

Leongatha RSL discusses possible land swap with Council

Last week representatives from Leongatha RSL briefed Council on the possibility of exchanging the current RSL site with the old Carino's site on the opposite side of Smith Street in Leongatha.

The Leongatha RSL already owns the old kindergarten site adjoining Carino's on the corner of Smith Street and Michael Place.

As the Leongatha RSL approaches its centenary it is considering a new development that requires more land than is available at its current site.

Leongatha RSL President, Steve Wisdom said that he was hopeful that Council would assist to facilitate the project. "This will be a significant investment, not just for the RSL, but for Leongatha as a whole.

"We are hoping that by providing a larger building with a new restaurant, accommodation and function centre that we will secure enough future income to continue to provide the RSL's vital charitable work. We also think that this sort of facility will change the nature of the way Leongatha sees itself into the future."

For the proposal to proceed Leongatha RSL requires an Agreement in Principle with Council. The Agreement will provide the process by which Council and the RSL will investigate the feasibility of the proposal.

Council will consider a report at its February meeting with a view to entering into such an Agreement.

Mayor of South Gippsland Shire, Cr Ray Argento was positive about the proposal. "This Council is very supportive of fostering economic development opportunities for the region, so from that perspective we were quite excited to hear about the Leongatha RSL's proposal. That said, we are the stewards of the community's assets, so Council will need to undertake its due diligence in evaluating the proposal - as will the RSL."

Details about the proposed Agreement will be included in the Council meeting agenda that will be available prior to the 22 February meeting. The report will include details about the public consultation process that would proceed any potential land swap.

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