SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Social Issues Committee meeting held in the Millicent Library, George Street, Millicent on Tuesday 3rd June 2014 at 9:30am.

1. PRESENT :
Moira Neagle (DETE), Karen Lock (WRC), Cr Barry Stoddart (Chair), Phil Golding (Community), Denis Clifford (St Vincent), Elke Unger (DHS), Cr John Drew, Kathy Davis (Job Prospects) Kym Cawthorne (Job Prospects), Alison Varcoe (Gladys Smith ELC),

2. APOLOGIES :
Sophie Bourchier (Uniting Communities), Jade Williams (DETE), David Hill (Development SA), Cheryl Brennan (AC Care), Fina Hurrell (Community Mental Health).

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES :
3.1 Wattle Range Social Issues and Planning Committee Meeting 11th February, 2014 and the Special Meeting of 25th March, 2014
The minutes be taken as presented and confirmed.
Moved: Denis Clifford
Seconded: Alison Varcoe      CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:
4.1 Transport: Re the Special Meeting. The process has been slowed down. A report is to go to Council following a meeting of community service groups.
Karen is still hopeful that a proposal can be moved forward.
Service Clubs did not feel that they were in a position to operate a bus service.
It was felt that WRC would sponsor such a project to some degree.
The point was made that it is more a State Transport Authority responsibility but that avenue has been pursued arduously.
Red Cross has a new service sponsored by the Bendigo Bank for frail, disabled and transport disadvantaged, HACC has provided funding to organise social outings, no annual fee and a reduced outing cost.
Nothing exists to meet the broadly based needs for regular affordable transport.

4.2 It was recommended that a letter of thanks to WIN Television and The Border Watch for providing a brief news segment, approximately at 6.15 p.m. Action K Lock
It has also been a discussion with the local Rotary Clubs to try to get video news on community radio stations websites.

4.3 Out of School Hours Care: there has been an exploration of possible sites. These explorations would incorporate management by the Childcare Centre.
Need to keep the issue of the bus service to Adelaide on our radar.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:
5.1 Peter Harriot, CEO Re: Proposed Declaration of Dry Zone at the Millicent Swimming Lake: WRC looking forward feedback from this community. Police have found alcohol a contributing factor to problems which they are called to deal with, as well as the dangers of broken glass.
The meeting supported the proposal enthusiastically.

5.2 Sophie Bourchier has tendered her resignation to the committee as she has new employment that will not allow her to continue. We wish Sophie well in her future endeavours, she has been a valuable supporter of the people of this Council area.

6. REPORTS:

6.1 Strategic Plan

- Youth - Not a lot is currently happening. Low key Youth week event. Karen has approached the Independent Learning Centre with little enthusiasm. May allow it to go into recession with the proviso that this committee keeps Youth Issues formally as a focus.

  It was suggested that a card be produced to be distributed around the community to invite suggestions from our youth.

- Support for Families: WRC working on footpaths which assists parents with prams. Cars on footpaths is still an issue. Some areas where shrubs and trees growing out over the footpaths – need to specify this and inform Council. This may require some public promotion.

  Salvation Army Appeal currently running.

- Community Issues & Inclusion:

  A round table meets in this area to look at a coordinated approach to issues. They are going to be here on June 17th at the Millicent Public Library.

  The meeting discussed the increasing problem of the use of Crystal Meth and see the need for Police and Health workers.

  The meeting expressed concern and we consider that Council be informed of the nature and breadth of this issue.

  The Diplomat has been sold and it is hoped that it will be re-opened as a motel.

- Primary Health: discussion moved to the Suicide Prevention Strategy.

6.2 Community Service Centre

Financial Advisor doing very good work.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

7.1 Budget 2014 Impact:

Street protest in Mount Gambier last Saturday.

What media is presenting is one thing but the legislation has not been passed.

Some of the changes which are to come in July are resulting from the 2013 Budget.

Dept. Of Employment website is also a good source of information.

7.2 Suicide Prevention Strategy: Rates have gone down over the last couple of years, however, one suicide is one too many. The Naracoorte community have involved Primary Producers SA to address this issue. Looked at establishing a “Menswatch” program. Our Council, too, may well look to establish such a program here.

This sub-committee could be asked to develop a coordinated community response. Work to create a more engaged community who can support each other.
Alcohol use is a high correlation to suicide rates, domestic violence, unemployment, Aboriginality, financial difficulty and gambling, farming - are all factors.

Moira and Karen to look at how our committee might respond.

7.3 Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre – In partnership with AC Care the Childcare Centre has run parenting

8. **NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 5th August, 9:15am for a 9:30am start

Meeting closed at 10:00 a.m.