

OFFICIAL

Council Meeting

Minutes

22 May 2024 at 6:30pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Sturt Street,
Ballarat



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1. OPENING DECLARATION

Councillors: *"We, the Councillors of the City of Ballarat, declare that we will carry out our duties in the best interests of the community, and through collective leadership will maintain the highest standards of good governance."*

Mayor: *"I respectfully acknowledge the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, the traditional custodians of the land, and I would like to welcome members of the public in the gallery."*

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Present

Cr Des Hudson (Mayor)
Cr Daniel Moloney
Cr Ben Taylor
Cr Samantha McIntosh
Cr Belinda Coates
Cr Mark Harris
Cr Amy Johnson
Cr Peter Eddy
Cr Tracey Hargreaves

Mr Evan King - Chief Executive Officer
Ms Bridget Wetherall - Director Infrastructure and Environment
Mr Matthew Wilson - Director Community Wellbeing
Mr John Hausler - Director Corporate Services
Ms Natalie Robertson - Director Development and Growth
Mr Martin Darcy - Director Economy and Experience
Mr Cameron Montgomery - Executive Manager Governance and Risk
Ms Lyndsay Leingang - Administration Officer Statutory Compliance
Mr Stephen Wright - Administration Assistant Compliance

2.2 Apologies

Nil

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 24 April 2024 as circulated be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Mark Harris
Seconded: Cr Amy Johnson

CARRIED
(R59/24)

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

QT26/24 – Annette McMaster

Question

Powercor now finally admit in writing in their Ballarat East Community flyer, “Recognising this location”, that’s 203 York Street substation, “is within an established residential community”. They’ve never admitted that before. Further they mention regions like Geelong, Warrnambool, Werribee, Sunshine, Melton, Laverton, Waurm Ponds and Torquay. What they omit to tell us is:

- the type of substation and the voltage of each of these, because some can be just 500 metres square with one transformer, ours is getting in three
- whether there have been any ‘incidences’
- whether they are in a basin as it will be here in Ballarat East and
- why they have been able to ‘upgrade’ Warrnambool and some others and yet it would be ‘too costly’ to upgrade Sutton Street or Norman Street, which are both in industrial areas with no houses near and surely able to be upgraded
- why are the residents of Ballarat East being treated with such contempt by Powercor; we were here first.

Can Council ask Powercor to be more transparent on these points please?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth, responded that she will correspond with Powercor to seek that information.

Question

Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

So far, we’ve concentrated on all the reasons why it’s a ludicrous spot to put it with the effects on Ballarat. But the flyer also admits, “Electric fields are created by differences in voltage: the higher the voltage, the stronger the resultant field”. 66Kv is classified as ‘High Voltage’.

When the atmosphere is heavy with smoke from wood heaters it hangs in the valley, as will the EMFs. On average, the surrounding land rises 10 metres, except a small area where the creeks run toward downtown at Main Road. Powercor have remarked on other substations built in amongst communities, however none of them we have visited are built in a basin like this one will be. And I’ve included on yours all the different levels looking different directions and photos showing the basin we’re in. Even just walking up our laneway from Montrose Street to Eureka Street you stand there and we’re barely 100 metres from it and we raise up about 10-15 metres. Seven hundred feet, which is 213.36 metres, is considered a safe distance by the United Kingdom, but the land rises to trap the EMFs at 100 metres from the site.

Things that worry us, no end now, are: How will we know when the EMFs reach dangerous levels? Who will be monitoring these for us? What are the EMF levels now?

There's quite a few people in our area just recently that have come down with cancer, my husband included. And to think they are going to put this thing there. It's just really frightening.

To Council, my question is: Can Council request independent information and assurances about EMFs other than Powercor's glossy pamphlets? This is going to affect us terribly.

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth, responded that she will endeavor to see what avenues there are to get this independent information and will take the question on notice and will come back to Ms McMaster and Councillors with what avenues are available to her to gain this information.

QT27/24 - Stuart McKay

Question

Prior to the library renovations, there was a piano that very much enjoyed by many library patrons. Could you share where the piano is being held?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, responded that the piano was originally to be returned to the Library post-renovations. However, a request by the Civic Hall was made for it to be used as part of the production backline at that venue, so it is currently at the Civic Hall.

Question

We understand that part of the renovated library space was designed with the piano re-installation in scope. When will the piano be returned to the library for the enjoyment of the community?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, responded that there is no current plan to return the piano to the library, given that it is performing a different function at the City Hall.

QT28/24 - Jules Jumamoy

Question

Can you build another skatepark, maybe in Victoria Park, where it can be nearer to other suburbs in Ballarat?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, responded that there are several local skate area facilities located across the municipality, with the major skate facility in town at the Len T Fraser Reserve. Unfortunately, Victoria Park has not been identified as a future location for skate. However, there is a modular pump track for BMX-type riding that is established and is quite popular. It's also pleasing to note that a major upgrade to the Len T Fraser skate facility is currently in the design phase and is due to commence the construction phase in 2025. This will provide a further enhancement of that central facility, aiming to provide opportunities to a wide range of users across the city.

QT29/24 - Dr Kate Renshaw**Question**

How does Ballarat City Council intend to celebrate the inaugural International Day of Play on the 11th June 2024, as declared by the UN?

Answer

Matthew Wilson, Director Community Wellbeing, responded that given that it is an inaugural International Day, there are no current plans to celebrate it in Council's forward action planning. However, Council can appreciate that this could be an excellent opportunity to celebrate the impact of play on children's wellbeing and development. Officers will commit to examining that, particularly in relation to localised celebration within Council's existing early childhood programmes, such as play groups and childcare services, and potentially foresee opportunities going forward to look at opportunities in recognition of the International Day of Play.

RESOLUTION:

That Council extends public question time in accordance with section 3.7.1 of the City of Ballarat Governance Rules.

Moved: Cr Samantha McIntosh
Seconded: Cr Tracey Hargreaves

CARRIED
(R60/24)

QT30/24 - Richard Purdy**Question**

Since the April 2024 Council meeting where the Solar Panels in Heritage Overlays Policy endorsed by Council on 8 July 2009 (R217/09) was revoked, how many people have been contacted by Council whose application for solar panels was refused because of this policy, to invite them to re-submit their application?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth, responded that the policy was revoked only on the basis that it was converted into an internal document to be accompanied by design guidelines for the community. The considerations set out in the policy are replicated in the internal procedure and design guidelines. To this end, the approach to assessment has not changed. The new internal procedure will soon be accompanied by external-facing images providing customers with visual representations of the appropriate locations for solar panels.

Question

If nobody has been contacted regarding the first question, does Council intend to contact people whose application for solar panels was refused because of this policy (now revoked), to invite them to re-apply?

Answer

Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth, responded that the planning approach and heritage overlays utilised for assessment has not changed and as such there is no need to contact previous applicants.

QT31/24 - Mark Oughton-Nicholls**Question**

The ICJ's ruling on 26 January 2024 has implications for the Council. In short, as Australia is a signatory to the Genocide Convention, you must prevent complicity in genocide under Article 3, which includes not engaging in business with those complicit in genocide. Is the Council confident that its procurement policy has measures in place to protect the Council, its officers and ratepayers from complicity in genocide?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that Council's Procurement Policy has strict requirements regarding compliance with legislation and the law for Councillors, Council officers, consultants and contractors. Council's procurement activities are regularly audited by Council's internal auditor to ensure that they comply with Council's Procurement Policy, procedures and processes and are also subject to audit by the Victorian Auditor General's Office.

QT32/24 – Nick Shady**Question**

In relation to the budget process, or the lack of public scrutiny, it is interesting to note that the Local Government Inspectorate's Councillor Conduct Framework, for mandatory training, states from the e-mail 26th of April this year, "requiring all candidates to attend at least two Council meetings, one of which should relate to the Council budget development/adoption, within 12 months of Election Day". So, to me, that means that if the candidate that is not attending tonight's meeting, which is basically the only time that the document will be discussed, they will be unable to nominate. Will the Council be running any financial education for the fulfilment of that requirement for the mandatory training, and if not, does that put the incumbents at an advantage at this year's election?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that in regards to the question about candidates attending this meeting, according to Local Government Victoria, the candidate training is currently under review. It's Council's understanding that the requirement for all candidates to attend at least two Council meetings, one of which should relate to Council budget development within 12 months of Election Day, and the requirement to attend remains only a preliminary recommendation from the Local Government Inspectorate provided in their 26th April 2024 newsletter. At this point, Council believes it does not constrain any candidates from running for the election in the future. In terms of what training will be required, Council is waiting for further guidance from Local Government Victoria regarding exactly what training will be required and what will be the requirements for new candidates. Generally, when new Councillors come on board, significant time is spent with them to take them through the budget process, the workings of how it is all put together, and explain to them matters relating to finances and budgets, but still waiting on guidance from Local Governance Victoria.

Question

Can you confirm the amount of rates outstanding, and the amount of properties affected? As Ballarat can take the claim of the second-most mortgage-stressed in Victoria, I would expect the delinquencies to be high. How many are 365 days past due, and where does this figure of unpaid rates sit on the balance sheet, and what are the Councillors doing to address these issues?

Answer

John Hausler, Director Corporate Services, responded that currently there is \$2.8M in municipal rates and charges owed by City of Ballarat residents relating to past years. In 2023/24 rates are still being collected and, as yet, not all instalment dates have passed, However, trends for payment in this financial year are consistent to date, with past years. Over the last 5 years there has not been a material increase or change in the amount of unpaid rates in the City of Ballarat, with approximately 95% of rates being paid on time by ratepayers each financial year.

Unpaid rates, as a whole, are disclosed in the Annual Report as 'Rates debtors' within Trade and Other Receivables and within quarterly financial updates reported to Council. Council will, as part of its annual follow up process, contact ratepayers with overdue rates prior to the end of the financial year. Council has in place a financial hardship policy to support ratepayers that may be experiencing difficulties paying their rates.

In regard to the exact number of properties affected, Director Hausler took that component of the question on notice and will respond in writing.

QT33/24 – Zoe Edwards, representing the Australian Services Union

Question

How can the Council identify savings in the Q3 financial statements and how the Council intends to ensure that their frontline workers' work is recognised and how they intend to allocate those savings to recognise frontline workers' work?

Answer

Evan King, Chief Executive Office, responded that management remains committed to negotiating in good faith, and we do that through our bargaining meetings. This is an operational matter but, for clarity, Council has recognised some employee savings in our third quarter financial update and the officers' recommendation to Council is that those savings be allocated to the Prince of Wales project. It's important to be clear that they are one-off savings generated as a result of the time between somebody leaving the organisation and the new person starting. Using one-off savings to fund ongoing expenditure would be financially irresponsible. Those costs associated with increasing salaries and wages need to be budgeted on an annual basis. Ongoing costs can't be funded with the hope of making savings out of salaries and wages. A good example of this is that Council's annual turnover rate at the moment is 13%, in the last quarter it was 2.1%. So, if Council relied on savings out of salaries and wages through the timeframe between staff leaving and being replaced, then the full value of the salary and wage budget wouldn't actually be funded. The amount of savings will move depending on the staff turnover rate. It's not consistent, it's not guaranteed. The Local Government Act is very clear that one of the responsibilities of Council and of management is ongoing financial viability. Not budgeting for the full amount of salaries and wages, and hoping for savings to fund wage increases, is not something that management would recommend to Council.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

7.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Division: Executive Unit
Director: Evan King
Author/Position: Evan King – Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE

1. The CEO's Operational Report highlights issues and outcomes affecting the organisation's performance as it delivers services and implements the Council's strategies and policy decisions.

RESOLUTION:

16. That Council:

16.1 Receive and note the CEO's Operational Report.

Moved: Cr Belinda Coates
Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED
(R61/24)

8. OFFICER REPORTS

8.1. FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION STRATEGY

Division: Infrastructure and Environment
Director: Bridget Wetherall
Author/Position: Matthew McNamara – Traffic Engineer

PURPOSE

1. To seek Council endorsement to release the Draft Footpath Construction Strategy for public consultation for four (4) weeks from 27 May 2024.

RESOLUTION:

11. That Council:

- 11.1 Release the Draft Footpath Construction Strategy for public consultation for a period of 4 weeks from 27 May 2024.**

Moved: Cr Belinda Coates
Seconded: Cr Daniel Moloney

CARRIED
(R62/24)

8.2. AIRPORT STRATEGIC AND MASTER PLAN DRAFT REPORT

Division: Economy and Experience
Director: Martin Darcy
Author/Position: Jonathan Willsher – Ballarat Airport Commercial Manager
Kelli Moran – Executive Manager Economic Growth

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the draft *Ballarat Airport Strategy and Master Plan 2024* for release for public consultation.

RESOLUTION:

11. That Council:

- 11.1 Resolves to release the draft *Ballarat Airport Strategy and Master Plan 2024* for public consultation.

Moved: Cr Samantha McIntosh
Seconded: Cr Daniel Moloney

CARRIED
(R63/24)

RESOLUTION:

That Council adjourn at 7:57 pm for a 5-minute comfort break.

Moved: Cr Amy Johnson
Seconded: Cr Mark Harris

CARRIED
(R64/24)

RESOLUTION:

That Council resumes at 8:04 pm.

Moved: Cr Mark Harris
Seconded: Cr Daniel Moloney

CARRIED
(R65/24)

8.3. ADOPTION OF 2024/25 BUDGET

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Jason Clissold – Executive Manager Financial Services

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to present Council with the 2024/25 Annual Budget for consideration and adoption.

RESOLUTION:

25. That Council:
 - 25.1 Adopts the attached 2024/25 Annual Budget, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and relevant regulations.
 - 25.2 Acknowledges the community's contribution to the Budget consultation process and thanks them for their contribution.
 - 25.3 Approves new loan borrowings of up to \$20.16 million in line with the Budget and authorises the CEO, Director Corporate Services or Executive Manager Financial Services to:
 - 25.3.1 negotiate any loan;
 - 25.3.2 approve the successful loan facility (any two of the above officers); and
 - 25.3.3 execute the loan documentation (any two of the above officers).
 - 25.4 Declares an amount of \$158,864,345 (or such greater amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this recommendation being adopted) which Council intends to raise by General Rates, Service Charges and Special Rates and Charges for the period 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 calculated as follows:
 - 25.4.1 General Rates \$129,372,228;
 - 25.4.2 Service Charges (Environmental Levies) \$29,327,322; and
 - 25.4.3 Special Rates and Charges \$164,795.
 - 25.5 Declares the Rates and Charges in accordance with section 4.1.1 of the 2024/25 Annual Budget and Council's Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 as required under section 94(2)(i) of the Act and section 161(2) of the Local Government Act 1989.
 - 25.5.1 Set the single pension rebate at \$110 for the 2024/25 financial year, in accordance with section 5.9 of the Revenue and Rating Plan.
 - 25.5.2 Notes that under the Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 it was determined that in 2024/25 the commercial, industrial and recreation 2 differential rates would be set at 250% of the residential rate.
 - 25.5.3 Notes that under the Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 it was determined that in 2024/25 the rural residential differential rate would be set at 100% of the residential rate.

25.5.4 Set the differential rates as follows:

Type or class of land	Rate in the dollar/CIV
Residential	0.00297600
Commercial	0.00744000
Industrial	0.00744000
Farm	0.00214272
Rural Residential	0.00297600
Recreational 1	-
Recreational 2	0.00744000

25.5.5 Set service charges as follows

Type of charge	\$
Waste Management Service Charge	491
Green Waste Service Charge	72

25.5.6 Set the Bridge Mall Special Rate at \$0.00317020 per dollar of Capital Improved Value (CIV)

25.6 Notes that the Budget utilises final valuations from the Valuer-General and that minor changes to the differential rates may be required to remain compliant with the 2024/25 rate cap.

25.7 Adopts the Schedule of Fees and Charges as set out in the Budget.

25.8 Determine to allow:

25.8.1 In accordance with section 167(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 1989, payment of rates and charges by four approximately equal instalments paid on or before 30 September 2024, 30 November 2024, 28 February 2025 and 31 May 2025;

25.8.2 In accordance with section 167(2A) and (2B) of the Local Government Act 1989, payment of rates and charges by lump sum on or before 15 February 2025; or

25.8.3 Payment of rates and charges by ten approximately equal direct debit payments from 15 September 2024 until 15 June 2025;

25.9 Require that any person pay interest on any amounts of rates and charges in accordance with section 172 of the Local Government Act 1989 which:

25.9.1 That person is liable to pay;

25.9.2 Have not been paid by the dates specified for their payment; and

25.9.3 Is not otherwise waived as part of Council's Financial Hardship Policy.

25.10 Authorise the Executive Manager Financial Services to make any changes to the 2024/25 Annual Budget as a result of anything that occurs after the making of this resolution, provided that they are changes of a minor and/or administrative character.

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
Seconded: Cr Peter Eddy

CARRIED
(R66/24)

8.4. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Jason Clissold – Executive Manager Financial Services

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Quarterly Performance Report for the quarter ending 31 March 2024.

RESOLUTION:

- 33. That Council:**
- 33.1 Receive the Quarterly Financial Management Report – Period Ending 31 March 2024 and note the financial matters contained within the report.**
- 33.2 Endorse the 2023-24 Quarter 3 Budget Review adjustments, including an additional \$869,000 for the Prince of Wales Hockey Pitch Surface Project.**
- 33.3 Note that inclusive of the variance outlined at 33.2, the Prince of Wales Hockey Pitch Surface Project total contract value will exceed \$2 million excluding GST and therefore referred to Council for endorsement as it is above the delegation of Contracts Approval Delegated Committee.**
- 33.4 Endorse the finalisation of the Prince of Wales Hockey Pitch Surface Project with a total contract value of \$ 2,041,653.39 ex GST.**
- 33.5 Receive the Council Plan 2021-2025 – Annual Action Plan 2023/24 Quarter 3 Progress Report.**
- 33.6 Receive the Ballarat City Council Metrics – March 2024 report.**

Moved: Cr Mark Harris
Seconded: Cr Amy Johnson

CARRIED
(R67/24)

8.5. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND PROJECTS

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Belinda Hynes – Coordinator Community Infrastructure Planning

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - a. Present an addendum to the projects identified in Community Infrastructure Plan 2022 – 2037 for Council adoption.
 - b. Provide an update on the progress made towards actions in the first two years of the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Plan 2022 – 2037.

RESOLUTION:

13. That Council:

13.1 Receive and note the report on implementation work undertaken in year one and two of the Community Infrastructure Plan 2022 – 2037.

13.2 Adopt changes to the Community Infrastructure Plan project schedule in accordance with Tables 1 and 2 of this report, which supersede the previously adopted project schedule in the original Community Infrastructure Plan 2022 – 2037.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED
(R68/24)

8.6. STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2023

Division: Infrastructure and Environment
Director: Bridget Wetherall
Author/Position: Fiona Stevenson – Coordinator Sustainable Environment

PURPOSE

1. To present the City of Ballarat's first State of the Environment Report 2023.

RESOLUTION:

8. That Council:

- 8.1 Endorse the release of the State of the Environment Report 2023 to the community.

Moved: Cr Belinda Coates
Seconded: Cr Mark Harris

CARRIED
(R69/24)

8.7. REGIONAL ASSESSMENT SERVICE

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Craig Donaldson – Coordinator Ageing Well Services

PURPOSE

1. This report is to provide an update on the status of Ageing Well Services Regional Assessment Service.

RESOLUTION:

17. That Council:

17.1 Receive and note the Regional Assessment Services update report.

17.2 Endorse the extension of providing Commonwealth Funded Regional Assessment Services until transition to new provider can occur.

Moved: Cr Mark Harris
Seconded: Cr Peter Eddy

CARRIED
(R70/24)

8.8. HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Division: Development and Growth
Director: Natalie Robertson
Author/Position: Annabel Neylon – Coordinator Heritage

PURPOSE

1. To seek Council approval for the formal appointment of four (4) new nominated representatives from the community to the Heritage Advisory Committee.
2. To seek Council approval for five (5) new co-opted members of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

RESOLUTION:

15. That Council:

- 15.1 **Appoint Nicole Davydova, Harrison Morton, Elizabeth Marsden and David Waldron as community representatives on the Heritage Advisory Committee effective immediately for the remainder of the term of the Committee.**
- 15.2 **Appoint Samantha Fabry, Paul Gordon-Smith, Merle Hathaway, Christine Segart and Aydon Edwards as co-opted members to the Heritage Advisory Committee, effective immediately for the remainder of the term of the Committee.**
- 15.3 **Correct clause 6.1 of the Ballarat Heritage Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to read “minimum seventeen (17) members”, in accordance with the specified number of members provided by clauses 6.1.1 to 6.1.4.**

Moved: Cr Samantha McIntosh
Seconded: Cr Mark Harris

CARRIED
(R71/24)

8.9. S11A INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sarah Anstis – Statutory Compliance Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to endorse the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* for Unnati Rawal.

RESOLUTION:

5. **In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Ballarat City Council (Council) resolves that–**
 - a. **The member of Council staff referred to in the instrument attached be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument.**
 - b. **The instrument comes into force immediately upon being signed by Council’s Chief Executive Officer and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.**

Moved: Cr Mark Harris
Seconded: Cr Daniel Moloney

CARRIED
(R72/24)

8.10. OUTSTANDING QUESTION TIME ITEMS

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Stephen Wright – Administration Assistant Compliance

PURPOSE

1. This report provides Council with an update of responses to questions taken on notice and outstanding unanswered questions from public question time.

RESOLUTION:

4. That Council:
 - 4.1 Endorse the Outstanding Question Time Report.

Moved: Cr Mark Harris
Seconded: Cr Peter Eddy

CARRIED
(R73/24)

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/COUNCILLORS

GB23/24 Cr Samantha McIntosh

Cr Samantha McIntosh raised recent community members' concerns regarding rough sleeping at White Flat Oval since the announced closure of Reid's Guest House in August. She understood that officers have visited the site and that different community groups have made contact with police and other agencies. She noted Council's improved handling of this matter and that there has been a good response to the challenges around Lake Wendouree, in the dining hubs, and near the car park in the CBD. Cr McIntosh enquired about the updated lighting and the CCTV cameras in the White Flat area, since they were committed to, and it is important that we have them activated for community safety.

Director Robertson said that she would have to take her enquiry regarding the lighting and CCTV on notice.

GB24/24 Cr Samantha McIntosh

Cr McIntosh mentioned that she received the "Pocket Full Of Help" guide, which was produced by collaboration between a number of organisations including Saint Vincent de Paul Society Ballarat, Ballarat Foundation, and Central Highland Water. It contains a lot of information to assist those in need in Ballarat. She mentioned that St Vincent de Paul are offering food vouchers, as an example. Cr McIntosh added that it is an opportunity for people to go along and support what organisations are doing and offer to help. She thought that it was a beautiful item that should be put through the Chamber to be recognised for the organisations' great work. She noted that it's volunteer time and that volunteers in our community should be recognised. Cr McIntosh also received a letter along with the guide that asked for Council to stand by or possibly support their "Hall Full of Help" and requested this be passed to officers for consideration.

GB25/24 Cr Samantha McIntosh

Cr McIntosh stated that she was elected to the Board of the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) Victoria, which she described as a wonderful organisation. She noted current concerns reported across many municipalities around culture where, for example, some Councillors do not feel relaxed when coming into their Council Chamber and decide to be part of that forum in a different manner. She also mentioned that both ALGWA and MAV have documented and discussed the issue of disinformation and misinformation, which will be pertinent to the upcoming Council elections. Cr McIntosh added that it is important to be very aware when there are issues of poor culture in this Council Chamber. She highlighted the importance of having the right mechanisms in place to ensure there is not disinformation and misinformation coming from Council Chambers, nor from the community social media, which has been a problem in the past. Cr McIntosh is glad that she can represent the Ballarat community in ALGWA Victoria and she will ensure to bring back as much as possible.

GB26/24 Cr Samantha McIntosh

Cr McIntosh suggested that the Ballarat's rental e-scooters should be green since the bright orange is ugly. We have street furniture design guidelines that might be applicable. She raised the idea since it is worth having the conversation.

