

www.gidgegannup.info
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Next meetings: 15th July, 2019 (AGM) 19th August, 2019, 16th September, 2019 at 7.30pm at the Agricultural Hall

The GPA has a thriving membership but new members are always welcome. Our membership is diverse and very proactive and we always welcome new input.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

When the power went out on Monday, 10th June, 2019 the battery on the Reen Road tower gave up after 5 hours. There have been problems with theft of cable for the overhead lines in O'Brien Road. Repairs expected by 17th June, 2019. Many of these properties affected do not have mobile coverage. This break down in coverage needs further discussion with the Federal Government, as this means that residents in a High Fire Risk area are left without any telecommunications. It was reported that landline outages had been experienced on the Toodyay Road east of the Townsite. A mobile had been couriered up to the resident by Telstra despite her saying that there was no coverage. She has been without a landline for 10 days.

Update re. NBN: The nbn website is now showing the planned coverage area for the Falls Heights tower. Construction has commenced at that site, and it is expected to see significant progress on the build in the next few weeks.

In relation to the area to the south of Toodyay Rd which has been earmarked to be served by an additional nbn Fixed Wireless facility, progress with securing tenure at a site has taken significantly longer than is usual, which has therefore delayed plans for provision of service. This is currently being reviewed, and there should be further clarity on plans to provide nbn connectivity for premises in this area within the next 2-3 weeks.

Concern expressed over provision of generator for tower in townsite and Reen Road in the event of a prolonged power outage. Felt that anything over battery life is prolonged.

TOODYAY ROAD LIAISON COMMITTEE/PANH

The TLC meeting will be held on Thursday, 27th June, 2019.

Comments have been received from a member querying the GPA support for the PANH. He suggests the GPA provide a rallying point to gather the views of people opposed to the PANH and to offer suggestions for alternatives.

Another concern he has is that there may well be vested interests promoting the PANH and this should be publicised. A proper cost-benefit analysis of the project should be done and comparisons with the alternatives made public.

GPA response: There has been development both around Gidgegannup and in Toodyay. The Toodyay Road has become a major commuting route and the GPA have worked pretty hard to seek improvement for that road, and there has been a lot of improvement over the years. The problem is Red Hill and also the Gidge townsite. Red Hill could be addressed by just building the bypass to it round the edge of the John Forrest National Park. The townsite could also be addressed by building the bypass to it thus giving some peace and safety to our townsite and our school and allowing it to grow as a tourism orientated townsite.

Not all Mundaring residents are in favour of the PANH as they foresee that it will impact on the viability of businesses on the Great Eastern Highway. In Gidge the feedback we get is that those impacted by the PANH are against it as their properties will be affected or properties that are at present leased from Main Roads will be impacted.

So we have a situation where certainly not all the people will support the PANH. There is, however, a lot of support for the PANH from commuters and freight traffic.

The GPA has, as a body, to take account of these views and this is why we have our meetings and the upcoming TLC meeting so people can come along and express their views and we certainly take note of these. The PANH is firmly now in the category of when not if. Having said that funds have to be found to plan it and build it so it is certainly not going to happen overnight.

Felt important that community need to know final route of PANH so that vegetation can be planted to lessen visual and noise impact of PANH. Suggestion Main Roads supply trees, landowners to be responsible for planting and maintaining.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

It has been suggested that the community should consider starting a Chamber of Commerce to have a representation and help strengthen the business community in Gidgegannup. Richard has volunteered to investigate how this is to be set up and contact businesses. Some interest has already been shown.

Richard has been in touch with Toodyay and Mundaring Chambers of Commerce as well as the CCI. There are approximately 40 Regional CCIs. He is find out what needs to be done to form a Chamber of Commerce, chiefly steps to be taken, fee structure, challenges and how to get started. Forms have been sent out by hand and email and there is a lot of support. He suggests advertise in Gidgegram and townsite noticeboards and Radio. We need to gain permission from the Perth CCI to use name. He suggests when there is interest from 10/15 people a speaker from the Chamber of Commerce is invited to a GPA meeting. This to be advertised.

PERTH HILLS PLANNING ACT

It was moved by the meeting unanimously that we write to Ken Wyatt and Jessica Shaw expressing our concerns and seeing how Federal and State Government can assist us with a planning area for the Hills. This has been raised some time ago that we should have legislative protection, such as the Adelaide Hills, but thought, at the time, that that protection was overly restrictive, so we need to find out the parameters that the community wish to work with to achieve this protection. GPA have written to both Ken Wyatt and Jessica Shaw. The GPA will be seeking a meeting with Jessica Shaw and are hopeful that the Save Perth Hills Group will join us.

Stressed we need an overall plan for Gidge. There are projects such as the solar farm which are now before the Metro East JDAP. Officer recommendation is that the application should be accepted and approved. There have been 27 objections including the GPA. We feel strongly that the end use of the ground should be that it reverts to agriculture. We are concerned that there is a creep towards industrialisation of the Resource area.

There needs to be an overall plan for Gidgegannup that is included in the City of Swan 10 year structure plan.

Satterley is holding a drop-in day for anyone in the community to come and ask their questions or put forward suggestions towards the planning of a new townsite community at North Stoneville.

Gidgegannup Progress Association – July 2019

Time: Anytime between 10.30am-2.30pm

Date: Saturday 6 July 2019

Location: [Parkerville Hall](#), corner of Seaborne Street & Riley Road

RSVP: Not required. All welcome!

DIFFERENTIAL RATES

As the suggestion that there should be consideration that Farmland rates in the Swan Valley be reduced 30% was still in the advertised rate, the GPA have written to the City voicing our view that this was inequitable to other ratepayers in the City of Swan particularly rural ones.

Cr. Henderson pointed out that Farmland rate in City was 20% . This gives a 20% concession and that the proposal was for Swan Valley Rural to have a further 10% concession because of the constraints on them from the Swan Valley Planning Act. Pointed out that properties in Gidgegannup and Bullsbrook also have these constraints because they are zoned so that they are unable to subdivide. They also have had concessions taken away from them on Landscape zoned land.

Gidgegannup farmers also are uncompetitive with farmers in the nearby regional areas where rates are one third of those paid by like farmers in Gidgegannup. Cr. Henderson stated that the Swan Valley farmers land has a greater number of x uses on them than general rural but this is experienced in Gidgegannup as well due to zoning. They do not have sub division potential and should have like concessions to the Swan Valley. The same Urban farmland rating should be applied to all rural areas.

Disappointment was expressed that our two Councillors who represent the Swan Valley/Gidgegannup ward had chosen to give their support to only part of their ward under these circumstances and that they should have acted in the best interests of all their ward.

PERTH HILLS TOURISM/EXPERIENCE GIDGEGANNUP INC.

A Tourism forum is to be held at the Mundaring Arena on 28th June, hosted by the Mundaring Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from the GPA and Experience Gidgegannup will be attending. Cr. Henderson indicated he would also be attending.

RURAL WATCH

A resident of Clenton Road in Northern Gidgegannup reported that yesterday they had a suspicious vehicle hanging around their gate. When challenged by a friend leaving the property, the driver of the vehicle said he was a beekeeper looking for somewhere to put his bees. When the

friend did not believe what was said, the vehicle took off at great speed. Fortunately there was traffic at Toodyay Rd and the friend got his rego number. He was driving an old dented silver Toyota (probably a Camry of similar) rego number 9NW 674.

Please report incidents like this to Police on 131 444 as soon as you can so that the police can act on it.

For your information, another couple of incidents reported.

About 9:30am on Sunday 9 June 2019 telephone landlines on O'Brien Road north of Yarradale Stud went down and at the same time there was a limited area short power outage (Darlington Line only). After some investigation it was discovered several sections of phone line had been vandalised and several sections, including some on private properties cut down and removed (presumably for the copper wire). This has been reported to Police and Telstra. Probably a bit late now, but if anyone saw anything or has any dash cam footage of suspicious activity, please contact Police directly on 131444.

A resident also reports that he heard that "at the Eastern end of Berry road, that a property had someone turn up while they were working horses and had some personal belongings stolen from the house. A reminder to lock your gates."

It was also noted that crime figures in Gidgegannup were substantially down.

Please forward any registration numbers, description of vehicles etc. to police as this all goes into the data base and can be useful information for the future.