

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF KEYSBROOK TOWNSITE RESIDENTS**

*(Listed on Page 4)*

**May 14, 2021**

**Attn Director of Infrastructure Services, Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire**

**Copy to Keysbrook Community Group (KCG)**

**LETTER OF CONCERN: Keysbrook Park Masterplan 2021-2025**

To whom it may concern,

On Friday, May 14, we understand that a meeting was held at the corner on Elliott and South Western Highway, at the Nourish Coffee Van, to discuss the communities thoughts on the Keysbook Community Group (KCG) Masterplan Keysbrook Park.

Unfortunately, due to such short notice and being held on a working day for most, many of the residents were unaware of the meeting or could not attend to speak with the Shire representative. We have decided to pen our questions and concerns to you directly and hope that a more appropriate consultation process may be arranged.

While we have concerns over some items mentioned in the plan, we support the idea of improving the visual appeal of the Park area by creating an entry statement to Keysbrook Townsite in respect of its heritage and the community. Landscaping and fencing will significantly improve the area and enable people to identify Keysbrook as a Town.

As residents of the historical Keysbrook Townsite, we are the properties most significantly impacted by any developments on the Elliott Road Site. Over the years, we have all enjoyed a rural lifestyle. We have worked as neighbours to alert one another of security concerns, strange vehicles in the area or people/vehicles loitering close to properties. Therefore, it is alarming to hear that the KCG and Shire are pursuing an idea to provide a public convenience situated at the end of Elliott Road.

There are several questions and concerns raised: mostly centred around purpose, value to community, security, sanitary concerns and cost.

As a community, we would like to understand better how a public toilet benefits the Keysbrook Community? Functions, when held, are at the Community Hall, that have ample amenities. It is our assumption, therefore, that and according to the Notice of Motion, December 14 2020, (Ref 1), the Shire see it as: *“ underdeveloped and used primarily for a pick up and drop off point for local residents, and a rest point for travellers.”*

To reference that statement:

1. It is not merely a drop-off point; it is the central area for School Transportation Services. As parents to children, we have grave concerns around the security and welfare of children waiting for buses if strangers are being encouraged to the area to stay overnight due to a public toilet.
2. Who will police the safety and cleanliness of the area if visitors are encouraged? Encouraging strangers to an area where children have to wait for transport is of concern, as is the increased issue of litter and general cleanliness of the site
3. Who will be responsible for the cleaning of the facility?
4. As local residents, we have always deterred overnight stays in the area as, unfortunately, on many occurrences, the vehicles in question have been reported to be homeless or suspicious rather than just simple travellers needing a rest stop
5. Allowing or encouraging this area as an overnight rest stop may, in our opinion, bring the challenges we see in many parking bays, where unsightly waste, disrespectful behaviour and a disregard for the local residents become problematic.
6. As a Community, would it not be more beneficial to promote the many struggling farmers in the area looking at diversifying their income and offering safe, quiet, on property camping or local small business with accommodation to bring financial benefit to the Shire? This surely would be a far more appealing option to genuine travellers.
7. What Community value does this toilet bring?
8. There are public toilets in both North Dandalup and Serpentine, only a few kilometres in either direction.
9. Could money be better spent on providing a suitable shelter for the School Children waiting for buses?

We have also identified on the Masterplan that there are plans to build a Gazebo/Pavillion. We are slightly confused as to the reasoning behind this and its intended use as a community. Clarity has been asked of the KCG. When approached, we are provided with the Strategic Plan (Ref 2), which shows a timeline of events or the image/plan of stage 1 (Ref 3). Nowhere are we being provided commentary on the decision-making process, the planning forethought, intentions, and value that such a structure is to bring?

We are aware that issues with Roads will be something the KCG move to gain community thought on later. As people that have to use the intersection with Elliott and SW Highway daily, we highly support the need to pursue road improvement to include an area to pull over when turning and ideally a reduced speed limit. Elliott Road itself also requires speed signs as there is no sign to reduce speed from 110km/h from the Highway or 100km/h from Hopeland direction.

Keysbrook is the only town on the SW Highway with a 110km/h speed limit. This indeed should be addressed with main roads before additional traffic is encouraged to an already dangerous intersection.

Warm regards

Keysbrook Residents

**REF 1:**

<https://www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/ordinary-council-meeting/ordinary-council-meeting-14-december-2020/487/documents/ordinary-council-meeting-14-december-2020-93-motion-on-notice-keysbrook-park-masterplan.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3nigcDNj1G9LG6oIAIZxXHLGYAzBBhzMjf-2F-UCjppqFWjin2KwgMCRKY>

**REF 2:**

<https://www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/ordinary-council-meeting/ordinary-council-meeting-14-december-2020/487/documents/93-attachment-1-strategic-plan-2020-to-2025.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1RIRzKvfFCAhviPSREmxRhPsb5mkG6Ggtn7DJ5-CgVoklnXDiiUUywwz80>

**REF 3:**

