

Lynbrook Residents' Association

Meeting Minutes
Thursday 27 May 2010

Opening

The regular meeting of the Lynbrook Residents' Association was called to order at 7:31pm on 27/05/2010 in Lynbrook Primary School by Jason Wood.

Committee Attendance

Present: Ken Bailey, Melissa McGrath, Jason Wood, Cally McMahon, Anna Nicolazzo, Scott Watson, Jasmeet Sehgal, Neil Smith

A. Guest Speaker – Tim Holding MP

Note: Given the main topic of the Lynbrook station and that residents don't generally get a chance to discuss issues with Minister Holding, the format of this meeting was altered to a more open forum. There were over 40 people in attendance.

Lynbrook Station

The headline topic for the night was our local member for Lyndhurst, Tim Holding, unveiling the government's concept for the new Lynbrook station. There was an artist's impression of the station and suggested footprint/layout. The layout included car parks at the corner of Alymer Rd & Paterson Dr (opposite St Kevin's) and in Lyndhurst between Morton Bay Bvd and the train line. The parking is to hold 250 cars in total. There are also bus bays on Paterson Dr near the oval and Alymer Rd (Nth side heading out to Sth Gippsland Hwy). The main station building will be on the Lyndhurst side of the tracks. The station is to have: passenger shelters and seating, bus stops and a taxi rank, a park and ride facility and drop off zone, electronic timetable and passenger information displays, closed circuit camera security surveillance, and pedestrian and bicycle access. Tim said that at this stage the footprint and concept art were just what the government suggested. They are open to both suggestions from the public and also from which ever developer wins the contract. Suggestions could also be sent to the winning bidder once chosen.

There was a fair bit of anger around how long it had taken the station to actually get to this stage, with some people having been promised a station at least ten years ago. One of the big questions was on when the construction would start. Tim said that tenders will close in June and the government would expect construction to commence around the August/September time frame with completion in 2011. The next big point, and this drew a fairly vocal chorus, was the request for having a manned station, especially at night. Tim said that at this point the station was not designated as a premium station. He said that Metro had indicated, separate from govt requirements, a number of other stations that would be manned, but Lynbrook was not on that list. Along with this, a school captain from Lynbrook Primary made a request for toilets at the station. There were a few other supporters of this request with one person being against it.

One of the residents in attendance asked about the duplication of the line and if the station would be built to accommodate that. Minister Holding said that duplication of the line was a long way off and that other congestion issues were of more focus closer into the city. His belief was that improvements in those areas would have a greater flow on effect to the whole network.

Note: Children are welcomed at LRA meetings. We do realise it's sometimes hard to get people to look after them and would rather see people turn up with their children than stay at home. We just ask that you try to keep your children from being too disruptive. Also welcome are teens and older primary aged children that have an interest in the community or concerns that adults may not think of.

Note2: When viewing the station plans after the meeting closed, it was pointed out that at that point in the line it is currently a dual carriage way. The station plans do show two lines going through.

Alymer Rd Crossing

After the station business was finished, the other big issue for a lot of people was a crossing for Alymer Rd. A lot of people were in favour of this given the difficulties of people from Lyndhurst getting across to the shops or taking their children to school. Tim pointed out that the crossing had previously been approved but was subsequently shelved due to safety concerns for level crossings in general. Minister Holding said that he was torn between wanting to provide the access for his constituents and not wanting to be responsible for potential loss of life if there was an accident there. There were then comments that he shouldn't feel responsible if people do the wrong thing and that you can't legislate against stupidity. Tim did say that he was prepared to hold another meeting primarily to discuss the issue of Alymer Rd. There was also mention that when Glasscocks Rd eventually does go in, the crossing is planned to be an overpass.

Community Housing

One of the other topics to generate a bit of debate was about the community housing planned for the Cilento Crs area behind Coles. Most people were concerned about the number of residences and that it would be all commission housing and turn into a ghetto. There were a few present that had been at the Community Housing Victoria (www.chl.org.au) presentation, including the LRA President (Jason Wood), and said that these were not commission housing but designed as affordable housing for people struggling with current rental and housing prices. There were people concerned about the value of their houses dropping. As a counter to that, Tim had said that the people in this type of housing were not criminals and should not be treated as such. This view was also loudly supported by some other members of the audience.

One of the main concerns from LRA on this was the lack of consultation. The idea seems to be a good one but by the time we learnt of it, it was a done deal.

Jason also mentioned there will be another meeting on June 3rd @ Lynbrook kinder from 5pm to discuss the remaining medium density housing. The areas around Hutchinson Dr & Harris St below Lynbrook Village and across Lynbrook Bvd from Lynbrook Village are designated for medium density housing. The session will be held with the two developers and VicUrban.

Composting Facility

Concerns were also raised about the new composting facility at Hallam Rd landfill. It was pointed out, by both Minister Holding and LRA members, that we had Mr Ross Cheesewright from SITA at our last meeting. At that meeting he discussed the landfill in general and the composting (SITA Advanced Waste Treatment - SAWT) facility. Jason raised the point that if there are any odours from the tip, the best course of action is to contact the landfill immediately. If this is done during operating hours, something can be done to try and rectify the problem. There is also the EPA Polwatch web site with details on how to contact the EPA.

Cr Amanda Stapledon was in attendance. She mentioned that Council had received submissions from SITA, EPA and Hampton Park Progress Association. This gave a fairly comprehensive range of views on the proposal. Council had not made a decision at that time though.

High Schools

A question was raised from the floor to Minister Holding about the likelihood of new high schools in the area given the number of new primary schools and large growth. Minister Holding said that where primary schools were planned within walking distance, high schools operated on a different set of guidelines. The governments plan was to have fewer but larger and better equipped high schools.

General Info

The LRA has been trying to get guest speakers and information out. We advertise on the Community Notice Board in the Coles entryway and on some other shops around Lynbrook Village.

One of the residents raised a point for Cr Stapledon about the raised divider that blocks right hand turn into Pritchard Ave from Evans Rd. Cr Stapledon wasn't aware of this but would look into it.

Lack of pathways from Lynbrook to Lyndhurst High School was raised by another resident. There was general consensus that there was a lack of paths in the area. A further resident made mention of the dangers of riding push bikes along Sth Gippsland Hwy in the mornings. Someone else raised the point that City of Knox (I may be wrong here) had numerous bike paths but they were sorely lacking in the Lynbrook/Lyndhurst area. Good bike & walking paths would keep people away from busy roads.

Jennifer Baird from Neighbourhood Watch announced that a new safety committee was being rolled out to City of Casey. Details will be in the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter.

Brooklands Green

Towards the end of the meeting, one of the residents asked Tim about the whole Brooklands Green argument between the State Government and Casey Council. Tim presented the government's argument that the requested Casey Council to present them with a business case and that has not been received. There was also some discussion and concern at Casey Council creating a half million dollar fighting fund against the government. Cr Stapledon didn't have too many details on the night but said it was voted on in council and that she did support it.

Note: Cr Stapledon sent a follow up email to the LRA. "*With reference to the attached and Minister Holding advising that the State Government are awaiting a business case from Casey Council, may I bring to your attention that a business case has been submitted to the State Government on three occasions.*"

I apologise for not having that information to speak on last night but wanted to send this to you to allow you to disseminate this via your distribution list."

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm by Jason Wood. The next general meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Thursday 24 June in Lynbrook Primary School.

Minutes submitted by: Jason Wood