



## COMMUNITY FORUM RECORD – 20 APRIL 2022 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

**HELD:** Wednesday, 20 April 2022

**LOCATION:** Apsley Hall

**COMMENCED:** 1.00pm

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Open to the public

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REQUIRED TO ATTEND:	
Councillors	Executive Leadership Group
Bruce Meyer OAM, Mayor Jodie Pretlove, Deputy Mayor Trevor Domaschenz Tim Meyer Tom Houlihan	David Bezuidenhout Chief Executive Officer (CEO) James Bentley Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS) Katie Frost Governance Manager

*The West Wimmera Shire Council Governance Rules  
set out the meeting procedure rules for this Council Meeting.*

*Members of the public are reminded that they are required to remain silent  
during this meeting, except during Section 4.0 Questions from the Gallery.*

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***Vision Statement:***

*Our Wimmera Shire communities are healthy, thriving, diverse, harmonious,  
prosperous and self-sustaining, with regional and global connectivity*



**Wendy McDonald**

Thank you to the Council for the cleaning and mowing that the outdoor staff do to keep our town tidy and presented so well. Please forward our thanks as it is much appreciated.

Thank you also for the provision of the shelter shed which is a great asset to the town and used often by families/groups/travellers.

1. Zebra Crossing at the Apsley Primary School – can it please be painted as it is very worn out and dangerous. A fresh coat of paint would be greatly appreciated.

Response: DIDW to follow up.

2. The new shelter shed is beautiful with the lighting but there is no lighting for playground and public toilet block.

Response: Master Plan is being developed and this could be included. There will be a survey distributed to residents which will give community members a chance to have input and make comment.

3. Rubbish Bins outside the Aspley Hotel and the Aspley Corner Café look very damaged. Also there is no recycling bins there. There is also an accumulation of drinks bottles that are littered along the roadsides. Could Council please provide new bins plus recycling bins outside the Shop and the Hotel?

Response: DIDW to follow up. Councillor Tom Houlihan suggested that there is a fundraising opportunity as community could take recyclables to SA. People need to be trained on recycling.

4. Footpaths – there is no continuous footpath in Apsley except from the corner café to the school and also from the public toilets to the flats. The footpath finishes halfway down the street (towards Edenhope). We would like it to extend from flats to the end of the street. It would be great to improve this and also consider a pathway behind the Hall block to improve access to back of the hall. Disabled access is also inadequate. This has been inspected by the VEC and does not meet requirements so will therefore be listed as having ‘no disabled access’. It is a safety issue also with trucks not slowing down on the highway. There is also a very steep incline which should be looked at. Also there is a footpath that runs from café, past the hall to old garage however in the next section there is another five



houses with no footpath. Community would like one continuous footpath on Wallace Street.

Response: Councillors will be going on a bus trip around the Council and will take this opportunity to inspect the town footpaths.

5. Private owned blocks near football ground. The football oval is a fire safe place, however the property on the northern side has a number of old cars. There is also a block of land which has a lot of dead grass and is generally untidy. Is Council able to encourage residents to tidy their properties?

Response: Council is currently reviewing their Local Laws which will enable Council to be able to enforce certain rules.

6. Flag Poles – there is currently two flag poles at the Police Station which fly the Australian Flag and the Aboriginal Flag but community would like to have flagpoles installed at the Park

Response: There will be an opportunity for community members to include this in the community survey.

#### **June Kenton**

1. An audio system for the older generation to connect their hearing aids to would be very helpful.
2. Jackie Whites waterhole was filled for the CFA to use but it is currently bone dry. It would be helpful to fix the pump and refill the water hole for safety.

Response: The bore is not a Council asset, however it was confirmed that the bore had collapsed and will be repaired.

3. The road at the end of O'Connor Street which is used by locals as a short cut however there is no speed limit signs and it is very dangerous.

Response: DIDW to follow up.



**Amanda Williams**

Thanks to Council for tidying up the surrounds of the gumtree in town. Thank you also for re-painting the road lines in Edenhope.

1. Could Council inspect the unsealed roads on the outskirts of town which need to be repaired before Winter?

Response: DIDW to follow up.

2. Can Council speak with Wimmera Mallee Waste regarding their contract as bins have to be collected on the highway but it would be preferred that they are collected at end of driveways particularly for the elderly. They are doing a fantastic job. Perhaps look at broadening contract out to sealed roads.

Response: DIDW to follow up.

3. Does Council lend animal cages?

Response: These are available from Council.

4. Community Action - is it possible to defund the Police and put these funds into community action?

Response: This is not a matter that Local Government can deal with.

5. The Apsley Corner Café was advised that they would need to buy a \$200 machine that tests the rice temperature. This seems very unreasonable and unnecessary for a small business.

Response: DIDW to follow up with EHO.

**Hayley Hocking**

1. Only \$50,000 has been set aside in the budget for the Apsley community. This amount would not cover the incomplete fencing at the Park and would not be enough to make it safe.

Response: The budget has not yet been set and this would be a budget consideration.



2. New netball courts are a high priority, what is the update on this? Suggestion was made that perhaps Council could provide an update to the community through the local newsletter, particularly for residents who do not access social media.

Response: Three million dollars of capital works were applied for through the Sports and Recreation Fund, however there has been no response yet. Officers to discuss with Communications Team the possibility of providing additional information for inclusion in the local newsletter.

3. Could an update on the Local Tourism Group be provided?

Response: There is a Tourism Strategy currently being developed by the WWSC Tourism Committee. It is important to have a local representative attend these meetings to facilitate community input.

4. Childcare - Several community members who are willing to work would like a place in Edenhope Childcare. Could an update be provided?

Response: Council is awaiting Federal Government approval and unsure when this will be. Recruitment process is well underway, however it is also a challenge. The childcare will be a staged approach so there will be a chance that the number of places offered may increase in future.

**Forum Concluded: 1.55pm**