

Minutes of Committee Meeting**Martin's House, Banjup****26 March 2012 at 7:30 pm****Present:**

Neil Raine

Ian Thurston

Martin Rimmer

Coco Franklin

Colin Bramwell

Apologies

Neil Cunliffe-Williams

Tina Klimaitis

Jim Wilson

Liane Lied-Cordruwisch

Guest:

Cllr Steve Portelli

Ref.	Minute	Action
1.	Welcome	
1.1	Neil welcomed Cllr Portelli to the meeting.	
2.	Improvements in Banjup Amenities	
2.1	Neil stressed to Cllr Portelli that any improvements to Banjup amenities during the year 2012/13 should be in the context of no rate rises for residents. Funding for any improvements should be within the capacity of the \$50 million or so revenues raised last year. Ranking of budget proposals across the City of Cockburn should be on merit, not on special pleading.	
2.2	The Committee asked that Cockburn consider measures to improve pedestrian safety on the main roads of Banjup, particularly for schoolchildren around bus stops. Cllr Portelli said that he would take forward the Committee's request.	
2.3	Cllr Portelli asked that the Committee poll the membership of the BRG for proposals for other measures to improve the amenity of Banup.	

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3.	Increases in Rate Revenues Since 2007	
3.1	The Committee presented graphs and statistics derived from Cockburn's published reports that showed that over the past 5 years revenues from rates had risen by 95%, numbers of properties by only 22%, and the revenues from those properties by 60%.	
3.2	Cllr Portelli maintained that rate revenues per property was not a relevant measure. The Committee strongly disagreed with him and could not understand why he believed the measures described were not relevant.	
3.3	Cllr Portelli asked that residents of Banjup instead consider the actual rise in their individual rates bills. The Committee argued that this would be to ignore the overall picture of ever increasing rate revenues coming to the City.	
3.4	The Committee asked Cllr Portelli on what Cockburn had spent the extra money and whether it was worthwhile. Cllr Portelli replied that it had been on capital works such as community centres.	
3.5	Cllr Portelli asked that the Committee provide him with rate notices from other localities so that their rate rises could be compared with Cockburn's.	Comm- ittee
4.	Underachievement Against Target	
4.1	The Committee showed Cllr Portelli that Cockburn had not met any of its performance targets over the past 5 years and this suggested to ratepayers that they were not getting value for money from Cockburn.	
4.2	Cllr Portelli argued that they were 'stretch targets'. The Committee said that if they were, then Cockburn staff had not made any progress towards them over 5 years. The Committee wondered whether the targets were meaningful to Cockburn staff any more.	
5.	Business Process Efficiency	
5.1	The Committee noted that cost efficiency initiatives at Cockburn were not apparent to ratepayers and so value for money was not apparent either.	

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5.2	The Committee recommended to Cllr Portelli that an independent expert review of Cockburn's business processes be commissioned so that ratepayers could be assured that the City's administration was operating as efficiently and as leanly as possible and that operational cost savings and efficiency improvements were being sought continuously.	
6.	Thanks to Cllr Portelli	
6.1	The Committee thanked Cllr Portelli for taking the time to speak with Banjup residents. They noted that no other councillors had agreed to meet with the Committee.	
7.	Next Meeting	
7.1	Monday 16 April at 7:30 pm at Colin Bramwell's house.	