



Shire Connect

Latest News and Updates from the Shire



We are quickly approaching the end of 2022 – and what an incredible year it has been!

We have seen a lot of success in the community, currently with a particular achievement being finalists in several categories in the Tidy Towns awards – including being state finalists. This has been a fantastic form of recognition for the Donnybrook Balingup region, especially with the success surrounding;

- The Community Containers for Change initiative, where the Donnybrook Lions Club has been instrumental in its implementation,
- Environmental Sustainability, where we have been dedicated to introducing as many measures as possible to determine opportunities and costs associated with introducing renewable energy infrastructure (among other projects), and;
- The General Appearance in Donnybrook, particularly in regards to the Goods Shed Interpretive Centre (and café), the Apple Fun Park, the Pump Track, and the Wayfinding Signage to name a few.

Well done to everyone in the region, we should all be proud of our achievements and should continue to work together to ensure that this standard is maintained.

A particularly sensitive topic in the community right now is that of the Museum Proposal and a donation towards it. First and foremost, the Shire agrees that this is certainly a very generous offer. We value the community and its contributions towards any projects, regardless of the monetary amount, or in-kind effort, put forward.

Currently, the Shire is in the process of considering the offer, and we hope that you can understand that these processes take time and feedback from multiple professional perspectives. The typical procedures are that a party will lodge a formal Development Application and a Report to Council. This would then be reviewed in line with the Town Planning Scheme, with a great deal of thought being put into the infrastructure, pros and cons of the proposed project. This particular situation is an outlier, so we are very appreciative of any patience you can give us as we navigate forward.

At the commencement of engagement with the Shire, the projects proponents requested all communication to go through one source; the Project Chairperson. Unfortunately, communication on the project from the proponents did not necessarily follow this path, with multiple people acting as spokespersons for the project. As a result, this has created significant confusion, uncertainty, and misinformation to be spread throughout the community.

The site nominated for the project is on Shire-owned freehold, commercially zoned land. The Shire purchased this site some 15 years ago for \$420,000, which could be higher in value today. Contributing that value of land to this project – or any project – is a very serious consideration for the Shire, and there are further legislated processes (such as checks and balances) that local governments must follow in this regard.

There has been some speculation amongst the local community as to whether the very generous offer is presently 'on the table' or 'off the table.' Presently, the nominated spokesperson for the Museum Project Proposal have not advised the Shire on this, and as it stands, the Shire has not made any decisions on the offer. Notwithstanding this, the Shire will continue to review the proposal and work out the best way forward to enable the generous offer to be realized.

Please rest assured that once a conclusion has been reached, we will release a statement to the community and continue from there.

Please also be sure to stay safe and enjoy your end of year celebrations. Happy Holidays to the Donnybrook Balingup region, and we look forward to what 2023 will bring.

Shire President Leanne Wringe and Chief Executive Officer Benjamin (Ben) Rose

NEXT AGENDA BRIEFING: Wednesday 7 December, 2pm, Donnybrook Council Chamber
NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Wednesday 14 November, 5pm, Donnybrook Council Chamber

Council Meeting Minutes and Video are now available on the Shire website: www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au