City of Belmont

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

10 JUNE 2002

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE
1.	**OFFICIAL OPENING**	**1**
2.	**APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE**	**1**
2.1	APOLOGIES	1
2.2	LEAVE OF ABSENCE	1
3.	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**	**2**
4.	**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER (WITHOUT DISCUSSION)**	**5**
5.	**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**	**5**
5.1	RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT PREVIOUS MEETING	5
	5.1.1 Mr Paul Hitt, 85 Fitzroy Road, Rivervale	5
	5.1.2 Mr Craig Thompson, 28 Lapage Street, Belmont	6
5.2	QUESTIONS ON WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN PRIOR TO THE MEETING	6
5.3	QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR	6
6.	**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**	**7**
6.1	ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 27 MAY 2002	7
7.	**QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS ON WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN (WITHOUT DISCUSSION)**	**7**
8.	**PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS**	**7**
9.	**BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING**	**7**

ITEM SUBJECT PAGE

10. CORRESPONDENCE....7

10.1 LEAVE OF ABSENCE....7

10.2 GENERAL....7

10.3 LATE CORRESPONDENCE OF AN URGENT NATURE....7

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES....8

11.1 WORKS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 4 JUNE 2002....8

11.1.1 Withdrawn Item 8.1.3 – Overflow Parking at Wicca Park....8
11.1.2 Withdrawn Item 8.1.4 – Vandalism to Street Trees....9
11.1.3 Withdrawn Item 8.2.6 – Belgravia/Wright Street Intersection....9
11.1.4 Withdrawn Item 8.4.1 – Engineering Draft 2002/2003 Budget Summary....10

11.2 COMMUNITY AND EXECUTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 4 JUNE 2002....10

11.2.1 Withdrawn Item 8.4.2 – Belmont Medical and Professional Centre 321 Abernethy Road, Belmont – Creation of Parking Station....10
11.2.2 Withdrawn Item 8.5.2 – Lease Belmont Child Care Centre (1 Grand Parade, Redcliffe)....11
11.2.3 Withdrawn Item 8.5.4 – 2002/2003 Budget Deliberations....11
Withdrawn Item 8.5.4 – 2002/2003 Budget Deliberations (Belmont Child Care Centre)....12

11.3 SPECIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5 JUNE 2002....12

11.3.1 Withdrawn Item 6.1 – 2002/2003 Budget for the Planning and Development Division....13

11.4 SPECIAL RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 6 JUNE 2002....13

11.4.1 Withdrawn Item 7.1.1 – 2002/2003 Resources and Policy Budget....13

12. REPORTS OF OFFICERS....14

12.1 INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS....14

13. REPORTS OF DELEGATES....15

13.1 CR PASSERI - REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND MAYOR ON ATTENDANCE AT THE 2002 LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGERS ASSOCIATION (LGMA) NATIONAL CONGRESS AND THE INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION (ICMA) INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES SYMPOSIUM FROM 9TH MAY TO 15TH MAY 2002....15

13.2 CR PASSERI – ANNE SPALDING COMMEMORATIVE SEAT – FAULKNER PARK....27

14. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION....28

15. MATTERS FOR WHICH MEETING MAY BE CLOSED....28

16. CLOSURE....28

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE CITY OF BELMONT CIVIC CENTRE, 215 WRIGHT STREET, CLOVERDALE, ON MONDAY, 10 JUNE 2002 COMMENCING AT 7.37PM

PRESENT

Cr P R Passeri, JP	West Ward
Cr M H Blair	Central Ward
Cr G Dornford	Central Ward
Cr M C Godsell	Central Ward
Cr G Doney	West Ward
Cr A T Richardson, JP	West Ward
Cr M M Bass	East Ward
Cr G J Godfrey	East Ward
Cr P Marks	East Ward
Cr A P Murfin, OAM, JP	South Ward
Cr E Teasdale	South Ward
Cr J Powell	South Ward

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr B Genoni	Chief Executive Officer
Mr N Hartley	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Lutey	Director - Engineering
Mr N Deague	Director – Development
Mr S Cole	Director – Corporate Services

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were 18 members of the public and one member of the press (Southern Gazette) present.

1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance, he apologised for the short delay in the commencement of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1 APOLOGIES

Nil.

2.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Passeri, Doney, Richardson, Blair, Dornford, Godsell, Marks, Godfrey, Powell, Teasdale and Murfin declared a financial interest. The interest is in Items 11.1, 11.2, 11.3 and 11.4. The nature of their interest being that as Councillors, the budget 2002/03 may relate to them from a financial perspective, relative to a number of issues including catering, conference attendance, roadworks, town planning issues, etc.*

* ***The Minister for Local Government has granted by way of a facsimile dated 5th June 2002 June 2002, an exemption to the above Councillors under Section 5.69 of the Local Government Act in order that they may participate in the debate and vote on these matters. It is important to note however, that the exemption is ONLY FOR CONFERENCE AND CATERING BUDGET ITEMS. The Minister did not give a 'blanket' approval to discuss budget items and it is incumbent on Councillors and staff to disclose interests (other than for catering and conferences) relative to their considerations on the 2002/03 budget.***

Bruce Genoni - Chief Executive Officer, Ric Lutey – Director Engineering, Stuart Cole – Director Corporate Services, Neville Deague – Director Development and Neil Hartley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer declared a financial interest in Items 11.1, 11.2, 11.3 and 11.4. The nature of their interest being that they assisted in preparing this report and/or may benefit from some activities (eg meals, conferences etc.).

Councillor Godsell declared a financial interest in Item 11.1 (Item 8.2.6 of the Works and Technical Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being that he lives on the intersection of Belgravia and Wright Streets.

Councillors Passeri, Godsell, Teasdale, and Richardson disclosed their financial interest. Their interest is in Item 11.1 (Item 8.4.1 of the Works and Technical Services Committee meeting held on 4th June 2002). The nature of their interest being that as a Councillor, the budget 2002/03 may relate to them from a financial perspective, relative to a number of issues including catering, conference attendance, roadworks, town planning issues, etc.

Bruce Genoni - Chief Executive Officer, Ric Lutey – Director Engineering, Stuart Cole – Director Corporate Services, Dave Harris – Manager Technical Services, Brian Wall – Manager Parks and Gardens, Tom Stacey – Manager of Works and Nina Ricketts – Administration Officer declared a financial interest in Item 11.1 (Item 8.4.1 of the Works and Technical Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being that they assisted in preparing this report and/or may benefit from some activities (eg meals, conferences etc.).

Councillor Godsell declared a financial interest in Item 11.1 (Item 8.4.1 of the Works and Technical Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being in relation to Project Code R0369 of the Budget's Engineering Works Programme. Councillor Godsell lives on the intersection of Belgravia and Wright Streets.

Item 3 – Continued..

Councillor Godsell declared a financial interest in Item 11.1 (Item 8.4.1 of the Works and Technical Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being in relation to Project Code G0006 of the Budget's Engineering Works Programme. Councillor Godsell's company is employed by the Architect.

Councillor Godsell declared a financial interest in Item 11.1 (Item 8.4.1 of the Works and Technical Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being in relation to Project Code G0010 of the Budget's Engineering Works Programme. Councillor Godsell's company is employed by the Designer.

Councillor Murfin declared a financial interest in Item 11.1 (Item 8.4.1 of the Works and Technical Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being that as a Councillor, the budget 2002/03 may relate to him from a financial perspective, relative to a number of issues including catering and conferences.

Councillor Dornford declared a financial interest in Item 11.2 (Item 8.4.2 of the Community and Executive Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being that he is the owner of the Belmont Medical and Professional Centre.

Councillor Dornford declared an interest in Item 11.2 (Item 8.5.2 of the Community and Executive Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being that he is the lessee of the Child Care Centre.

Councillors Passeri, Doney, Dornford, Powell and Godfrey declared a financial interest in Item 11.2 (Item 8.5.4 of the Community and Executive Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being that as Councillors, the budget 2002/03 may relate to them from a financial perspective, relative to a number of issues including catering, conference attendance, roadworks, town planning issues, etc.

Bruce Genoni - Chief Executive Officer, Neil Hartley – Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Stuart Cole – Director Corporate Services, Peter Varris – Manager Administrative Services, Keith Ashman – Manager Community Services, Denise Barker, Manager – Library Services, Andrew Ward, Co-ordinator Recreation Services and Peter Clarke, Manager - Ranger Services declared a financial interest in Item 11.2 (Item 8.5.4 of the Community and Executive Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being that they assisted in preparing this report and/or may benefit from some activities (e.g. meals, conferences etc.).

Councillor Dornford declared a financial interest in Item 11.2 (Item 8.5.4 of the Community and Executive Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being that he is the lessee of the Child Care Centre.

Item 3 – Continued..

Councillor Murfin declared a financial interest in Item 11.2 (Item 8.5.4 of the Community and Executive Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being that as a Councillor, the budget 2002/03 may relate to him from a financial perspective, relative to a number of issues including catering, conference attendance, roadworks, town planning issues, etc.

Councillor Godsell declared a financial interest in Item 11.3 (Item 6.1 of the Special Planning and Development meeting held on 5 June 2002). The nature of his interest being that as a Councillor, the budget 2002-2003 may relate to him from a financial perspective in regard to catering and conference attendance; and Building Operations, Schedule 1 - Building Construction Projects 2002-2003, Items B1028 (New Depot) and B0201 (Administration Building) as he is employed by the Architects of each of those projects.

Councillors Passeri, Richardson, Marks and Murfin disclosed their financial interest. Their interest was in Item 11.3 (Item 6.1 of the Special Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 5 June 2002). The nature of their interest being that as a Councillor, the budget 2002-2003 may relate to them from a financial perspective in regard to catering and conference attendance.

Bruce Genoni, Chief Executive Officer; Stuart Cole, Director-Corporate Services; Neville Deague, Director-Development; Ron Sherar, Manager-Building Services; Maurice Ferialdi, Manager-Health Services; James Pol, Co-ordinator-Council Buildings; and Melanie Watts, Planning Secretary disclosed their financial interest. Their interest was in Item 11.3 (Item 6.1 of the Special Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 5 June 2002). The nature of their interest being that as an officer they assisted in the preparation of this report and/or may benefit from some activities (eg meals, conferences etc).

Councillors Godfrey, Passeri, Richardson, Teasdale and Dornford disclosed their financial interest. Their interest is in Item 11.4 (Item 7.1.1 of the Special Resources and Policy Committee meeting held 6 June 2002). The nature of their interest being that as a Councillor, the Budget 2002-2003 may relate to them from a financial perspective, relative to a number of issues including catering, conference attendance, roadworks, town planning issues, etc.

The Chief Executive Officer, Director - Corporate Services and Manager - Financial Services declared a financial interest in Item 11.4 (Item 7.1.1 of the Special Resources and Policy Committee meeting held 6 June 2002). The nature of their interest being that they assisted in the preparation of the report and/or may benefit from some activities (eg meals, conferences etc).

Councillor Dornford declared a financial interest. The interest is in Item 11.1 (Item 8.1.3 of the Works and Technical Services Committee meeting minutes dated 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being that he lives nearby to Wicca Park.

Item 3 – Continued..

Councillor Teasdale declared a financial interest. The interest is in Item 11.2 (Item 8.5.4 of the Community and Executive Services Committee meeting minutes dated 4 June 2002). The nature of the interest being that he is a Director of the Leisure Centre.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER (WITHOUT DISCUSSION)

The Mayor announced that Mrs Olga Greig from the Belmont RSL received an OAM (Order of Australia Medal) in the 'General Division' of the 2002 Queen's Birthday honours list, *"for service to veterans through the Belmont sub-branch of the Returned Services League of Australia and the WA Branch of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps Association".*

*****7.40pm**

For the benefit of the public present the Chief Executive Officer stated the rules of Question Time.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1.1 Mr Paul Hitt, 85 Fitzroy Road, Rivervale

At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 May 2002, Mr Hitt advised that vehicles are sometimes left overnight or over the weekend in Campbell Street. Mr Hitt's question was taken on notice and responded to in correspondence from the Mayor dated 7th June 2002, the contents of which are reproduced below:

"…As was advised within the answer to Mr Hitt's question at item 5.2.2 of the 27th May 2002 Council minutes, there is no breach of the City's Local Laws if the owners and/or occupiers of the premises have granted approval for these vehicles to be parked on the verge. The length of time that the vehicle is parked (within reason) is generally not a separate consideration."

Item 5.1 – Continued..

5.1.2 Mr Craig Thompson, 28 Lapage Street, Belmont

At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 May 2002, Mr Thompson asked as to the demolition at the Western Power site (in Abernethy Road), and whether there have been any infringements for noise (which has occurred before 6.00am) issued? He understood that there were a number of people who had complained to Council. Mr Thompson's question was taken on notice and responded to in correspondence from the Mayor dated 7th June 2002, the contents of which are reproduced below:

"…I have discussed the matter with the Manager-Health Services who has advised that he was aware of the noise complaint and that a Noise Abatement Direction had been issued. He also advised that after the issue of the Noise Abatement Direction no further complaints were received in relation to this matter and as such no further action was required.

The Noise Abatement Direction addressed the issues you referred to, effectively placing the contractors on Notice that a $25,000 penalty applies for a breach of the Noise Abatement Direction.

As mentioned above, as there were no further complaints, no further action was taken."

5.2 QUESTIONS ON WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Nil.

5.3 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Nil.

*****7.41pm**

There being no questions, the Mayor declared Question Time closed.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 27 MAY 2002

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 May 2002, as printed and circulated to all Councillors, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

GODFREY MOVED, BLAIR SECONDED, that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 May 2002, as printed and circulated to all Councillors, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

7. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS ON WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN (WITHOUT DISCUSSION)

Nil.

8. PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

Nil.

9. BUSINESS ADJOURNED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

10.2 GENERAL

Nil.

10.3 LATE CORRESPONDENCE OF AN URGENT NATURE

Nil.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

11.1 WORKS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 4 JUNE 2002

Receipt of Minutes

GODSELL MOVED, RICHARDSON SECONDED, that the minutes of the Works and Technical Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002, as printed and circulated to all Councillors, be received.

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

WITHDRAWN ITEMS

Item 8.1.3 was withdrawn at the request of Councillor Bass.
Item 8.1.4 was withdrawn at the request of Councillor Godfrey.
Items 8.2.6 and 8.4.1 were withdrawn at the request of Councillor Teasdale.

ADOPTION OF THE BALANCE OF THE REPORT

GODSELL MOVED, POWELL SECONDED, that recommendation items 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.2.1 – 8.2.5, 8.3.1 – 8.3.3, 8.4.2 – 8.4.6, 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 of the Works and Technical Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002, be adopted en bloc (i.e. with the exception of items 8.1.3, 8.1.4, 8.2.6 and 8.4.1).

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

*****7.45pm Having earlier disclosed an interest in the below mentioned item, Councillor Dornford left the Chamber.**

11.1.1 Withdrawn Item 8.1.3 – Overflow Parking at Wicca Park

BASS MOVED that the Committee recommendation not be adopted and that on the basis that businesses should not be entitled to park on Council parks, Wicca Park not be made available to Belmont Forum for overflow parking for its staff.

The motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

Item 11.1.1 – Continued..

DONEY MOVED, GODSELL SECONDED, that the committee recommended be adopted without amendment or modification.

CARRIED 10 VOTES TO 1

For: *Passeri, Marks, Richardson, Doney, Godsell Powell, Teasdale, Murfin, Godfrey, Blair*

Against: *Bass*

*****7.47pm Councillor Dornford returned to the meeting.**

11.1.2 Withdrawn Item 8.1.4 – Vandalism to Street Trees

MARKS MOVED, GODFREY SECONDED, that the Committee recommendation not be adopted and that for Council to take a more positive and environmentally responsible position–

1. ***It be recommended that Council acknowledge the tree damage caused by vandals and that the trees on verge of 40 Hargreaves Street will be removed as a consequence;***

2. ***All attempts be made to find those responsible and that the full force of the law be brought upon them; and***

3. ***That Council express its extreme horror at acts of deliberate environmental vandalism.***

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

*****7.49pm Having earlier declared an interest in the below mentioned items, Councillor Godsell left the Chamber.**

11.1.3 Withdrawn Item 8.2.6 – Belgravia/Wright Street Intersection

TEASDALE MOVED, RICHARDSON SECONDED, that the Committee Recommendation be adopted without amendment or modification.

CARRIED 11 VOTES TO 0

11.1.4 Withdrawn Item 8.4.1 – Engineering Draft 2002/2003 Budget Summary

TEASDALE MOVED, RICHARDSON SECONDED, that the Committee Recommendation be adopted without amendment or modification.

CARRIED 11 VOTES TO 0

*****7.50pm Councillor Godsell returned to the Chamber.**

11.2 COMMUNITY AND EXECUTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 4 JUNE 2002

Receipt of Minutes

DONEY MOVED, GODFREY SECONDED, that the minutes of the Community and Executive Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002, as printed and circulated to all Councillors, be received.

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

WITHDRAWN ITEMS

Items 8.4.2 and 8.5.4 were withdrawn at the request of Councillor Doney.
Item 8.5.2 was withdrawn at the request of Councillor Marks.

ADOPTION OF THE BALANCE OF THE REPORT

POWELL MOVED, RICHARDSON SECONDED, that recommendation items 8.1.1 – 8.1.3, 8.2.1, 8.3.1, 8.4.1, 8.5.1, 8.5.3, and 8.5.5 – 8.5.8 of the Community and Executive Services Committee meeting held on 4 June 2002, be adopted en bloc (i.e. with the exception of items 8.4.2, 8.5.2 and 8.5.4).

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

(SPECIAL MAJORITY)

*****7.52pm Having earlier disclosed an interest in the below mentioned items, Councillor Dornford left the Chamber.**

11.2.1 Withdrawn Item 8.4.2 – Belmont Medical and Professional Centre 321 Abernethy Road, Belmont – Creation of Parking Station

DONEY MOVED, GODFREY SECONDED, that the Committee Recommendation be adopted without amendment or modification.

CARRIED 11 VOTES TO 0

Item 11.2 - Continued

11.2.2 Withdrawn Item 8.5.2 – Lease Belmont Child Care Centre (1 Grand Parade, Redcliffe)

MARKS MOVED, BLAIR SECONDED, that the Committee Recommendation be adopted without amendment or modification.

CARRIED 10 VOTES TO 1

For: *Passeri, Marks, Richardson, Doney, Godsell Powell, Teasdale, Murfin, Godfrey, Blair*

Against: *Bass*

*****8.08pm Councillor Dornford returned to the Chamber.**

*****8.09pm Having earlier declared an interest in the below mentioned item, Councillor Teasdale left the Chamber.**

11.2.3 Withdrawn Item 8.5.4 – 2002/2003 Budget Deliberations

The meeting was advised that in order for Cr Dornford to disclose his interest in that part of the budget dealing with the Belmont Child Care Centre, the first and third recommendations of item 8.5.4 would be considered separately (to the second recommendation) by Council.

DONEY MOVED, POWELL SECONDED that in order to accommodate Councillor Dornford's disclosure of interest, the Committee Recommendations (vis. "The 2002-2003 Community and Executive Services Draft Budget be endorsed and referred to the Resources and Policy Committee budget meeting due to be held 18th June 2002, with the exception of any issues relating to the Child Care Centre, Catering and Conferences"; and "The Committee express its appreciation for the staff effort in preparing what has been a difficult budget.") be adopted without amendment or modification.

CARRIED 11 VOTES TO 0

Item 11.2 – Continued..

*****8.10pm Having earlier declared an interest in the below mentioned item, Councillor Dornford left the Chamber.**

Withdrawn Item 8.5.4 – 2002/2003 Budget Deliberations (Belmont Child Care Centre)

DONEY MOVED, GODSELL SECONDED, that the Committee Recommendation (vis. that the budget allocation for the Belmont Child Care Centre be endorsed and referred to the meeting of the Resources and Policy Committee to be held on 18th June 2002) be adopted without amendment or modification.

CARRIED 10 VOTES TO 0

*****8.11pm Councillors Teasdale and Dornford returned to the Chamber.**

11.3 SPECIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5 JUNE 2002

Receipt of Minutes

RICHARDSON MOVED, MURFIN SECONDED, that the minutes of the Special Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 5 June 2002, as printed and circulated to all Councillors, be received.

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

WITHDRAWN ITEMS

Item 6.1 was withdrawn at the request of Councillor Richardson.

ADOPTION OF THE BALANCE OF THE REPORT

RICHARDSON MOVED, MURFIN SECONDED, that recommendation item 6.2 of the Special Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 5 June 2002, be adopted (i.e. with the exception of item 6.1).

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

*****8.13pm Having earlier declared an interest in the below mentioned item, Councillor Godsell left the Chamber.**

11.3.1 Withdrawn Item 6.1 – 2002/2003 Budget for the Planning and Development Division

RICHARDSON MOVED, MURFIN SECONDED, that the Committee Recommendation be adopted without amendment or modification.

CARRIED 11 VOTES TO 0

*****8.14pm Councillor Godsell returned to the Chamber.**

11.4 SPECIAL RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 6 JUNE 2002

Receipt of Minutes

GODFREY MOVED, TEASDALE SECONDED, that the minutes of the Special Resources and Policy Committee meeting held on 6 June 2002, as printed and circulated to all Councillors, be received.

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

WITHDRAWN ITEMS

Item 7.1.1 was withdrawn at the request of Councillor Godfrey.

ADOPTION OF THE BALANCE OF THE REPORT

GODFREY MOVED, POWELL SECONDED, that recommendation item 7.1.2 of the Special Resources and Policy Committee meeting held on 6 June 2002, be adopted (i.e. with the exception of item 7.1.1).

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

11.4.1 Withdrawn Item 7.1.1 – 2002/2003 Resources and Policy Budget

GODFREY MOVED, POWELL SECONDED, that the Committee Recommendation be adopted without amendment or modification.

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

12. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

12.1 INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

APPLICATION

Council's acknowledgment of receipt of information of general interest.

IS THIS PROPOSAL CONSISTENT WITH COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN? YES
"Operational Plan O1/1(c) - To keep Councillors informed of relevant industry and officer activities, regular update reports be presented to the respective committees".

BACKGROUND

This item relates to information circulated by the Chief Executive Officer which may be of general interest to Councillors.

COMMENT

General information and memorandums:

DATED	SUBJECT
31 May 2002	This Week at ALGA – Friday 24 May 2002
31 May 2002	Infopage WALGA – 23 May 2002
31 May 2002	Local Government News: Issue 21.02 – 24 May 2002
31 May 2002	Invitation from Sister City Committee – Welcome function for 2002 Student Delegation
31 May 2002	Belmont City College Newsletter
31 May 2002	Traffic Behaviour – Guilfoyle Green, Cloverdale
31 May 2002	Ministerial Approval – 2002/2003 Annual Budget
31 May 2002	Parking Complaint – 19 Henrietta Street, Kewdale
7 June 2002	Local Government News: Issue 22.02 – 31 May 2002
7 June 2002	This Week at ALGA – Friday 31 May 2002
7 June 2002	Noise Complaint – Western Power Depot Site – Demolition
7 June 2002	Upgrade of Councillor Home Computers
7 June 2002	Future Development of Lots – Street Block Bounded by Orrong Road, Kew Street, Hillcrest Road and President Street
7 June 2002	Request from Mr David Kaye from Orana to Pipe an Open Drain

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the information provided to all Councillors and listed in this "Information Only Items" report be noted and received.

BLAIR MOVED, GODFREY SECONDED, that the information provided to all Councillors and listed in this "Information Only Items" report be noted and received.

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

13. REPORTS OF DELEGATES

13.1 CR PASSERI - REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND MAYOR ON ATTENDANCE AT THE 2002 LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGERS ASSOCIATION (LGMA) NATIONAL CONGRESS AND THE INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION (ICMA) INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES SYMPOSIUM FROM 9TH MAY TO 15TH MAY 2002.

In company with the Mayor I attended the abovementioned LGMA National Congress and the International Best Practice Symposium.

The primary component of the combined Congress and Symposium was in fact the LGMA National Congress which was attended by Local Government Managers from all States and Territories in Australia, plus representatives from Canada, Fiji, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and the USA.

This year's Conference theme was "***Local Government BIG ROLE - BIG IMPACT in our Communities".***

Master of Ceremonies at the Conference was high profile Media Correspondent/Personality, Author and ex-Australian Rugby Test player, Peter FitzSimons whose excellent skills added a different dimension to the Conference.

The opening keynote address was delivered by Mr Rob Hartnett the "Master of Change". His excellent address focused on the following **statements/edicts/premises.**

- "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got" - you have to dare to be different to progress and develop.
- "It's hard for opportunity to knock on a swinging door".

Therefore, in Local Government's situation it needs to be united, consistent, committed and focused on its objectives otherwise opportunities will pass it by.

- "The cost of training is high, but the cost of ignorance is higher".
- "We are doing so much we are bogged down and we are not going anywhere".
- "Focus on what you want to achieve, not what you want to avoid".
- "You create your own opportunities". "Some dream of worthy accomplishment while others stay awake and achieve them".
- "The power of change" - without challenge there is no achievement.

****

Item 13.1 – Continued…

In addition to the many keynote addresses delivered to the Conference, about 50% of the Conference Programme was divided into three streams entitled ***Management, Government and Professional Development.***

Often more than one topic of interest and importance to Belmont were run concurrently therefore the attendance of the Mayor and I enabled us, where appropriate, to achieve a better coverage of these valuable topics which we have reported on in this document.

THE GOOD THINGS WE DO was the subject of the next session which included presentations by three Authorities. They were -

1. "***Skills and Management for the future"*** - City of Casey, Victoria.

2. "***Fatalities and Accidents on Rural Main Roads" -*** Penrith City Council NSW***.***

3. "***Services for Youth through the Internet" -*** City of Adelaide, SA.

A number of very relevant issues were raised, including the City of Casey's Graffiti Prevention and Control Programme which provided information of interest to Belmont. I am arranging to obtain this information for our Graffiti Strategy Co-Ordinator.

Information from the City of Adelaide about services for youth through the Internet was of significant interest. This project involves young people in developing the website and which incorporates a security and information WEB/CAM at their Skate Park, allowing people to log onto the Internet to get 15 second updates on "action" at the Skate Park.

This information is being made available to the City of Belmont Youth Development staff.

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Linda Smith, Manager, Womenzone Pty Ltd NSW, gave an address titled "***New Ways/Better Ways".*** She spoke extensively about Leadership, giving a number of examples and drawing attention to the need for adaptable, flexible and inclusive leadership.

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The next Session was devoted to a debate which addressed the topic "***Local Government, Stay Home!"*** The consensus was that Local Government must act/look externally for its internal health as Local Government activities impact outside the Local Government area and external issues have a significant impact on Local Governments.

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Item 13.1 – Continued…

"Privacy - the New EEO?"

Anna Johnston, Deputy Privacy Commissioner , Privacy NSW, outlined the new legislation protecting the privacy of individuals including residents and employees which expose another area of risk and additional responsibilities that Local Government Managers need to manage. The address generally focused on the New South Wales position.

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The concurrent session entitled ***"Your Council and Global Security",*** attended by Mayor Passeri, was presented by Bill Hansell, Executive Director, International City/Council Management Association (ICMA) USA.

Whilst many countries revisited their disaster response strategies in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks on the USA, and after comments by the Federal Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government, The Hon. Wilson Tuckey regarding local government being responsible for police and security, it was interesting to hear Bill Hansell give an overview of the problems that the American system of policing posed to the country following September 11.

There are over 18,000 independent police departments in America under the control of Local Government. For emergency assistance it is also noted that there are more than 12,000 separate fire departments. As well, each state (50) also have State Police, controlled by each of the State Governments. Then we have the Federal Police, such as the FBI and CIA, controlled and funded by the Federal Government in Washington.

Post September 11 there was a Federal mandate given to be operational by 14th May, that each County/City will supply and fund enough Police Officers to provide security at all airports throughout the USA. This is unbudgeted and not funded by either State or Federal funding. There will be many County/City Councils throughout the USA that will not be able to afford or comply with this mandate. Who knows what will happen and how responsibility will be apportioned, bearing in mind the litigious state of affairs in America.

(Just a little light information). Bill said that in Japan they have 12 engineers to each lawyer, but in the USA they have 20 lawyers to each engineer.

Bill gave a really good description of the chaos caused by the lack of positive cooperation and/or sharing or information between the different police and fire departments during the aftermath of September 11. However, the disastrous events may have created a feeling of more cooperation and sharing of information and resources in the future.

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Item 13.1 – Continued…

***"Tourism and Your Town"*,** Presented by Roger Grant, Executive Director, Geelong Otway Tourism, Victoria.

Grant gave a very well presented, informative session on how tourism is important to your community, as a key contributor to the local economy as well as the untapped potential it can represent to the economy.

(It was pleasing to see that the Geelong Otway Tourism Strategy is not unlike what the EMRC are attempting to do with our region).

Roger also went on to explain some of the pitfalls that should be avoided.

Tourism should be done in conjunction with the industry, not just on behalf of the industry. Also to remember that there should be no borders between participating municipal partners.

He also went to great lengths to explain that instead of being angry that most people/tourists out of Melbourne only briefly pass through Geelong on the way to visit the world famous Apostles, the Geelong Otway Group have added strength to television commercials and newspaper adverts, promoting the wonderful tourist potential available to the tourists, to take extra time and visit the Geelong Otway area either on the way to the Apostles or on the return journey.

It is very important for Councils to participate in the tourism partnership and give full cooperation with the local tourism associations and the regional tourism body, and also most importantly to have a strategic business plan with achievable targets.

All of the information is available on their Website and www.geelongotway.org.au.

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"Rio+Ten" - Sustainable Development, Agenda 21 was the title of the next presentation. Mr Wayne Westcott, Executive Director of ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) Victoria drew attention to the World Summit at Johannesburg to be held this year, ten years after the landmark Earth Summit at Rio de Janiero in 1992. More than 6000 Local Authorities in 110 countries throughout the world are involved in Agenda 21 sustainable development issues. Water is the key issue that the United Nations World Summit will focus on this year as the primary objective for the next decade.

Mr Westcott talked about the need to conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas and harness renewable clean energy. The address highlighted the key role Local Government had in addressing these issues by acting locally.

Item 13.1 – Continued…

Steven Munchenberg, Assistant Director, Business Council of Australia, Victoria, (an Organisation made of the CEO's of the top 100 companies in Australia) outlined business involvement, practices and obligations in sustainable development and the Business Council's commitment to sustainable development. He emphasised the importance of the World Summit on sustainable development to clearly focus on, set the Agenda and define the roles of Government and the Business sectors, for the next decade.

Mr Munchenberg talked about beyond "sustainable development" - triple bottom line and outlined the importance of partnerships between Corporate and Community sectors and that Local Government is the level that provides the best opportunity and is best placed to co-ordinate the community position.

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Janine Kirk, Executive Director of the Committee for Melbourne provided a keynote address entitled "***Working Collectively Produces Outcomes***". She explored the importance of the role that Local Governments large and small are playing, and can play, in a domestic and global environment. Her presentation provided a view on the qualities Local Government Authorities should display in order to provide the highest degree of service to their communities and how to react to community concerns.

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The subsequent Keynote Address "***Kids Alive, Do The Five"*** was provided by Laurie Lawrence, the renowned Swimming Coach.

Laurie outlined his Australia wide crusade to reduce the number of child drownings outlining that drowning is the biggest killer of pre-school children in Australia. The programme that he has developed includes the presentation of a pantomime aimed at pre-school and junior primary school students, the pantomime catch-cry is KIDS ALIVE DO THE FIVE.

The Five being 1 Fence the Pool, 2 Shut the Gate, 3 Teach your Kids to Swim, 4 Supervise - watch your mates, 5 Learn to resuscitate.

Laurie's programme is available throughout Australia and he is seeking Local Government response to the pantomime shows for schools within their district.

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Item 13.1 – Continued…

The next concurrent session was entitled ***"e-Commerce: What's Going On?"***

Mr Phil Malone, Manager B2B Commerce, National Office of Information, Economy, outlined that e-business is not just connection to the Internet or establishing a website. It is a total reorganisation of your business. In the private sector 69% of firms currently have internet access and 24% of firms are engaged in internet commerce.

The emerging issues in business are collaboration and co-operation on e-business standards and solutions. Technology integration and interoperability. Small Business development is dependent on compatibility with customers and their ability to be technologically advanced enough to participate and form the critical mass required for viable operation of e-business.

John Bijen, Project Manager, STATIS Project, Australian Local Government Association, outlined the background to the STATIS Project which has been funded by the Australian Local Government Association under a three year programme to develop e-business for Local Government in the following areas.

- Taking Payments
- Building Applications and Development Application lodgment
- Booking Resources
- Vendor Statements
- Licences/Permits
- Business Development
- Community Involvement

The system development schedule for this product is for it to launch the website providing the information in November 2002. Contact point for ongoing information has been provided and I will be passing this on to our IT staff for their attention.

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"Development-Is there a Choice?" was the next address given by Dr John Martin, Associate Professor and Director at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT). John addressed the issue of "How can one organisation act effectively as a Service Provider, Community Advocate and Champion for the local economy? Is the push for high performance Local Government premised on the right, or indeed , any KPI's?"

Dr Martin outlined the need to link civic strategy with corporate strategy. In his view there is no choice, it is a human imperative to develop and progress, to grow and mature. Economic and social development is clearly the responsibility of Local Government who are best placed to facilitate this by understanding the issues and developing a strategy to focus the organisation on the community's priorities to best achieve this.

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Item 13.1 – Continued…

The next congress topic was ***"Meeting the Asset Management Challenge."*** David Hope, Principal Consultant Skilmar Systems Pty Ltd, focused on one of the legacies of the post 1945 immigration boom which he says is starting to emerge and which provides a serious infrastructure asset renewal challenge for Australian Councils.

David stated that not enough focus was given by Local Authorities on asset maintenance or replacement. They seem to be focused primarily on building new assets.

Mr Hope also stated that he believed that the community perception, that once you have an asset you need to maintain it forever, needed to be changed so that if the asset has outlived its use by date and is no longer necessary or viable, then it can and should be disposed of or demolished. Maintaining under utilised non-required assets is a huge drain on resources which prevents proper maintenance of required assets or the development of new needed assets. He advised that very few Local Authorities are funding, on an annual basis, the depreciation of their assets which means current users of the assets and current ratepayers are under-contributing (not paying their way) for the cost of that asset that they are using. According to Mr Hope there is a lack of understanding about the relationship between asset management life cycle costs, economic life of assets and depreciation required to maintain/replace that asset. Many Councils do not have a strategic focus on managing their assets and do not place sufficient funds in maintenance/replacement reserves (depreciation) particularly as the Local Authority has a "no or low loans for asset development" policy.

He stated that some of the solutions to this problem were :

- Rationalise assets
- Consider asset sharing with joint Local Authorities
- Refurbish rather than replace where possible and appropriate
- Make sure user charges are appropriate
- Create reserves for future maintenance/replacement so that users are paying their way
- Plan now for large increases in future renewal of assets requirements.

As part of the budget process our Co-Ordinator, Council Buildings, and the Departmental Managers recognise the issues raised by Mr Hope and the need to carefully review the need for facilities, to carefully assess the refurbishment/replacement option, to maintain our long term Asset Management programmes and to seek to budget sufficient funds to be placed in reserve for future maintenance or replacement of facilities so that current users are paying their way.

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Item 13.1 – Continued…

Another Concurrent Session was entitled ***"Triple Bottom Line Tool Kit"*** which was addressed by Mr Michael Malouf, Chief Executive Officer, City of Melbourne and Dr Robyn Leeson, Executive- Environment Development, Melbourne City Council.

The presentation provided all Councils with introduction to a Tool Kit for the planning and measurement of Council activities in triple bottom line.

A copy of the Tool Kit included a 'floppy disc' and this has been provided to our Manager of Health Services to peruse and pursue as appropriate.

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"***Public Business"*** was the title of the next presentation by Mr Kelvin Trimper, Deputy Regional Manager Southern of Delfin Lend Lease SA. He stated that public authorities should only enter partnerships with the private sector when the public authority is unable to achieve the desired outcomes by itself. Partnerships need to provide a distinct benefit to the public authority. Partnerships once formed need to have a degree of independence from political interference, particularly if the partnership/project extends for more than a two year period. It is important to adopt an outcome driven approach then enter into a partnership with someone who can deliver or help deliver the required outcomes. In Mr Trimper's view, if Local Government wants to have an impact on its community and its sustainable economic development then appropriate partnerships with the private sector are likely to provide the most beneficial outcomes.

As part of this topic, Mr Alan Bawden, Chief Executive Officer, Bass Coast Shire Council, Victoria, also addressed this issue. He asked the question ***"Is Business or Economic Development core business for Local Government?"***

In his view, the answer to this question was a categoric YES because it was very important for Local Government to initiate and facilitate economic development to support the need for a community to grow and mature.

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The Congress Keynote Closing Address entitled ***"The Power of the Word"*** was delivered by Robyn Moore who as an educator and entertainer is an extraordinary communicator who uses her skills to unfold insights into more effective communication, clarity of purpose, and powerful choices that create a better balance between work and home. Her inspiring address provided a terrific culmination to the National Congress.

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Item 13.1 – Continued…

BEST PRACTICE SYMPOSIUM

The International Best Practice Symposium was conducted prior to the LGMA National Congress

The presentations and interactive sessions provided an opportunity for Local Government Managers and elected officials to learn from those of their National and International peers who have exhibited excellence in managing communities. The Symposium allows for both presentation by these professionals and in depth discussions amongst the attendees as to how they can implement or adapt those same ideas to suit their own communities.

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The first case study that was presented related to a public - private strategic development in Karlskrona, Sweden, which is a city of approximately 60,000 people. Major downsizing in Karlskrona's historic military/industrial economy required an urgent review and innovative economic development strategies to maintain the viability of the City and provide employment and a future for the City's community. A unique strategic development process has enabled the City to transform into a leading edge high-tech centre which has been accomplished through dialogue and co-operation between the private sector and Local Government.

The Karlskrona delegates provided significant detail about Best Practice and continuous improvement which was a necessary component of the transformation of their economy and the partnerships developed between the private sector and the Local Authority. The point was well and truly made that innovation requires failure. Often various alternatives were tried many of which were not successful but if criticism or condemnation occurred about unsuccessful innovation attempts, then those who are innovative cease to be so for fear of criticism or retribution. In addition to trying new ideas and accepting that periodic failure was part of the path to success, the Presenters also emphasised the need to overcome the barriers to innovation which were often legislative or community barriers, or cultural barriers, or financial barriers, or political barriers. The only way to succeed was to keep addressing those barriers until success was achieved.

In pursuing the issue of Best Practice relating to the Karlskrona case study a US delegate commented that generally in the United States great focus had been given to comparability of performance indicators, however this had not proved particularly fruitful and progress in comparisons had not achieved very much to date.

Item 13.1 – Continued…

One of the other comments made was there is a lot of Best Practice and innovation accomplishment in various Local Authorities but the details of this achievement was not written up because people are bogged down in addressing current day to day issues or problems and don't have the time to report or reflect on their achievements.

The Karlscrona delegates drew attention to the benefits of networking but made the particular point that when someone is trying to achieve innovation often current networks are not sufficient, therefore **netmaking** needs to occur before **networking** can be successful. It occurs to me that Council's Manager of Business Development and the EMRC initiatives in economic development with State, National and International partners, may well fit into the **netmaking** category.

Information relating to the re-focusing of Karlskronas economy has been passed on to our Manager of Economic Development.

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"A Community Consultation" case study was presented by Wyndham City Council, Victoria. They presented what they saw as a more reliable, less costly innovative approach to the Community Consultation process based on establishing a panel of 400 households which was demographically representative, and which provided an ongoing panel that they surveyed every 4 - 6 weeks on a whole range of issues. They advised that this panel system is already producing immediate and cumulative benefits by providing current views and improved information collection.

The Wyndham delegates were quick to point out that the Panel process was not about hamstringing the Council to act solely on community views. They still retained their ability to show leadership by making decisions that are contrary to the Community Panel review because the panel is only one of the components of the consultation and decision making. Their other consultation measures include discussion groups, written surveys and, of course, the Councillors own assessment of the community position. Obviously the Council needs to put the community view into perspective because there are often longer term views or legislative requirements or other factors that determine a Council's decision.

Full details of the Wyndham process including a copy of a community survey and a demonstration CD, have been provided to our Managers.

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Item 13.1 – Continued…

The next case study was entitled "***Smart Permits: Joint Venture Silicon Valley USA".***

This initiative of twenty-eight Cities and three Counties in Silicon Valley, California, was to streamline the development and building approval process and to provide these processes on the Internet. The Local Governments worked with technology firms to produce a system that provided development and construction information on line, including applicant plan checking, permit tracking, permit issuance, and public access. The organisational benefits included faster through-put, workflow integration, and greater co-operation among neighbouring Authorities.

This programme requires strong discipline from the Local Authorities involved to retain consistency. While the cost to develop, maintain and staff was very significant the benefits were a hugely improved service. Integration with the geographical information system (GIS) was achieved and now they are working on integration of GIS on a regional basis.

Details of this presentation have been provided to the Planning and Building Departments.

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E - City Library, Wellington, New Zealand, was the next case study.

Wellington City Council has established an E-City Library drawing together a virtual magazine and newspaper megastore, on-line book search and a large biographical resource. Aimed at improving community access and encouraging greater use of Library resources, public take-up has been four times the programme projections.

Wellington has a population of 165,000 but is the regional centre for another 200,000 people from within its hinterland. It has a central Library with eleven branches.

The Presenters advised that general use of the Library had increased to three times the previous levels since the E-City Website had been established. There recent research of April 2002 indicated that 80% of their population used the Library in the last year and 40% used the Library in the last week. On average each person accesses 80 items from the Library per year.

There has been a significant reduction in cost per transaction achieved.

Presentation material has been provided to the Belmont City Librarian.

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Item 13.1 – Continued…

The next case study was entitled ***"Skills for the Future, Casey, Australia".***

The objective of this project was to create long term employment opportunities in the City of Casey and to do this they are working with Motorola, the State Government and local schools to develop IT and Telecommunication skills amongst the young. The aim is to improve their career choices and their long term employment prospects and overcome a skill shortage in the area. They have developed what they call their "ICE programme" (Information, Communication and Electronics) with Local Government as the facilitator and industry and the Education Department providing the resources. Local Government has assumed the role of getting industry to recognise and take action to address the lack of appropriately skilled staff and also to bring the education system to relate to industry and to focus education to meet industry needs. Their experience showed that unless a tangible outcome can be assured then private industry involvement will not be sustained.

Information relating to this case study has been provided to our Economic Development and Community Services staff.

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The Best Practice Programme also included a visit to Mosman Municipal Council and Sydney City. At Mosman several presentations included one relating to Mosman's Strategic Management planning process called "**MosPlan**", another related to the nearby Manly Council's stormwater treatment and re-use project in addition to which details of the Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre were provided.

At the City of Sydney a presentation on City Developments and the very proactive position adopted by Sydney City to encourage redevelopment and high quality development within the City.

This presentation gave great encouragement to the ground breaking attitude and, focus and action plans that Belmont has developed to encourage appropriate development within our City both to create employment and economic development.

Also in their presentation comments were made about the Sydney City Rating System and one point of particular interest was the basis on which they value property which is on the highest and best use value. This means that undeveloped properties are rated as if they were fully developed which is great encouragement to the owners to maximise the development of these properties. This is something that I will be suggesting when this Council considers its rating levels as part of the forthcoming Budget. In particular I believe there should be consideration to substantially increasing the minimum rate on properties particularly in the commercial/industrial mixed use zones as some small encouragement to property owners to improve or redevelop their substandard properties.

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Item 13.1 – Continued…

A consistent theme of the presentations, case studies, information and advice provided throughout the Congress and Best Practice Symposium was the imperative for Local Government to involve itself in Social and Sustainable Economic Development and to look outside the Local Authority both nationally and internationally to provide the best models and resources to achieve the progress for our communities that they desire and that they deserve.

This gave the Mayor and I great reassurance that the objectives of the City of Belmont to fast-track that social and economic development within our City so that history will judge us as being proactive rather than inactive. Clearly Local Government should not leave it up to other levels of Government to provide the impetus for both social and economic improvements because those other level of governments are just not delivering.

In conclusion the Mayor and I would like to sincerely thank Councillors for giving us the opportunity to attend the Congress and Symposium which has enabled us to provide a wealth of information both to Council and to the staff that are charged with the responsibility of delivering Council's policies and objectives for our community.

BLAIR MOVED, RICHARDSON SECONDED, that the report of the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer be noted and received.

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

13.2 CR PASSERI – ANNE SPALDING COMMEMORATIVE SEAT – FAULKNER PARK

On Sunday 9th June 2002, the Mayor, together with other Councillors attended a function at the Historical Society to dedicate a seat in Faulkner Park to the memory of Anne Spalding, who passed away almost a year ago.

Anne was the daughter and granddaughter of pioneers of Belmont, so it was fate that Anne be part of the City of Belmont Historical Society. She was a member for 19 years and secretary/treasurer for 17 years.

When Council was approached for a seat in the park to commemorate the contribution Anne made to the Society, there was no hesitation, so yesterday at the function Mr Eric Ripper, Deputy Premier and Member for Belmont, also patron of the Society, unveiled a plaque to commemorate Anne which is fixed to the seat that Council had provided. The seat is a circular three segmented construction set on a concrete base in front of the remaining large tree between the Historical Centre and the Faulkner Park Retirement Village.

GODFREY MOVED, DONEY SECONDED, that the report of Councillor Passeri be noted and received.

CARRIED 12 VOTES TO 0

14. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION

Nil.

15. MATTERS FOR WHICH MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

Nil.

16. CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.