

Monday 16 November 2020

## CITY OF RYDE COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY – OCTOBER MEETING

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 27 October 2020. The following is a summary of the outcomes from the meeting:

### **Council extends rate rebate, commits to more COVID-19 support**

The City of Ryde has proposed to [extend the one-off \\$400 council rate rebate](#) for approved JobSeeker and JobKeeper applicants to March next year as part of Council's ongoing support for those within the community impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The extension means JobSeeker and JobKeeper applicants will now have until 31 March 2021 to apply for the rate rebate. The one-off \$400 rate rebate was first endorsed by Council in April this year as part of a new COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy with applications initially closing on 30 September 2020.

Council will also develop new small business initiatives with the input of each local Chamber of Commerce. These new initiatives will complement programs Council has already launched such as the Shop Local: Love Your Community campaign which is encouraging residents to shop locally through various promotions and offers.

### **Draft Youth Infrastructure Plan**

The draft Youth Infrastructure Plan will be placed on public exhibition by the City of Ryde. The draft plan assesses the need for additional youth recreation spaces and facilities, and the most appropriate locations for such facilities.

If no objections are received during the public exhibition period, the Youth Infrastructure Plan will be adopted.

### **Community Grants Program review**

A review of the City of Ryde's Community Grants Program found there was an increasing demand for the program by local organisations and community groups.

Based on the review, a new Community Grants Policy was endorsed by Council which includes seven grant categories and three donations categories. There will be two large grant rounds and one small grant round each year.

The level of funding under the program will remain unchanged at \$410,000.

### **Local organisations benefit from latest round of Community Grants**

More than \$234,000 was allocated to 38 community organisations as part of round two of the 2020 City of Ryde Community Grants program.

### **City of Ryde to investigate subscribing to Park 'n Pay program**

Steps will be taken by the City of Ryde to formally subscribe to the NSW Government's Park 'n Pay program.

Park 'n Pay is a smartphone app developed to integrate parking payments from a mobile device and is viewed as a more convenient and hygienic alternative to using a physical parking meter.

### **2019/20 Draft Financial Statements**

The City of Ryde's 2019/20 Draft Financial Statements have been placed on [public exhibition](#). Community feedback received during this period will be tabled at the Ordinary Council meeting on 24 November 2020.

### **Chauvel Street Christmas lights display**

The City of Ryde will investigate installing COVID-safe measures in Chauvel Street, North Ryde, as part of this year's Christmas lights display.

Chauvel Street is recognised as one of the best streets in Sydney for viewing Christmas lights. Residents who live in Chauvel Street have already resolved to not install displays that require people to touch or stop and watch for an extended period of time.

### **Council to call for more to be done for victims of domestic violence**

With domestic and family violence on the rise since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Council noted that there is insufficient funding for services in the City of Ryde that help victims after they have left emergency housing.

In response, City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, will call on the Federal and State governments to improve all women's safety during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond by ensuring they have access to domestic violence support services.

Council will also identify low cost, short-term accommodation options for pets owned by victims escaping domestic violence, noting that the wellbeing of pets can be a deterrent for people leaving dangerous relationships.

### **Revised Tree Review Process adopted**

Council adopted a revised Tree Review Process, which aims to simplify the process and provide a clear methodology for reviewing tree determinations.

In addition, Council will trial a subsidised private tree assistance scheme for one year which will provide subsidies for tree works on private property belonging to approved pensioners.

The subsidised private tree assistance scheme is currently on [public exhibition](#) until 7 December 2020.

### **New library fee for Hunters Hill residents**

A new 'Out of Area Membership' fee for Hunters Hill residents to join the Ryde Library Service has been adopted by Council following a period of public exhibition.

The \$120 fee was adopted after Hunter's Hill Council did not renew the Joint Use Agreement with the City of Ryde, leading to the subsequent loss of the annual library subsidy contribution which was scheduled to be \$771,000 for 2020/21.

### **Reducing the number of disposable nappies going into landfill**

A report will be brought back to Council detailing how to reduce the number of disposable nappies going into landfill. About 5.6 million disposable nappies are used each day, equating to more than 2 billion being sent to landfill each year.

### **Jo'Anne Duke to be recognised**

The laneway between Coxs Road and Marilyn Street in North Ryde will be renamed as 'Jo Duke's Lane' in recognition of resident Jo'Anne Duke who was killed in a motor vehicle collision in 2019.

A plaque will also be erected at North Ryde Park in Ms Duke's honour.

### **Next meeting**

The next Ordinary Council meeting took place on Tuesday 24 November 2020.

[Click here for the minutes of the October Ordinary Council meeting.](#)

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