

OBERON COUNCIL

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PRESENT: Councillor Keith Sullivan, (in the chair); Councillor Kerry Gibbons; Jill Evans; Belinda Massey; Janice Musgrave; Ray Mawhood; Ian Davis; Mark Boffa and Joanne Campbell.

OBSERVERS: Oberon Council General Manager, Leanne Mash; Community and Customer Services Manager, Peta Heffernan and Administration Trainee, Hanna Bates.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted for the non-attendance of Graham Parker; Ian Whalan; Councillor Bob O’Bernier.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2011 were read and accepted. (Ray Mawhood/Jill Evans)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

Presentation by Evans Community Options

Cheryl Keogh and Denise Simpson from Evans Community Options made a presentation to the Committee in regards to the programs and services they provide. Evans Community Options are a Not For Profit based service, funded by the NSW Department of Health. They explained to the Committee the four programs they provide, Case Management, Respite, Neighbour Aid – Social Support and ComPacks.

Case Management: a term used to coordinate services that Evans Community Options provide to help people remain living safely at home by receiving a range of help and support services.

Respite: a service that is provided in Oberon that gives carers a break.

Neighbour Aid – Social Support: this service is ran for both Oberon and Bathurst for socially isolated people. Volunteers can provide either one on one companionship or group outings. The person must be assessed as socially isolated and there is a fee attached.

ComPacks: is a service provided to those who have been discharged from hospital and need two or more at home services to help them return to home safely. It is short term program (6 weeks) however the client can then be linked up to a health or home care service afterwards. Keeping people at home is the focus of this service. This program can only be accessed by those who have received a hospital referral.

Minutes of the duly convened Seniors Welfare Committee Meeting of Oberon Council held at the Council Chambers, Oberon on Monday 12 December 2011, commencing at 9.30am.

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Councillor Keith Sullivan suggested that the Evans Community Options programs be mentioned in the Mayors column in the Oberon Review.

The General Manager asked the number of Oberon residents currently participating in the Social Support Program. Cheryl Keogh advised that there were approximately 20 Oberon based clients.

Janice Musgrave raised the issue of the Social Support program taking clients away from the Robey Centre at the hospital, and that perhaps Evans Community Options could be more aware of when the programs are running the hospital.

Concerns were raised that the hospital bus was not getting enough use, and that the ComPacks service could utilise the bus on a regular basis. The Committee was informed that insurance was preventing this from happening. Councillor Keith Sullivan asked Ray Mawhood to raise this issue at the next Hospital Advisory meeting.

The matter of the 'request for donations' received from Evans Community Options was raised. Options were discussed that if funding was approved, that a small amount (\$1000) be given initially, on the proviso that Council received a report ensuring that funding would be used:

- To increase awareness in the Oberon LGA of services available.
- For LGA residents only.
- For activities that were not in conflict with established programs.

Council officers raised the possibility that funding be used to resolve insurance issues surrounding the hospital bus so that it could be used to assist with Evans Community Options programs.

Recommendation: That Council officers investigate with the hospital the issues surrounding the use of the bus and the insurance matters. (Ray Mawhood/Belinda Massey)

Update on Seniors Expo

The Seniors Expo was initially scheduled to be held in November, however due to complications with the venue and the attendance of service providers, it was suggested that it be held off until late March, 2012 to coincide with Seniors Week.

To raise awareness, the General Manager advised that a publicity campaign would be introduced prior to the event; Council would conduct a letter box drop, and have media spots in both print and radio.

Local service providers from Bathurst and the Mountains will be asked to set up booths at the venue for people to seek further information.

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Recommendation: That Seniors Expo be scheduled for Seniors Week in 2012 and further that the Committee be advised of the structure of the event in the coming weeks.

Update on Schools Seniors Outreach Program

The Community and Customer Services Manager advised the Committee of the difficulties in transporting students from surrounding villages into Oberon to interact with the seniors, due to insurance issues with the Hospital Bus.

Belinda Massey suggested that we approach the bus company and ask for them to donate a bus and Council could find a driver, if we are not able to sort out the issue with the insurance.

A program of regular communication has been devised to encourage interactions between the local school children, the residents of Hathaway Cottages and long term residents of the hospital. One child will be partnered with one senior.

Oberon High School has asked to meet with the Community Liaison Officer, and Community and Customer Services Manager to facilitate a Senior Volunteer Program within the school.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Keith Sullivan requested from the chair a Confidential Session to discuss the Aged Care Facility. (Mark Boffa/Jill Evans)

The Community and Customer Services Manager informed the Committee that Council has applied for the Connecting Seniors Grant through Telstra. This program will help seniors get online and use the internet, email and access other services.

Council is also applying for the NSW Country Library Grants. Funding will be used to purchase a specially equipped van to use as a mobile library to visit the surrounding villages and for home visits.

The Community and Customer Services Manager had copies of the Liveable and Wheelable Community Report to give to the Committee. There is a checklist in the report that advises on how to make things more aged friendly.

Council will be reviewing the Section 355 Committees Policy at the December Ordinary Council Meeting. The Volunteers and Section 355 Committees Policy will become to separate policies.

Grahame Parker submitted a paper, the Draft Basis for Operations of Section 355 Committees, to the Committee to be circulated and put on the agenda for the next meeting.

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Jill Evans congratulated Councillor Keith Sullivan on his continued efforts in resolving senior's issues in Oberon.

Janice Musgrave raised concerns that the hospital is in danger of losing funding for the Meals on Wheels. Some home care service providers are cooking meals for their clients, therefore they don't use the Meals on Wheels. Joanne Campbell commented that under her programs, occasionally meals were cooked for clients, however, it was her understanding that this was not occurring in place of the Meals on Wheels service.

Ray Mawhood informed the Committee of his concerns that there would be no doctor available for three days over Christmas at the hospital. It was requested that it be raised at the December Council meeting.

Councillor Keith Sullivan acknowledged that the General Manager will be leaving Council at the end of 2011, and praised her on all of her efforts and achievements.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Monday 13 February 2012 commencing at 9.30am the Oberon Council Chambers.

Meeting closed at 10.53am.

Confirmed this _____ day of _____ 2011.

General Manager

Chairperson

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