

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 Whalan, Graham Parker and Joanne Campbell.

OBSERVERS: Oberon Council General Manager, Leanne Mash, Special Projects Officer, Joanne Barton and the Executive Assistant, Sharon Swannell.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted for the non-attendance of Mark Boffa.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2011 were read and accepted. (Belinda Massey/Jill Evans)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

Proposal to establish a Trust Fund to raise funds to assist with the provision of financial assistance for six low support beds in Oberon

Council staff have obtained legal advice in relation to the establishment of a trust fund to assist with the provision of financial assistance for low support beds in Oberon.

There are two mechanisms open for Council to pursue:

1. Form a Corporation
2. Establish a Trust

Both options have tax implication and advice has been sought from Council's external Auditors in relation to this.

Staff have requested additional legal advice in relation to the control issues and a report will be provided to Council's November meeting in relation to this matter.

Ian Whalan tabled a copy of a letter which pertains to the section of the will of the Late Aleath Johnston that relates to a bequest to the establishment of an Aged Care facility

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Discussion was also held in relation to funds which may have been raised in the past to support Aged Care in Oberon. Graham Parker and Ian Whalan advised that the Aged Care Committee had no knowledge of any community funds. It was suggested that at the appropriate time the committee approach June Muir and May O'Reilly who were previous members of the Aged Care Committee to pursue this matter.

Update on Schools Seniors Outreach Program

Responses have been received from Black Springs, Burruga and Oberon Public Schools advising that they would be interested in participating in a Seniors Outreach Program.

Suggested activities include visits to seniors, hospital visits, entertainment, adopt a grand friend, letter writing, cooking, gardening and reading.

The Council's Community and Customer Services Manager will progress this project.

Update on Seniors Expo

Joanne Barton provided a verbal update regarding the Seniors Expo which will be held at the end of November 2011.

Discussion was held regarding the format for the event. The event is targeted to attract both seniors and adult children of senior residents. It was agreed that the Seniors Expo would be held on one day only on a Saturday from 10.30am to 2.30pm. The number of speakers will be minimised. Light finger food and entertainment will be provided along with representatives from the Aged Care agencies to speak with interested parties.

Advertising and promotion of the Seniors Expo will be via paper, community noticeboards, and community radio broadcasts. Interagency has a group email facility. A letterbox mail out to all residents will also be done.

Janice Musgrave and Joanne Campbell volunteered to assist with the organisation of the event. Ian Whalan will approach Coral Bailey or members of the Aged Care Committee to also assist with the organisation.

Impact of the increase of an Ageing Population

Councillor Sullivan provided information to the committee in relation to the Governments advice to Councils to identify the future needs of the increase number of elderly members of the community.

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Council's and communities will be required to provide increased facilities for aged members of the community in the future. The Government has put together workshops and released a Local Government toolkit to assist with planning for an ageing community. Council has discussed this matter and is trying to get on the front foot for any possible funding to assist with the infrastructure that will be required.

Presentation by Joanne Campbell, Hammond Care Services

Joanne Campbell provided a verbal presentation about the services offered by Hammond Care. In the Central West region Hammond Care primarily delivers Community Aged Care Packages and Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) Packages.

These programs provide between 5 and 14 hours of in home care per week. Equipment can also be supplied to clients to assist with care in the home. Clients receive assistance tailored to their individual needs for things such as medication supervision, nutrition, personal care, light housework, laundry, shopping or social interaction. Depending on the client's needs some may receive up to three visits per day to assist with certain aspects of their lives.

Discussion was held in relation to the availability of services to out of town clients. There have been a number of instances where residents have had difficulty accessing services such as Meals on Wheels and Home Care. Joanne advised that services can be provided to clients in outlying areas. If any member of the committee or community need to be put in touch with services Joanne is happy to assist with this. The Aged Care Assessment Team is the first point of referral for people requiring assistance.

Graham Parker comment about the difficulty in making residents aware of the services available. It is essential that medical practitioners refer those in need to the Aged Care Assessment Team.

It is recommended that the Enhanced Primary Care Nurse, Danielle Hayden and Margaret Gantrell from the Aged Care Assessment Team be invited to speak at a future meeting of the Seniors Welfare Committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Ian Whalan addressed the meeting and advised why the Aged Care Committee is pursuing the establishment of a Trust Fund.

Under the Government formula for assisted beds a 60 bed facility in Oberon would have 13½ financially assisted beds. These assisted beds would be required for a person from low care through to high and palliative care. The trust fund could be used to assist with gaining additional financially supported beds for those in need.

Councillor Sullivan commented that the Council agree that we need to secure as many beds as possible for the community and agree that the Trust Fund mechanism will assist with this.

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Ray Mawhood asked if there would be an announcement soon regarding the Aged Care facility. Councillor Sullivan advised that we are still awaiting a response.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Monday 12 December 2011 commencing at 9.30am the Oberon Council Chambers.

Meeting closed at 11.00am.

Confirmed this _____ day of _____ 2011.

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