

CITY OF ONKAPARINGA – GEOFF EATON - THALASSA WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2021

Morton Road courts now open

Four new multi-use courts have joined the, recently opened, skate park at Christie Downs' Morton Road Reserve, as the \$3.5 million sports and community hub nears completion. The community is free to have use the new tennis/netball courts—the latest project milestone of the highly anticipated hub, which is due to launch in spring. The federal government contributed \$400,000 towards the courts and oval earthworks and irrigation, adding to the \$1.5 million from City of Onkaparinga and state government towards the wider project. Roger Rasheed Sports Foundation (RRSF) contributed \$100,000 towards the hub, which will become home to the foundation's "life-changing" sports coaching and mentoring programs for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. A formal name for the hub is expected to be unveiled at the launch, and we'll release a shortlist of names for the public to vote on soon, following suggestions from the community.

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Projects Update

The Morton Road tennis courts and oval works are just two of 51 projects being completed across the city this year thanks to a federal government stimulus program. Twenty-three projects have recently been completed through Phase 1 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program, with the remaining 28 to be completed by 31 December, representing a combined \$8.46 million investment across Onkaparinga. Projects include major sporting upgrades—like the \$1.7 million netball court reconstruction for the Southern United Netball Association—through to smaller upgrades to playgrounds, footpaths and disability access. Go to our website to see the full list of projects and see which ones are happening near you.

City of Onkaparinga Grants Program

City of Onkaparinga launched a revamped grants program, to make applying for a grant much easier for the community. Following a review of the program, we received feedback that the number of grants categories and the language used in the previous grants program was confusing and could be simpler. We have introduced a range of improvements, starting with six easy-to-understand grant categories:

- Community Grants –for local not-for-profit organisations and individuals
- Arts Grants –for local artists and creatives
- Environment Grants –for local not-for-profits, schools and businesses
- Heritage Grants –for owners and lessees of local heritage places
- Major Festivals and Events Grants –for any organisation keen to host a local event
- ON Business Grants –for local businesses

Grant application forms were simplified and grant guidelines updated to ensure applicants apply for the correct grant category. The main aim of these changes is to ensure the community wasn't negatively impacted, and that the types of activities previously funded remain eligible for funding. The current round of community grants closed on 23 August. Our ON Business grants are on offer to our On Business Partner Program members and close 3 September. For the third year since being elected I have been the elected member on the community grants and major festivals and events assessments committees and for the past two been the only elected member on the business grants assessments committee.

Sustainable Onkaparinga workshops

If you would like to learn ways to live more sustainably, there are dozens of Sustainable Onkaparinga events and workshops scheduled over the coming months, both online and in-person. Events that will open for registrations in the coming months include online or in-person sessions on recycled rug making, designing beautiful water-wise native gardens, wood carving, indoor plants, educational school holiday tours and nature-play activities, style and sustainability, and a council nursery tour. By sharing across our Resilient South council partners (Holdfast, Marion and Mitcham) and collaborating with Onkaparinga Libraries, the Willunga Environment Centre, Green Adelaide and others, residents have had access to 66 diverse environmental workshops in the past year, reaching more than 51,000 people. To keep up-to-date with current and upcoming sessions, visit onkaparingacity.com/sustainableonkaparinga.

Willunga Farmers Market

The Willunga Farmers Market has been relocated to Willunga High School for 12 months. The Willunga Farmers Market Board made the difficult decision following the recent lockdown and continuing uncertainty around COVID-19. They said, in an announcement, that the move will allow them to hold the market uninterrupted by COVID regulations, ensuring the viability of the market and stability for market traders.

You can read more about the reasoning behind the decision and other details at willungafarmersmarket.com.au. Chooks Winery Tours will operate a free shuttle bus departing town square from 8am and running on a loop, which will make it even easier to experience the best of both worlds—the market and the main street—during your visit.

In Focus elected member articles

Council has launched a series of articles at news website Onkaparinga Now, which aims to help you to better get to know your elected members. In Focus is delving into City of Onkaparinga's six council wards, with stories focusing on the ward councillors so you can learn more about who they are and what they're passionate about. Stories on Thalassa Ward councillors Marion Themeliotis and myself, Pimpala Ward councillors Sandra Brown and Michael O'Brien, and Knox Ward councillors Alayna de Graaf and Heidi Greaves have already been published on the site, with stories on the remaining four wards to be published in the coming months.

Mayor's Garden Competition

Entries for the 2021 Mayor's Garden Competition are now open.

It's that time of year again, where we celebrate our city's keen and passionate gardeners. It's pleasing to see the passion that people in our community have in establishing and caring for their beautiful gardens. The 2021 Mayor's Garden Competition recognises local gardeners and encourages community interest in local gardens, which enhances the presentation and liveability of our city. Entries are now open in the following categories with prizes on offer:

- Urban
- Small or courtyard (smaller than 600m²)
- Mid to large (Larger than 600m²)
- Rural
- School
- Community

Entry forms are available at our libraries, council offices and online, with entries closing on 17 September. Judging will take place between 11–15 October. Each entry will be judged on the following:

- First impressions
- Design
- Maintenance
- Sustainability

For further information and entry forms go to onkaparingacity.com.

I had the pleasure in assisting the mayor and staff of the judging panel for this competition in 2020 and look forward to participating again this year.

Healthy Cities

I am the elected member liaison representative on the Healthy Cities Onkaparinga (HCO) committee, which is a non-government, community-led organisation, established in 1987. They advocate for health promotion through collaboration between the local community, government and business and recognise that health is much more than doctors and hospitals, but is determined by where we live, learn, work and play. People need healthy and supportive environments to be and stay healthy: for example, access to good food, housing, education, work, green space, friendly and safe communities. HCO are looking for new volunteers to join them in helping to make Onkaparinga a more healthy and safe community. The committee meets monthly to share ideas, discuss issues and plan projects. Some recent and current topics include:

- public transport
- access to clean water

- dementia awareness
- food insecurity
- community participation in health planning
- healthy ageing
- advance planning for end-of-life.

So, if you are passionate about promoting health and wellbeing in Onkaparinga, or just want to know a bit more, please contact them, through email enquiries@healthycitiesonkaparinga.org.au or Gwyn Jolley on 0421 524 116, or gwyn.jolley@flinders.edu.au
They would love to hear from you and your ideas for making Onkaparinga a Healthy City!

Sports Grounds Upgrades

On Saturday 17 July I attended the opening of the new unisex changerooms at the Ironbank and Cherry Gardens Oval with the federal member for Mayo Rebecca Sharkie, state members for Heysen and Davenport Josh Teague and Steve Murray and Mayor Thompson. It was great to see the outcome of this upgrade. This was the result of some excellent lobbying the oval's committee for this outcome.

On Saturday 14 August I attended the launch of the new unisex changerooms at the Flagstaff Hill Oval along with the Member for Davenport Steve Murray and the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Minister for Recreation, Sports and Racing Minister Corey Wingard, Mayor Erin Thompson and my fellow ward councilor Cr Marion Themeliotis. These new unisex changerooms was part of the recently completed reconstruction and reseal of the tennis and netball courts, revitalized playgrounds and enclosed cricket nets, as the latest milestones of the \$2 million upgrade of facilities. The upgrade, which will also include landscaping works in spring and a significant refurbishment of the main clubroom in 2022, was supported by \$1.1 million from the City of Onkaparinga and \$900,000 from the state and federal governments. Cr Themeliotis, myself are currently working with the Happy Valley Oval committee to develop a new master plan for the Happy Valley Oval so that they can make a deputation to Council in September.

Main Road Community Meeting

Mayor Erin Thompson organised a community meeting at the Cherry Gardens memorial hall on the morning of Saturday 14 August in relation to safety issues along Main Road Cherry Gardens in particular between Black Road and Cherry Gardens Road. She had letterbox dropped properties in the vicinity of Main Road. This follows a number of letters that have been written to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport to consider safety upgrades on the road. I attended along with 26 residents and channel 7. A petition is to be prepared on behalf of residents to seek having the state government upgrade Main Road from Coromandel Valley through to its junction with Chandlers Hill Road. This should be circulated in the community in late August and I encourage residents to sign it as well as contacting the offices of the members for Heysen and Davenport.

Bikeways Aberfoyle Park, Flagstaff Hill, Happy Valley

In June 2017, after extensive research and community engagement, Council's Trails and Cycling Strategic Management Plan (TCSMP) was endorsed. It identifies our on and off road cycling/path vision and can be viewed on our website. The TCSMP not only identified our vision, but also our network gaps including east/west connections and sections with missing links; the following which have also been highlighted by Mr Mackay. Minkarra Central: in line with the Minkarra Park Concept Plan, a staged upgrade to Minkarra Park, Happy Valley has been undertaken. Stage 1 and 2 of the park's development have delivered a network of off road trails in the north and south of the park in addition to skate facility, BMX mounds,

playground and fitness equipment, public toilet, car park and dog park in the southern part of the park.

Stage 3 is the final stage that proposes public access through a portion of the privately owned Flagstaff Hill Golf Course land linking the existing north (Black Road) and south (Manning Road) Flagstaff Rotary Walk trails to form a single continuous shared use off road trail which can be used for pedestrian and cycling purposes. Through engagement with the Flagstaff Hill Golf Club, stage 3 designs have been completed with construction costs estimated to exceed \$900,000. Due to this cost, significant external Federal and/or State Government funding would need to be secured to enable stage 3 construction works in the future.

Manning Road: High level concept work for a shared path in the Manning Road northern verge between Happy Valley Drive and Black Road has been completed and the estimated construction cost would exceed \$700,000. More detailed design work to refine the concept and construction cost is expected to commence in the next few years. Due to this cost, significant external Federal and/or State Government funding would need to be secured for the delivery of this project.

Field River Trail: The TCSMP does propose a continuation of the Field River Trail between the Happy Valley Sports Park to the Happy Valley Drive Trail (Happy Valley Drive Trail currently under construction). Similarly, the TCSMP also identifies a future connection adjacent Sandpiper Crescent between Park Avenue and Windebanks Road. While these projects are part of our future network, the planning for these projects has not commenced.

Powerline Precinct: The Powerline Precinct encompasses a series of linear reserves between Homestead Drive and Daveys Road. While no constructed shared use path is identified in the TCSMP in this location, it does identify this as part of the Tom Roberts Horse Trail, which extends to Cherry Gardens and Clarendon.

The TCSMP recognises that the footpaths and local road networks also support cycling and walking. In relation to the Road Traffic Act amendments which allow individuals of all ages to legally cycle on the footpath. Prior to this, only those 12 years and younger were legally allowed to cycle on footpaths.

Council provides an extensive footpath network in Aberfoyle Park and Flagstaff Hill This combined with the State Governments Cycle Instead Journey Planner (formally known as Bike direct) network, which provides a strategic network of bicycle routes across the Adelaide metropolitan area, provide extensive cycling opportunities within and beyond these suburbs. In preparation of the current year's budget I had raised the issue of the lack of footpaths in specific parts around the area north of Taylors Road (west), Hamilton Crescent (off Sunnymede Drive) and on the eastern side of Hub Drive, north of Homestead Drive.

There are no plans to construct dedicated 3m wide shared use paths for some of the smaller connections suggested. In relation to the north-south connection suggested within the Happy Valley Reservoir, this is part of the Glenthorne Farm National Park and managed by the National Parks and Wildlife within the South Australian Government. Further information relating to Glenthorne Farm National Park and the master plan can be viewed on the state government website.

Onkaparinga Now August Edition

For further information as to what is happening across the City of Onkaparinga please go to <https://www.onkaparinganow.com/autumn-2021/flagstaff-hill-sports-upgrades-unveiled/>

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this article are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of Council.

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