

Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee: Community Support Sub-Committee	
<p>Meeting No. 2 21 May 2020 4.00 pm Via Zoom</p>	
1.0 Attendance & Opening	
Michael Paterson	WAPOL - A/Snr/Sgt – Chairperson
Cr Julie Flockart	Shire of Merredin - President
Cr Romolo Patroni	Shire of Merredin – Councillor
Cr Ross Billing	Shire of Merredin – Councillor
Cr Mark McKenzie	Shire of Merredin – Councillor
Cr Phil Van Der Merwe	Shire of Merredin – Councillor
Mark Dacombe	Shire of Merredin – Temporary CEO
Andrina Prnich	Shire of Merredin – Deputy CEO
Gabriella Rechichi	Shire of Merredin – Administration Support Officer
Karen Horsley	Merredin Hospital - Operations Manager Eastern Wheatbelt
Debbie Morris	CRC - Manager
Leigh Nelson	Merredin College – Principal
Apologies	
Cr Renee Manning	Shire of Merredin – Councillor
Mark Tobiasen	OIC – WAPOL
1.0 Opening and Welcome	
<p>The Chairperson opened the meeting at 4.02 pm and welcomed all attendees to the meeting.</p>	
2.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes	
<p>Motion: <i>That the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee - Community Support Sub-Committee held on 7 May 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.</i></p>	
Moved: Leigh Nelson	Seconded: Karen Horsley
Carried	

3.0 Re-opening of Barrack Street

Mark Dacombe opened the discussion advising that the Shire is receiving enquiries from the community regarding re-opening the road, Barrack Street which was closed by the Shire of Merredin as a community safety measure at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure allowed for customers to queue along the road as the IGA monitored their customer intake. As of 18 May 2020, the WA internal borders re-opened and social gathering rules have relaxed. The Merredin IGA is no longer monitoring their intake of customers and would like to see the road open. There is concern the community will no longer take social distancing seriously if the road is re-opened. The Shire will look at reducing the speed limit along the road.

The Chair invited Karen Horsley as the HMA to respond.

Karen Horsley gave an update on the hospital and its current practices, the state emergency is still in effect and, despite easing in the restrictions, there would be strict measures and procedures taken around testing at the hospital.

The Chair invited the rest of the committee to respond

The Sub-committee discussed the re-opening of Barrack Street with a number of suggestions made by A/Snr/Sgt Michael Paterson, Cr Julie Flockart, Cr Romolo Patroni, Cr Mark McKenzie, Cr Phil Van der Merwe, Debbie Morris and Leigh Nelson including:

- The need to speak to the IGA Manager Shaun Whisson on the IGA's social distancing measures and to continue to inform the community via social media that there is still a need for social distancing.
- Concerns that the community will not take social distancing rules seriously if the road is re-opened.
- The potential use of a digital speed limit sign to allow drivers to check their speed.
- Concerns about road safety for pedestrians as the community is now accustomed to the road being closed.
- Lowering the speed limit, there is a lack of close parking for elderly and disabled. Keep parking bays in front of IGA closed for social distancing and re-open bays in front of chemist and news agency.
- Opening the south side of road and keeping the IGA side closed to allow for social distancing. The carpark is filling up with caravans which will cause parking congestion.
- Placing the Shires IBC tanks (previously used at Christmas) along the medium strip or roadside for reduce speed and safety messaging.
- Keep road permanently closed and convert into a pedestrian mall.

Outcome:

- A/Snr/Sgt Paterson will speak to the IGA Manager Shaun Whisson on the IGA's social distancing measures;
- The Shire will continue to inform the community via social media that there is still a need for social distancing;
- The Shire to instate a number of traffic calming controls and signage if road re-opened;
- Leigh Nelson will inform students at Merredin College of the new road rules once they are agreed on.
- Police will foot patrol main road to encourage social distancing and would like to see speed reduced
- The Shire and the local police will collaborate in consultation with the Shire President to determine the options for Barrack Street. The committee will vote on the re-opening process before 4 June.

4.0 Other Matters

There were no other matters.

5.0 Next Meeting

The next Local Emergency Management Committee - Community Support Sub-Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 4 June 2020 at 4.00 pm Via Zoom.

6.0 Close

There was no further business and the Chairperson closed the meeting at 4.48 pm thanking all in attendance.