

NOWRA CBD COMMUNITY FORUM Wednesday 25 March 2009

Hosted by Shoalhaven Business Chamber & Shoalhaven City Council

Key items from presentations and forum discussion.

ITEM	SPEAKER	ACTIVITY
1.	DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP, ERNIE ROYSTON	<p>CBD Master plan recognises the following features and issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. River frontage 2. Hospital expansion 3. Increased residential living in CBD 4. Improved business facilities 5. Junction Court development 6. South east sector extra public parking 7. Redevelopment of existing public car parks 8. Protection of vistas to Cambewarra Mountain 9. Increased traffic issues – increasing by 3% annually; road widening; bridge capacity; use of Bridge Rd <p>Issues raised from Councillors Town Walk</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Junction Court Options- traffic access, antisocial behaviour, shop activation 2. Graham St/McGrath Ave- Redevelopment Opportunities 3. Character of residential west sector 4. Possible refurbishment of the open space area adjacent to Egans Lane opposite Target 5. Improved pedestrian access from the Egans Lane car park to the Art Centre 6. Provision of high quality residential & improvement of streetscape 7. More specific guidelines for mixed use development 8. Marketing of opportunities, promotional approach, seed investment 9. DCP-not prescriptive controls, creative approach <p>Traffic Study Junction Court Opening Options and Worrige Street One Way (Cardno Eppell Olsen- 30 July 2007)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On the basis of the modeling undertaken, there is no justification on traffic grounds for Junction Court to be totally opened to traffic. 2. However, if Council considers that it is necessary or desirable for Junction Court to be opened to traffic for other reasons, then one way 'westbound' is the preferred option to reduce network impacts. 3. Two-way traffic flow between O'Connell Lane and Nowra Lane to maintain shop front parking and provide opportunity for retention of Taxi Zone. 4. Worrige Street one-way eastbound option is not recommended due to increased trip times, delays and costs for the entire network. 5. Design issues - amenity, pedestrian safety treatment, intersection safety (Junction/O'Connell and Junction/Nowra Lane), access, taxi zone and existing shop front parking arrangement, etc. <p>SCC welcomes the establishment of a committee through the Shoalhaven Business Chamber, to work with the Strategic Planning Office</p>
2.	BHI ARCHITECTS	<p>Presentation of this firms own concept for the re-development of two key areas.</p> <p>Junction Court</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outdoor café type activity 2. Maximise view to the east 3. Remove raised area 4. Single lane car access for intermittent use 5. Establishment of two small shops and utilising old stable <p>Stewart car park</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Underground parking 2. Multi-level building for business & retail activity
3.	Nowra CBD Promotions Committee	<p>Ideas presented by Nowra CBD Promotions as the result of feedback from CBD business owners & property investors.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beautification. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Shoalhaven Arts Board –street art Feature flags; hanging flower baskets; paint for graffiti Highway between North Street & Plunkett Street

2. Junction Court
 - Town Square outdoor dining
 - Town Square markets – charity day, produce day
3. Development processes & opportunities
 - Moratorium on fees for outdoor dining & car parking levies
 - Business parking levy – business dedicated car park
4. Signage
 - Jane Street overpass
 - Entrances to town & beyond

**4. FORUM.
RESPONSES
FROM THOSE
PRESENT AND
CORRESPOND-
ENCE RECEIVED**

1. Taxi rank area needs addressing
2. Owners of Nowra Mall are looking at refurbishing the Mall due to Stockland development being put on hold.
3. Re-activation of the area is necessary by increasing pedestrian traffic including connection point between Junction Court and Coles Mall.
4. Beautification – continue the theme throughout the entire CBD as a whole
5. Eye level beauty rather than ground level
6. Discrepancy between money spent on beautification on eastern side between Egans Lane and SCC and western side of CBD ie Stewart Place
7. Activate new shopping facilities in western end of CBD
8. Encourage youth to busk and activate the town and improve the ambience immediately. Community, sporting group displays. Attracting people in to CBD for a range of reasons.
9. CBD Committee have investigated floral hanging baskets; graffiti paint pool – any property owners or tenant to access for free; flags Nowra Show, Arts Board, Christmas for highway and town.
10. During the 'walk around' Councillors noted the poor condition of some of council assets including footpaths, but also the dilapidated condition of a number of buildings. They encourage SBC to contact the land owners and promote the benefits of upgrading their building.
11. If SCC commits money to CBD then property investors may be encouraged also.
12. Encourage residences in the CBD. There is an identified need for serviced apartments in the CBD. This will in turn encourage redevelopment of maintenance on current unkempt buildings.
13. Taxi rank could go in Woolworths car park
14. Second park area in Woolworths; will it be re-vamped as the other one has been.
15. Empty Betta Electrical building owned by SCC, will it be utilised soon as it is an eye sore? SCC response: – it was a long term strategic investment. SCC is looking at the whole Egan's Lane development.
16. SCC looking at re-addressing the fee for outdoor dining
17. Bus interchange needs addressing
18. Ambience would be improved with landscaping and placing trees and plants throughout the streets.

**5. MAYOR'S
RESPONSE**

Welcomes the ideas and contribution of the community. Mayor's response to some of the comments made and others that have been discussed.

1. Free bus shuttle in 3km of CBD particularly
2. Flags up Princes Highway and remove the fence – RTA issue
3. Taxi Rank - during the Councillor walk around town this was noted as an area of concern; relocating it is a consideration.
4. SCC crime prevention plan includes a concept to provide a van with tools & equipment that the Paint Pool concept would work well with.
5. If Junction Court were to open, we must ensure there is an open space provided for people to sit and rest in comfort.
6. Encourage cosmopolitan dining experience across the Shoalhaven.
7. CCTV cameras tender has closed and installation should commence soon
8. Working with Woolworths to install coin operated trolleys
9. Support residences in the CBD above shops
10. Thanked BHI for using their skills to bring this concept for Junction Court to the Forum

**6. OFFICIAL
ATTENDEES**

Mayor, Clr. Paul Green; Deputy Mayor, Clr. Gareth Ward; Clr. Greg Watson; Clr. Gary Kearney; Clr. Nigel Soames; Clr. Bohdan Brumerskyj; General Manager, Russ Pigg Director, Strategic Planning Group and Infrastructure. Ernie Royston