</p> <p>Two thirds of fauna was found in Council reserves.</p> <p>Shrimptons Creek termite project</p> <p>It was noted that the majority of trees in the Shrimptons Creek corridor have termite infestations.</p> <p>Some are arborial and others are in the ground.</p> <p>Planting small bird habitats may assist with future control of the termite population.</p> <p>In the meantime advice is being sought from experts re appropriate action to be taken.</p> <p>The removal of some trees will be undertaken in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>Questions re budget by Peter Brown</p> <p>Peter Brown sought information regarding the funds available to Bushcare workers for expenditure.</p> <p>He advised that he had recently received contradictory advice that both no funds were available for bushcare and that funding was available for bushcare projects.</p> <p>A meeting is to be arranged with Clrs Pendleton and Perram, Tatjana and Mr Brown to further discuss funding arrangements.</p> <p>It was noted that this committee has been tasked with achieving the best outcome for bushcare projects but that it is not always privy to the necessary information, only learning of outcomes later.</p> | <p>Resignation of Margaret Kelly noted and accepted.</p> <p>The information was noted.</p> <p>It was also noted that Hunters Hill is currently applying for grant funding and the suggestion was made that a combined grant may be more successful if a number of councils are to be involved.</p> <p>The information was noted.</p> <p>Meeting to be arranged between Peter Brown, Clrs Pendleton and Perram and Tatjana Domazet to further discuss budget issues.</p> | |

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| <p>Projects for 2015/2016 year</p> <p>The following projects are listed for completion during the next financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of steps and signage at Brush Farm Park - Completion of flora and fauna study - Completion of biodiversity plan. <p>Committee member roundup</p> <p><u>DA amendments sought for the property 136A Cressy Road North Ryde</u></p> <p>Libby Lawson advised that a DA has been approved for villa development on the above site which backs onto Kittys Creek.</p> <p>An amendment has now been lodged seeking to place a retention tank under one villa and the construction of a fence which will interfere with a retaining wall on Kittys Creek.</p> <p>There is concern the above proposals will compromise the creek.</p> <p>Libby has contacted the Dept of Water and Council Planners have inspected the site following a request by Libby.</p> <p>The major concern is with the ongoing preservation of the creek.</p> <p>This committee would like to be notified of all applications for works which are near creeks or bushland to allow input from this group.</p> <p>The committee recommends that Council formally resolve that any proposal or DA application which may have an impact on water courses or bushland be referred to Natural areas and Urban Forest for consultation as part of the DA assessment process.</p> <p>It is possible that if unsympathetic DA's are approved, the work carried out by volunteers and the funds expended by Council can be wasted.</p> <p><u>Renewable Targets</u></p> <p>Jill sought an update as to Council's previous resolution to set renewable energy targets.</p> <p><u>Fossil Fuel investment</u></p> <p>Jill sought advice as to whether Council will be divesting itself of investments related to fossil fuels. She noted that the major banks continue to be involved in such investment.</p> <p>Does Council have an ethical investment policy?</p> <p><u>Recycling trial drop off locations</u></p> <p>Pam Reeves sought advice re trial drop off points for batteries.</p> <p>Previous advice was that trials would be arranged for shopping centre, libraries etc.</p> | <p>The information was noted. It was also noted that the last flora and fauna survey was undertaken some 7 – 8 years ago.</p> <p>The information was noted.</p> <p>A request to be made to Council to pass a resolution that all DA applications pertaining to water courses or bushland be referred to "Natural Areas and Urban Forest" as part of the assessment process.</p> <p>This committee also seeks input on DA applications as above.</p> <p>Nicola to provide advice at the next meeting.</p> <p>Nicola to provide an update at the next meeting</p> <p>Nicola to provide advice at the next meeting</p> | |
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| <p><u>Changes to Council clean up process</u></p> <p>Pam Reeves provided advice that when she arranged a recent Council rubbish collection that the sticker to be placed on the rubbish was very late in arriving and that all the goods were placed in the same truck despite being separated into various categories of waste as required on Council’s documentation.</p> <p><u>Food scrap survey</u></p> <p>A request for information was received regarding the food scrap survey.</p> <p><u>10/50 legislation</u></p> <p>Nicola outlined the changes proposed to the 10/50 legislation.</p> <p>She advised that City of Ryde and Hunters Hill Councils are still seeking exemption from the legislation.</p> <p>A map of bushfire prone areas in the COR is required and Nicola hopes to complete this by the end of 2015.</p> | <p>A report providing the figures for recycling since the commencement of the new system to be provided to the next meeting. A verbal report from a member of waste to be provided to the next meeting of this committee.</p> <p>Nicola to provide advice to the next meeting of this committee</p> <p>The information was noted.</p> | |
| <p>5. Next Meeting</p> <p>Will be held on Monday 16th November 2015 Level 5 Civic Centre</p> | | |