Minutes of the Social Issues Planning Committee meeting held at the Millicent Council Chambers, George Street, Millicent, 1 pm on Tuesday 4 October 2016.

1. **PRESENT:**

   Major Lesley Grant (Salvation Army), Denis Clifford (St Vincent de Paul), Peter Zeitz (Renewal SA), David Hill (Department of State Development), Sandra Twaddle (Community), Cr Glenn Brown (Chair) (WRC), Cr John Drew (WRC), Ben Gower (WRC), Steve Chapple (WRC), Sarah Marzec (WRC), Mark Thompson (Guest Speaker - Housing SA), Le-Anne Thomson (Guest speaker - Housing SA), Amanda Hann (Housing SA)

2. **APOLOGIES:**

   Cheryl Brennan (AC Care), Moira Neagle (Community), Carolyn Sutton (Learning Together), Alison Varcoe (Childcare), Melissa Snook (AC Care), Evonne Lambert (AC Care), Karen Lock (SE Regional Community Health), Janice Nitschke (Libraries), Paula Bennet (WRC), Melissa Snook (AC Care), Carolyn Sutton (Learning Together)

3. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:**

   4.1 Wattle Range Social Issues and Planning Committee Meeting

   That the minutes be taken as presented and confirmed.

   Moved: John Drew
   Seconded: Denis Clifford

   **CARRIED**

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

   Discussion ensured about Peter Zeitz role change from Housing SA to Renewal SA and his new responsibilities/projects.

   **Guest speakers**

   **Mark Thompson Regional Manager & Le-Anne Thomson Operations Manager**

   - Not many people present in Millicent with homelessness.
   - On average per year 4-5 people are assisted with emergency accommodation
   - This is predominantly due to country people being resourceful and come to other arrangements
   - Average time to wait for a house is 3-6 months in Millicent, is relatively quick in comparison with other areas
   - Millicent has the most Housing Trust homes in the Wattle Range area
   - Domestic violence is the main reason for emergency accommodation
   - People seeking accommodation from the private rental market, Housing SA will assist with the bond
   - Bond required for Housing SA is one weeks rent
   - Sell off bad housing which is costly to upgrade, prefer to sell empty without a tenant
- Need for better access and ability to find services
- Age for community housing is mixed
- Single people on New Start are most disadvantaged
- The caravan parks in Millicent are the first point of contact
- There is a welfare reform process occurring by the Federal Government
- Encourages housing tenants to get involved in Volunteering
- When people become involved this encourages economic participation and to meet their life goals
- Mark will be going on 6 months long service leave

4.1 ‘Job Ready’ project

David emailed to Sarah Marzec the Homelessness case study which was used as the foundation for definitions of Homelessness. Sarah and Janice worked together to develop a Google Doc on the Homelessness Project (Millicent) which was circulated to all committee members, the only member who responded was Steve Chapple.

Ben conducted talks with the SRC at the three high schools in the Council area. They all indicated a concern about domestic violence which is a major contributor to housing problems.

4.2 Where to go with this project?

This is a Section 41 Committee which is sponsored by Council. It has associated administrative and legal overheads. This Committee does not manage an asset or a project.

**Action:** Ben to circulate to members the role of Section 41 Committees

Steve highlighted in the past that the committee has achieved success associated with transport into and out of the Council area for the benefit of community members.

For people to continue to attend they need to have a tangible benefit, such as a project and feel the satisfaction of achievement.

Discussion ensured about TAFE SA and the High School.

4.3 Action table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Status/ Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Steve Chapple</td>
<td>Steve Chapple to distribute a list of hot showers provided by Council and businesses that are available at no or minimal charges in the Council region.</td>
<td>28/9/16</td>
<td>Millicent Lakeside Caravan Park $3.50 (untimed please don’t abuse it)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Millicent Hillview Caravan Park $5 (untimed)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Millicent Swimming lake $1 for 2 minutes (8am-4pm winter; sunrise to sunset in summer; no shower curtains more for a rinse off)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Task Description</td>
<td>Assigned</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Status</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>David Hill to provide a copy of the Housing SA report from Peter Zeitz for this region and forward to Janice Nitschke</td>
<td>David Hill</td>
<td>28/9/16</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Janice Nitschke, Sarah Marzec, Steve Chapple and Paula Bennet to develop a ‘Google doc’ based on the Housing SA report and circulate to Committee members to add information about homeless numbers, housing issues etc. This will be reported back at the next Committee meeting.</td>
<td>Janice Nitschke, Sarah Marzec, Steve Chapple and Paula Bennet</td>
<td>28/9/16</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ben Gower to circulate a copy of Bernard Salts information presented at the STEM convention in Mount Gambier</td>
<td>Ben Gower</td>
<td>28/9/16</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Moira Neagle to write a letter on behalf of the Committee to thank the Police for their diligence in working to capture the alleged thieves responsible for many of the recent break-ins across town and for the extra shifts they provided to do so.</td>
<td>Moira Neagle</td>
<td>28/9/16</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sarah Marzec to investigate from Peter the skills of the 50 year old female to see if a matching can be made.</td>
<td>Sarah Marzec</td>
<td>28/9/16</td>
<td>Work in progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Karen Lock, Community Health, to discuss with Melissa Snook, AC Care Financial Counsellor, possibilities to source funding then communicate these suggestions to Peter Zeitz, Housing SA.</td>
<td>Karen Lock</td>
<td>28/9/16</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cheryl Brennan &amp; Sarah Marzec to send to Sarah, who will circulate ‘The Dad Factor’ flyer via email to all Committee members.</td>
<td>Cheryl Brennan &amp; Sarah Marzec</td>
<td>28/9/16</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
5. **REPORTS**

Members who respond to the request for organisations to submit a report prior to this meeting, these reports have been collated and circulated (see Appendix I).

6. **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

6.1 **Round the Table**

Cr. John Drew – The recent power outage we used candles, people were without communication (phones down or no power) and without heat.

Steve – More concern is people who need medical equipment which requires electricity such as breathing machines etc. especially at Harcourt Age Care Facility.

Sandra – Doctors can sign documents for people who need power when power is out for medical purposes.

**Action:** Power outages, documents signed by doctors and an emergency plan/pack can all be discussed at the next meeting

Ben – As a committee work on producing / advertising that that in the emergency plan requirements for black outs such as torches, spare batteries, generators, do you require medical response

Steve – The Millicent Business and Community Association (MBCA) has formed a committee to work on the Millicent Community Plan

The Wattle Range Social Inclusion Summer Program is waiting for agencies to confirm the availability of funds in clients NDIS packages.

Emergency fund – The Councillors specially asked for $5000 to be made available to be used in emergencies and another amount for enforcement.

Ben – Dairy farmers in the Council area have been visited by the Deputy Mayor, CEO and Steve to discuss issues associated with the price drop in milk price. The farmers are having difficulty in accessing the funding made available by the State and Federal governments.

Cr. Glenn Brown – The recent sitting in Millicent of the Parliamentary Health Committee which incorporated five parliamentary members and recorded on HANSAR offered parliamentary privilege to hear submission by locals relating to the health system.

This document will take approximately 12 months to collated and be reported back.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Circular 1  Green house Green Planet  
Circular 2  Future 2 2016 Make a difference  
Circular 3  2016 Addressing Homelessness conference  
Circular 4  Ambulance Cover  
Circular 5  Wattle Range Council Community Grants  
Circular 6  Sports Community  
Circular 7  Anxiety & depression Penola & Millicent training workshop  
Circular 8  New Mindful Service  
Circular 9  Penola Volunteer Matching Initiative  
Circular 10  Adjustment ‘make a difference with mental health problems’  
Circular 11  ANX Seeds of Renewal Grant 2016  
Circular 12  RIRDC Rural Women’s Awards  
Circular 13  2016 Governors Multicultural Awards  
Circular 14  September Volunteer Training Workshop  
Circular 15  State Government Female Facilities  
Circular 16  Female Facilities Grant information  
Circular 17:  Energy saving devises for SA residents  
Circular 18  Food Safety Course fee free  
Circular 19  Two Free webinars – winning grants & successful sporting clubs  
Circular 20  StandBy poster – everyone has a story  
Circular 21  Out of the Blue health play  
Circular 22  Bernard Salt Limestone STEM presentation  

8. **NEXT MEETING:**

1pm - 2:30pm on Tuesday 6 December 2016 at the Millicent Council Chambers

**Summary Table of Actions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ben Gower</td>
<td>Ben to circulate to members the role of Section 41 committees</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next meeting</td>
<td><strong>Action</strong>: Power outages, documents signed by doctors and an emergency</td>
<td>6/12/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discussion</td>
<td>plan/pack can all be discussed at the next meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix I

**Wattle Range Council Social Issues Planning Committee**

**October 2016 Members Update**

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**Glady Smith Early Learning Centre UPDATE**

From Alison Varcoe

Spring has sprung, with lots of fun, learning, warmth and sunshine. We are continuing to experience lots of new enrolments and the second half of the year is typically busier than the first six months of the year, particularly in the Emu Room (3-5 years).

The children have experienced many excursions recently including visits to local schools participating in gym lessons and musical performances by the students. Visits to both kindergartens continue to build connections for the children and teachers with many exciting learning opportunities available.

The Wallaby Room sandpit upgrade is now complete and the children are enjoying their new sand, rocks and space. Bowman Earthmovers undertook this project and have created an exciting new learning space.

Father’s Evening was again a huge success, with many dads and grandads attending. The Parent Committee funded the sausage sizzle and the children along with Mrs Walker performed for the visitors. “Awesome” was how one dad described the evening. These evenings are wonderful opportunities for children to spend quality time with their dads.

The Emu Room children boarded the bus this week to travel to the Millicent High School. There they explored the High School’s agricultural area and collected four chickens to place in our new chicken coop at the Centre. The coop was built by the Men’s Shed.
Learning Together Highlights from Term 3

- This term we have offered 6 playgroups, 2 study sessions, Transitioning Together at 2 sites and a parent information group (Companionable Learning).

- This term we have had a number of new enrolments and a good number of families are regularly attending playgroups at Learning Together.

- We have reached 245 likes on Facebook and continue to use this a way to advertise what we are doing/running at Learning Together.

- Learning Together @ Home: Melissa Cozzi is currently visiting at maximum capacity with 35 families and has 21 families on her waiting list.

- Current outreach sites now include: Kangaroo Inn, Mt Burr and Millicent North. Numbers attending have been inconsistent due to weather and illness. Families who do attend appreciate the opportunity to attend a playgroup at their local school.

- This term we have begun Transitioning Together at Newbery Park and Millicent North. Principals of the schools, JP teachers, and Kindergarten Directors and Learning Together staff are all involved in the planning of Transitioning Together. Sessions at both schools were well attended and have received positive feedback. Newbery Park had three sessions and Millicent North had two sessions. Transitioning Together involves parents as well as the children and helps with a smooth transition into primary school.

- The annual Learning Together parent survey was completed by a large percentage of families. The survey is the most important way we have of gathering data to show the impact of Learning Together both across the state and in our local area. Data from the survey is yet to come in.

- Our Baby Playgroup at Learning Together has been busy this term. Unfortunately due to a number of babies ‘graduating’ this term our numbers at Millicent North have been low so we have cancelled for the rest of the term but hope to continue in Term 4. Carolyn has been in contact with CaFHS nurses to ensure that new mums are aware of our service.

News from The Salvation Army, Millicent.

Our Welfare Volunteer who does our Welfare on Wednesday mornings each week, from our Thrift Shop, hasn’t been able to do this important work for us for the last 3 months as she had a fall and broke her left collarbone and her left leg. We are pleased to say that she re-
commenced her work today (28th September). We would like to say a huge thank you to all the other Agencies who have covered each Wednesday for us, it is greatly appreciated.

Also, the Christmas Cheer (Food Hampers for Christmas) which is run by the Combined Churches Christmas Appeal is being done again this year. We are having a Christmas Fete on 14th October at the Uniting Church to help raise some funds for this year's Hampers. People who are experiencing hardship will be able to start putting their names down for a Christmas Hamper straight after the Fete. They can come and fill in an application from any of the Welfare Agencies. This year it also has been decided to put in each Hamper for a family with school aged children, a voucher for $50.00 for each school aged child for school clothing from Egan's Menswear Shop in Millicent. The items for the Hamper's and the toys will be put together at The Salvation Army Citadel by members of the Combined Churches Christmas Committee and the applicants will be advised to come and collect their hampers and toys from the Citadel.

Major Lesley and Major Kevin Grant (Retired) have also been advised that they will be moving to Adelaide in January 2017 as Major Lesley has a new appointment as the Chaplain of the Northern Region Courts at Elizabeth. The Millicent Corps will be run in a circuit with Mt Gambier Corps effective from 11th January 2017.

Lesley Grant (Major)
Corps Officer
Millicent

From Housing SA to Renewal SA, Peter Zeitz

I am currently working for Renewal SA as a 'Tenancy Liaison Officer' and this role is not so connected with the Committee. I assist tenants, Housing SA, and community housing providers with the transfer of property management from Housing SA to a Community Housing Provider. The ownership of the properties remain SA Housing Trust, but it is the management/landlord which is being transferred. Renewal SA are yet to determine who the provider will be, it is currently up for tender. All providers considered must be Tier 1 – capable of managing 1000 plus properties and are regulated under a National Regulatory System. For tenants this means providers are experienced and meet national standards with strong policies, procedures and management in place.

All property’s outside of Mt Gambier that are managed by Housing SA are being transferred to Community Housing Provider management next year. This includes Millicent, Penola, Naracoorte, Keith, Bordertown, Nangwarry, Robe, Beachport, and Kingston. There were 1000 properties transferred last year in Adelaide, and the current project is approx 4000 properties (350 from Limestone Coast, all other Adelaide). The announcement of the provider is expected to be made early 2017.

There is access to federal funds and benefits/concessions for the providers when they are the property manager which Housing SA is not eligible for. The objective is to use this extra revenue to improve and develop additional Social Housing in South Australia.

Prior to my change of position I worked as a Housing Officer with Housing SA and had strong relevance to the Committee as it involved case management of some of the more vulnerable people in the Millicent community. Essentially I was responsible for managing the tenancies of all Millicent Housing SA properties (approximately 169), and on occasion organising emergency accommodation for people in crisis. As a part of this management I identified risk...
and connected people to relevant supports. Risk included drug/alcohol misuse, domestic violence and relationship issues, mental health, debt, physical health/disability, and property condition. I am a required mandatory reporter and a strong child focus was adopted when managing properties where children resided. Community Health, AC Care – Intensive Tenancy Support program and Financial Counsellors, Resthaven – Aged support, Wattle Range Council – in particular Environmental Health officers/Dog catchers, and Mental Health Services have been of substantial assistance on many occasions in forming a collaborative approach to assist tenant’s.

I worked from the Mt Gambier Housing SA office within a team of six. This also includes a ‘Tenancy Practitioner’ who case manages high risk/complex tenant’s. My previous position is currently being back filled by Amanda Hann who will be attending the next meeting, as will her supervisor Le-Anne Thomson. In 2017 it is expected that the above roles will be undertaken by the determined Community Housing Provider, and not Housing SA.

Thanks,

Peter Zeitz
Tenant Liaison Officer
9 Elizabeth Street MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290
Ph 87351 773   Mobile 0407 458 681
Email: peter.zeitz@sa.gov.au

Renewing our Streets and Suburbs | SAHT Transfer Project
www.renewalsa.sa.gov.au

Assistance Report for St Vincent de Paul & Adracare

St. Vincent de Paul: Gas, Furniture and Food Parcels
  August Total: 15  September Total: 16

ADRACARE: Gas, Fuel, Food Parcels
  August Total: 22  September Total: 21

These Charity Organisations are concerned about the closure of TAFE in Millicent and would like to see some action taken by the Social Issues Committee.
There is no form of public transport for those affected by the closure to go to Mt. Gambier and the added cost to students of car-pooling is also worrying.

DENIS CLIFFORD

Millicent Community Centre Update
- For the Month of August and September the Centre has assisted 47 clients with emergency relief
- Currently conducting children’s Contact on a fortnightly basis
- Family Support worker is on leave due back on the 1st Nov
- Financial Counselling has been seeing a steady flow of clients currently booked up till the 2nd week in Nov
- The Centre now has the following visiting Organisation utilising the centre:
  - Job Prospects
  - WDEA (Western Districts Employment Access)
  - WISE
  - Lifeline (Financial Counselling)
  - Life without Barriers (Drug and Alcohol Counselling)

Hope this helps
Thanks Evonne

Evonne Lambert | Coordinator, Millicent Community Centre