

LATROBE / TARLETON COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENING

Meeting held at 7:00 pm, 12 October 2023, Latrobe Memorial Hall – Supper Room

Notes

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Mayor welcomed attendees and introduced Council staff and Elected Members.

2 ATTENDEES

Councillors	
Mayor Peter Freshney	Deputy Mayor Vonette Mead
Cr Graeme Brown	
Council	
Gerald Monson – General Manager	Michael Mouat – Manager Operations
Amanda Knott – Minute Taker	

Community Members
20 Community Members were in attendance.

3 APOLOGIES

Councillors	Community Members
Cr Jacki Martin	
Cr Garry Sims	
Cr Gerrad Wicks	
Cr David Fidler	
Cr Claudia Baldock	
Cr Sommer Metske	

4 NOTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Notes from the Previous Latrobe/Tarleton Community Information evening held on 18 May 2023 are available on the Council Website.

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Background:

On Saturday 15 July 2023, Premier the Honourable Jeremy Rockliff MHA, and Minister for Local Government, the Honourable Nic Street MHA, announced that the Rockliff Liberal Government is taking action to end the fear and uncertainty over the future of Local Government across Tasmania, adding that they have listened to the concerns of Tasmanians and Councils, and there will be no forced amalgamations.

They went on to say that the Local Government Board is continuing their important work, but they wanted to make it clear that this will not result in forced amalgamations and that communities and Councils will decide their own future.

Minister Street said that different communities have different needs, and the Government's process will ensure that they have the final say. He outlined the following pathway that the Government will follow when the Board hands down its final report on 31 October 2023:

- Each council will be invited to review the final report and make a submission to Government, about what they want.
- Any plans agreed by councils will be taken to the community for a vote, to ensure it has community support to go ahead. There will be no changes unless both the Council and community want them.
- It is acknowledged that some Councils will be eager to participate in this process, while others will not. But it is for Councils and communities to determine, and they will have the final say.

Update:

The Board hosted nine community hearings during August 2023 – each hearing provided a dedicated session for both Councils and communities to present to the Local Government Board any area of interest to the Future of Local Government Review.

The Board also hosted a dedicated hearing for organisations and peak bodies with statewide policy interests.

All hearings were open to the public and were live-streamed (where possible).

The Latrobe and Kentish Council Joint Submission was sent to the Board on 28 July 2023. Submissions can be viewed on the Board's website, [Local Government Review | LGA Tasmania](#)

The Kentish and Latrobe Councils presented their submission to the Board's Community Hearing held on 22 August 2023 at the paranapple centre, Devonport. The Board is due to deliver its final reform recommendations to the Government at the end of October 2023.

The Mayor added that Latrobe and Kentish Councils have been sharing services for the past 13 years, and the amalgamation of the two Councils would be the logical next step, also being the only two Councils in Australia that operate on this model.

The Mayor also pointed out the both communities would have to support an amalgamation and the community will have their say via a voting poll. He asked members to consider the area they live in and how an amalgamation might impact them.

Community Question / Comment	Council Response
The operational savings from merging with Kentish Council, would that be 20% or 80%?	The Mayor replied that the greatest gain would be background operational efficiencies. Members were also reminded that they will not lose local representation and their right to speak.
I have been here for nine years but was present for the forced amalgamations in NSW. The outside workforce was reduced, the roads were atrocious. Will it diminish their effectiveness?	The outside workforce is already a combined workforce and will remain doing their jobs. Greater efficiencies will be on inside staff, particularly the Finance Department.
Is the present situation under resourced?	No, but we currently have two sets of everything, two sets of books, two budgets, so duplication across the two Councils will be eliminated if they amalgamate.
If the amalgamation is not successful, will the two Councils carry on as is?	Yes, we will simply remain doing what we are doing and look for continued efficiencies.
Can we take over Devonport?	We will get to a point where working with Devonport will become necessary; they have people with speciality skills that we need to tap into because of limited pools of resourcing. We will work with other Councils; it is just logical.
Will there be a new name like Lentish or Katrobe?	No, there is a Waratah-Wynyard Council.

6 LATROBE FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT

Background:

The partnership between BridgePro Engineering Pty Ltd and Latrobe Council in the ambitious Flood Mitigation Project is yielding significant progress, bringing the community one step closer to enhanced flood protection and safety.

This project aims to fortify the town of Latrobe against the devastating impact of floods, safeguarding lives, properties, and livelihoods.

Update:

Station Square carpark, the laneway between Subway and the Newsagents, and Kobie Lane have all been sealed and reopened. These improvements not only enhance the aesthetics of the area but also alleviate traffic congestion and provide a more convenient experience for businesses and visitors.

The completion of the diversion culvert and inlet works is a substantial achievement in the project. These installations are designed to regulate water flow during heavy rainfall, minimising the risk of flooding in vulnerable areas and channeling excess water away from residential and commercial zones.

While several milestones have been accomplished, work continues on the Kings Creek Levee. With this component of the flood mitigation project still under construction, walking tracks in its vicinity remains closed to the public for safety reasons. Once finished, the Kings Creek Levee will bolster the town's resilience against floods, providing additional protection to nearby areas.

The River Road earth levee works have been successfully completed, with concreting, sealing, and final finishing works are scheduled to be finalised in October, subject to weather conditions.

Another crucial achievement is the completion of the Atkinson Park levee. While the levee is complete, final touches and adjustments underway and expected to be concluded this month.

Presently, BridgePro Engineering is constructing the pump station and levee wall in the parkland between the pigeon club and Miles Ford Bridge. The ongoing works in this area have necessitated its temporary closure to the public. These efforts are slated for completion towards the end of this month.

As the project advances, the collaboration between BridgePro Engineering Pty Ltd and Latrobe Council continues to demonstrate a commitment to the welfare and safety of the community and the town of Latrobe moving closer to a future that is better prepared to face the challenges posed by natural disasters.

The Mayor informed community members that the flood mitigation project is very close to being completed and that this project is the most significant undertaking in the history of Latrobe Council.

Community Question / Comment	Council Response
Why are the diversion walls so high?	The walls in Kings Park are so high because water will be pushed into the large culvert. That was part of the design by the engineers and is key to the water pressure going through. The water in Kings Park will be the same as the levee bank if the head builds up above it.
The creek backs up through our properties and cause destruction, we can see mud marks on our trees and our banks.	Please see the General Manager after the meeting with your property address.
Kings Creek between Kings Park and Lucas Hotel needs cleaning up.	There are no immediate plans for this area but it does need cleaning up, trees and rubbish. We need to be mindful of the platypus.
Riverbank batter.	It has been designed for water impact and includes a clay base.
With confidence in the design is Council changing the building regulations so that the business area can develop.	Past evidence shows insurance catches up 12 months after mitigation measures. The Mayor explained that as part of the Latrobe Strategic Plan, this issue will be reviewed.
Is there a review of the 300mm build restriction above the flood line?	Yes, after the mitigation works are complete. There are no guarantees that we will never get a flood that will top the levee. Certainly, the weather is changing and the river itself has changed since 2016. The General Manager added that we can take comfort from the mapped flood levels taken at the peak of the 2016 floods, they were very similar to the flood modeling undertaken by Entura for an event that size.
Community Question / Comment	Council Response
Is the Cotton Street single lane bridge going to be widened?	Yes, it is, but we cannot say when. All the funding went to the flood project. The bridge has not yet reached it's expected lifespan and there are no structural issues.

7 REIMAGINING THE LATROBE TOWN CENTRE

Background:

The Latrobe Council, in collaboration with businesses and the local community, is embarking on an ambitious endeavour to revamp the Latrobe town centre, bounded by Cotton Street, Victor Street, Hicks Lane, and Hamilton Street. The town has experienced significant growth, leading to a bustling town centre that requires a comprehensive review of its operations.

Update:

Latrobe township, with the town centre stretching linearly away from the residential area, presents both challenges and opportunities for future development. The retail spaces are nearly at capacity, but a strategic plan for further commercial growth is lacking. Moreover, the town faces a shortage of visitor accommodation, limiting its potential as a tourism hub.

To address these issues, the Council aims to reassess the core centre's design and attractiveness to residents and visitors. Key objectives include investigating opportunities for additional commercial development and tourist accommodations, evaluating traffic flow and pedestrian accessibility along Gilbert Street, and proposing effective traffic management solutions.

The project will also address the town's parking situation, seeking to develop feasible solutions for future car parking while enhancing urban amenities. Public spaces like Station Square and Kings Park will be reviewed for potential improvements and better connectivity to the coastal pathway along River Road and the Wild Mersey Mountain Bike trailhead at Warrawee.

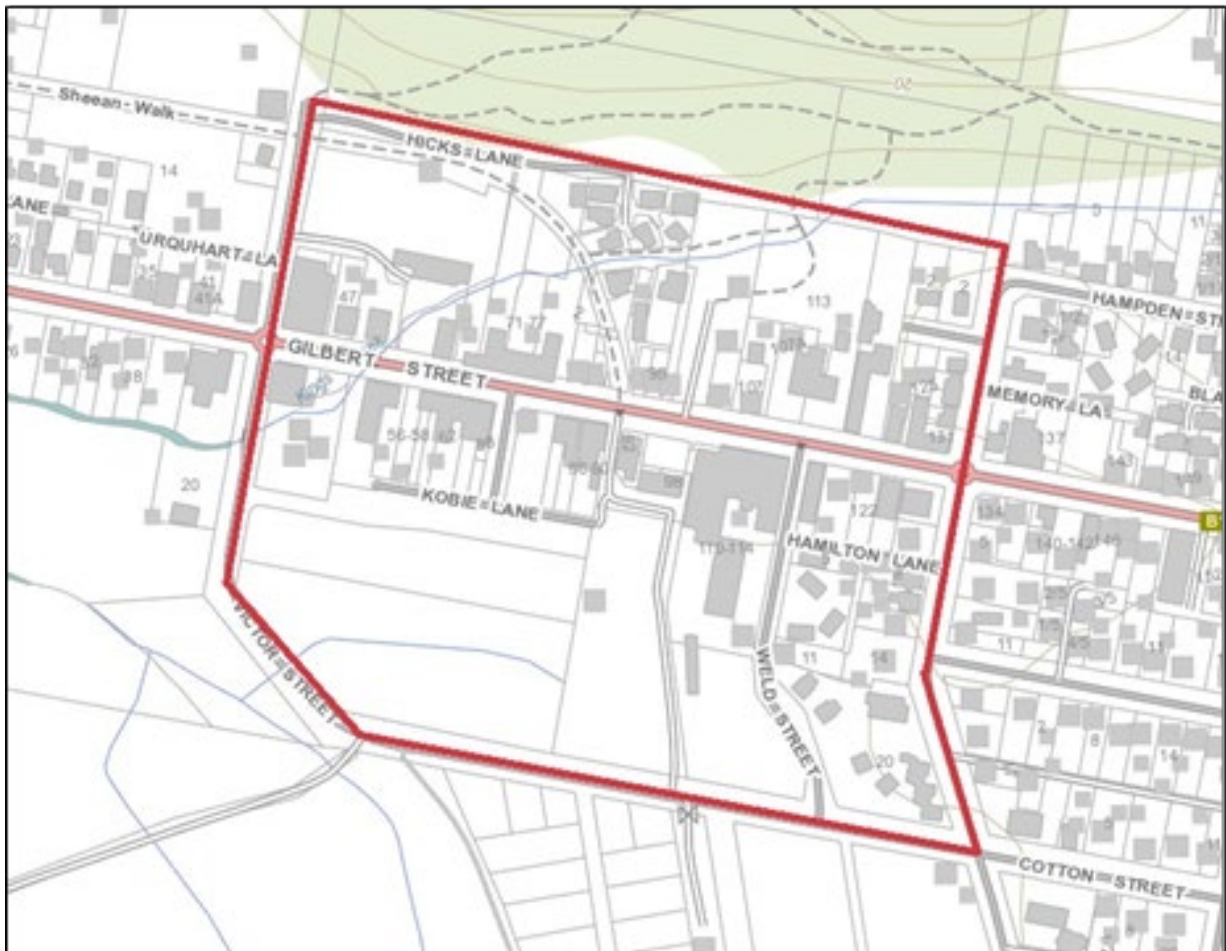
The project seeks to enhance overall connectivity within the town centre and will develop a proposed strategic plan to guide future growth and development effectively. Notably, a new site for a market space will be identified to bolster local business and create a vibrant community gathering spot.

The Council's ownership of the property containing the former Glee Club and land behind Morses' Butchery presents a unique opportunity for their future integration into a cohesive master plan.

The project will be executed in three stages: a major community engagement process in November 2023, a round of public engagement after the draft Outcomes Presentation/Report and briefing in January 2024, and the final Outcomes Presentation/Report expected by April 2024.

For the first stage Urban design firm, Studio GL, will be in Latrobe on 16 and 17 November. A community drop-in session will be conducted on 16 November in Station Square between 12.30pm and 2.30 pm.

There will also be two stakeholder workshop sessions at the Latrobe Memorial Hall– 16 November 10am – 12pm and 17 November 5pm – 7pm. There will also be opportunity to have input via Council’s website.



The Mayor spoke on the importance of not destroying what our CBD offers, no parking meters and the fact that Reliquaire plays a big role in our town. The Mayor asked community members for thoughts and ideas on Station Square, the Glee club behind the butcher, the whole area and how we link all to Station Square.

Community Question / Comment	Council Response
Will Council purchase the farmland inside the levee?	There are no plans to purchase the land.
Why doesn't the bus service to Launceston/Hobart drop off in Latrobe rather than on the highway outside the hospital?	<p>The Mayor explained that this is an issue for the Department of State Growth, but that Council will convey this and provide feedback.</p> <p>The General Manager suggested that the bus could come into Latrobe from Earltown and stop at the Top Shop and go out back past the hospital and vice</p>

Community Question / Comment	Council Response
	versa.
Heavy trucks in Gilbert Street – they have a bad impact on the bridge and effect on heritage buildings, the fumes, noise, and crashing over roundabouts is really hard to live with.	<p>The General Manager explained that all heavy haulage trucks are legally entitled to use our roads; there has been no recent change to road rating. They come through Latrobe because of access issues on the highway at Devonport i.e. at 8:00 am, the trucks take up one entire lane under the Victoria Bridge.</p> <p>The Mayor added that we cannot prevent the trucks from coming through Latrobe; the only way would be to lobby politicians. Spreyton and Quiba would be better options. The Mayor encouraged the community to talk to the Premier and to contact the heavy vehicle regulator.</p>
Population growth continues – more cars – bypass via Deloraine Road.	This could be a long term option Council can consider as part of the Strategic Plan review.
Can we reduce the size of actual roundabouts so the trucks cannot access them.	That is an issue for the Department of State Growth.
Update on Tarleton Road between Jowett's Lane and Cornicks Road.	The project was held over until 2024/25.

8 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM UPDATE

Project	Status
Banksia Facilities Redevelopment	Open Day held, near completion
Beer street sealing	Ongoing
Gravel road re-sheeting	Commencing November 2023
Latrobe Flood Mitigation	Nearing completion
Percival street drain	Design commenced
Port Sorell Caravan Park	Ongoing
Squeaking Point Road	Ongoing
Warrawee Suspension Bridge	On hold – Eagle nesting season

This information was noted.

Community Question / Comment	Council Response
When will the Tarleton Road upgrades be done.	The Tarleton Road upgrade is earmarked for next year's budget.

9 PIPING OF THE PERCIVAL STREET DRAIN

Council has budgeted this financial year to enclose 120m of open stormwater drain that runs across Percival Street between the intersections of Alberta Street and Fenton Street as indicated below and which could be extended in the future:



The existing road crossing will be upsized at the same time. A contract for the works has been awarded to AJR Construct Pty Ltd. Their detailed design work has commenced and a construction period from mid-January until early April 2024 has been identified during which time the road will be closed to traffic.

This information was noted.

10 WARRAWEE SUSPENSION BRIDGE UPDATE

The southern bridge abutment linking trail has been completed. Construction of the northern linking trail is currently on hold due to the commencement of the Wedge-Tailed Eagle breeding season and proximity to the nests.

Depending on the planned nest check in November 2023, construction may commence, or be postponed until after the breeding season, which will be March 2024.

This information was noted.

11 LATROBE HYDROTHERAPY POOL

Background:

In 2019 the Tasmanian Health Service ceased hydrotherapy pool services at 37 Moriarty Road, Latrobe.

Following a public outcry for the reopening of the service, Latrobe Council stepped into this space of health service provision and took on the lease of the Hydrotherapy Pool, after an offer of funding of \$400,000 from the Tasmania Government to upgrade the facility to suit the needs of users better.

Update:

With the water temperature maintained at 34 degrees and disability access, the pool is therapeutic to those recovering from mobility-impaired conditions.

The Latrobe Hydrotherapy Pool is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am until 12 noon and 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Day-to-day management is contracted to Deep Water Swim School.

Bookings can be made by phoning 0428 296 641. No referral is required.

Council have listened to the community's desire for a later closing time for this facility to enable working people with health issues to access the remedial benefits of hydrotherapy. The centre's management is proposing to trial a later closing time. Bookings will be required.

This information was noted.

12 OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION PLANNING

Background:

Latrobe Council is in the final stages of developing a draft strategy to guide the planning and management of the municipality's open space network for the next decade.

Update:

The Open Space, Sport, and Recreation Plan aims to enhance the maintenance and sustainability of grounds and facilities while ensuring their equitable distribution and accessibility to the community, promoting a vibrant and livable environment.

The plan is also focused on identifying suitable locations for shared pathways, promoting active transportation and connectivity throughout the area, and designing a suite of park furniture to enhance comfort.

Council values the importance of public engagement in shaping the Open Space, Sport, and Recreation Plan, fostering a sense of ownership and alignment with the community's needs.

Council will seek to further engage on the draft strategy in coming months, ensuring that a dynamic and sustainable open space network enriching the lives of all residents for years to come is developed as the final report is considered by the Council.

The Council encourages residents to register their contact details via email at council@latrobe.tas.gov.au with the subject line "Open Space Plan Consultation" to receive updates on the draft's release and stay involved in the process.

Community Question / Comment	Council Response
Are there plans to add a playground in the green space along Bradshaw and Calthorpe Streets.	Yes, this is part of the playground strategy.
I would like the Warrawee walking track to be followed up. If it is Parks that maintain the area, this track needs to be considered as well. It is a basic trail and regular maintenance of that path will only add to the attraction of the area for non MTB users, allowing walkers to enjoy the hills with safety.	Council will follow up with Parks and Wildlife and provide feedback to the community member.

13 LATROBE RECREATION GROUND

Background:

Scoping and design plans for the redevelopment of the Latrobe Recreation Ground in Gilbert Street, Latrobe are underway for the construction of:

- Expanded and modernised change room and toilet amenities to provide for greater use and accessibility for all.
- A redeveloped Latrobe Federal Band room to allow for new senior and junior rehearsal rooms along with new public amenities, and;
- Upgraded grandstand seating.

Update:

A new caretakers shed has been constructed at the Latrobe Recreational grounds enabling redevelopment works to commence.

Community Question / Comment	Council Response
Congratulations – our sporting facilities are looking fantastic.	The Mayor thanked the community member and noted that the staff are out there working and that it is nice to see that care is given.

14 NEW FOOD VAN POLICY

Background:

Council considered the establishment of a mobile food vending policy and sought public input on the proposal.

Update:

The new policy will licence mobile food vans to trade on Council owned or managed land at specific sites and times. Contemplation is being given whether to continue to require applicants to obtain a letter of agreement from a competing food business if within 200m of them.

A copy of the policy is available online at <https://www.latrobe.tas.gov.au/notice-board/public-notices> or at the Council offices, 170 Gilbert Street, Latrobe.

Permitted Food Vending Locations**

<p>Location 1:</p> <p>Hill Street Carpark, Gilbert Street LATROBE</p>	<p>Location 2:</p> <p>Bosworth Park, Stanley Street, LATROBE</p>
<p>Location 3:</p> <p>Bells Parade, River Road, LATROBE</p> <p>Special times will apply subject to competing business conditions.</p>	<p>Location 4:</p> <p>Banksia Centre and Camp Banksia Pitcairn Street, PORT SORELL</p>

Location 5: St Georges Park, Bradshaw Street, Latrobe	Location 6: Dalrymple Reserve, Railton Road, LATROBE
Location 7: Kings Park Carpark Gilbert Street, LATROBE	Location 8: Latrobe Bowls Club Carpark Victor Street, LATROBE
** Site changes may be considered subject to Council resolution	

Community Question / Comment	Council Response
Any thoughts on regular food markets, they are very well attended.	The General Manager noted that food vans do bring more people into town. The Mayor noted that it is a fine balance and not to destroy local businesses. Please feed all these questions and ideas into the CBD review.

15 KaLIBA

Since its formation in late 2021, the Kentish and Latrobe Independent Business Association has been working to develop programs of most value to help local businesses.

To achieve this objective, they coordinate regular meetups including over breakfast, and evening cocktails functions, each time with a specific focus. A recent networking meetup focused on Cutting Red Tape for Businesses.

If you know of any businesses that are not yet connected to KaLIBA, please pass on their details:

CEO Mr Gordon Williams Mob 0402 636 769

Email: contactus@kaliba.org.au

This information was noted.

16 HENLEY-ON-MERSEY

Mark Laycock, President of the Henley-on-Mersey Committee advises that the new Committee is progressing towards the rebirth of the traditional Henley-on-Mersey festival in 2024. Presently the Committee is working on the Event Management Plan to present to Council by 15 October 2023. Once approved, the Committee will be in the position to promote the event. The Committee also acknowledges Latrobe Council for their guidance and support.

Unfortunately, the Committee has lost 3 members since its formation. They are looking to the community to fill the vacancies. Health and work commitments contributed to these passionate people no longer being able to fulfill their duties.

Anyone interested may contact Mr Mark Laycock by email marklaycock62@outlook.com or phone 0419 316 010.

The Committee only request 1 day a month.

This information was noted.

17 FOOD ORGANICS, GARDEN ORGANICS COLLECTION – FOGO

Tasmania's waste management is undergoing a significant transformation with the construction of the state's largest composting facility by Dulverton Waste Management. This facility will allow for more efficient and cost-effective disposal of organic waste, including food and garden waste from residential areas, and assists with extending the landfill lifespan. Additionally, the composted product serves as a valuable resource for gardens and agriculture.

To encourage better waste management practices throughout Tasmania, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) implemented a landfill waste levy in 2022-23. As an added incentive, they will also waive the fee for any waste diverted from landfill.

These factors have encouraged Latrobe Council to reconsider the benefits of a Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) collection.

The Cradle Coast Waste Management Group, with Latrobe Council as a member, has facilitated the tender process for a FOGO service to assist northwest councils in making an informed decision.

Consequently, a FOGO service is set to be nominally implemented on 1 July 2024 for all tenements currently receiving a kerbside waste service (garbage and recycling) throughout the Latrobe Council area.

While reduced compared to previous costings, there will be a fee for this service. Latrobe Council will also collaborate with other Northwest Councils and the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group to maximize education opportunities and streamline the implementation process.

Overall, Tasmania's push towards the FOGO service represents a significant step forward in sustainable waste management practices. By diverting organic waste from landfills and promoting composting, the state aims to reduce its environmental impact and create a greener future for all residents.

Community Question / Comment	Council Response
Will the new FOGO bins be the same size as our regular bins.	Yes, it will be the same 240l sized bins.
Will Council be reducing the size of the other bins.	Council has no plans for reducing the size of the bins, you have the choice to opt for a 120l or 240l bin.
If people are regular gardeners and choose to create their own compost, can they opt out of the FOGO bin.	No, all existing customers will be provided with a FOGO bin.

18 NEW BUSINESSES IN LATROBE

Three new businesses recently opened their doors in Latrobe and a warm welcome is extended to all involved.



Jenna Chartrand

Fine Artist with her unique coloured pencil artworks.
71 Gilbert Street



MEG Living Co
 Providing furniture and homewares at
 1/135 Gilbert Street.



Genr8
 Expert advice on energy solutions
 and future projects.
 56 Gilbert Street.

This information was noted.

19 ISSUES RAISED FROM THE FLOOR

Community Question / Comment	Council Response
Latrobe CBD Review – can we ensure that the local history will be respected i.e. the Lucas hotel and old photos.	Port Sorell U3A and the Latrobe Courthouse Museum have a photo exhibition called “Then and Now” coming up in November.
Tarleton Road potholes? Is TasRail going to do something or just leave it as is?	The Operations Manager took note of this. Deputy Mayor Vonette Mead made mention of an called “Snap Send Solve” where you can report local issues to Councils

Building and plumbing permits are increasing, are we still getting a healthy residential growth?	The General Manager commented on the current industrial and commercial boom and mentioned Council owned land coming up for sale close to Bosworth Park.
Is there is a greater Tarleton Plan with regards to subdivisions and road extensions through property at Bucks Road?	Council will take this on notice and refer this question to the Manager Development and Regulatory Services.
Will the land between Percival Street and Moriarty Road be subdivided?	Yes, but the creek must be subdivided off.

They Mayor thanked the community members for their attendance and requested everyone to contribute to the Latrobe CBD plan.

Meeting Closed: 8:51 pm.