



Somers Paper Nautilus

Inclusiveness and openness, catering for a diversity of views without rancour.

Special Edition October 2016

Council Elections October 2016

Welcome to this special edition of the *Somers Paper Nautilus* in which we invite candidates for the Red Hill Ward, in the Local Council Elections 2016, to speak to residents and ratepayers in the Westernport coastal villages.

The Red Hill Ward is the largest in the Mornington Peninsula Shire and is represented by a single councillor.

The Ward covers many villages and hamlets dotted along the coast and in the hinterland, with a variety of land uses ranging from residential,

retail, tourism and hospitality to farming and agriculture.

We decided it was important for residents and ratepayers in the Westernport coastal villages to hear the views of council candidates on issues relevant to this part of the Red Hill Ward. While each coastal village has its own identity, we are all located along Western Port Bay and we share many common needs and concerns that are specific to our coastal location. So we invited each of the six Red Hill Ward candidates to respond to four questions.

The candidates are:

- Neale Adams
- Roslyn Browning
- Tom Davies
- David Gill
- Esther Gleixner
- James Whelan

The four questions relate to:

Character of the coastal villages

Priorities and issues facing coastal villages

Consultation and how they will engage with the community if elected.

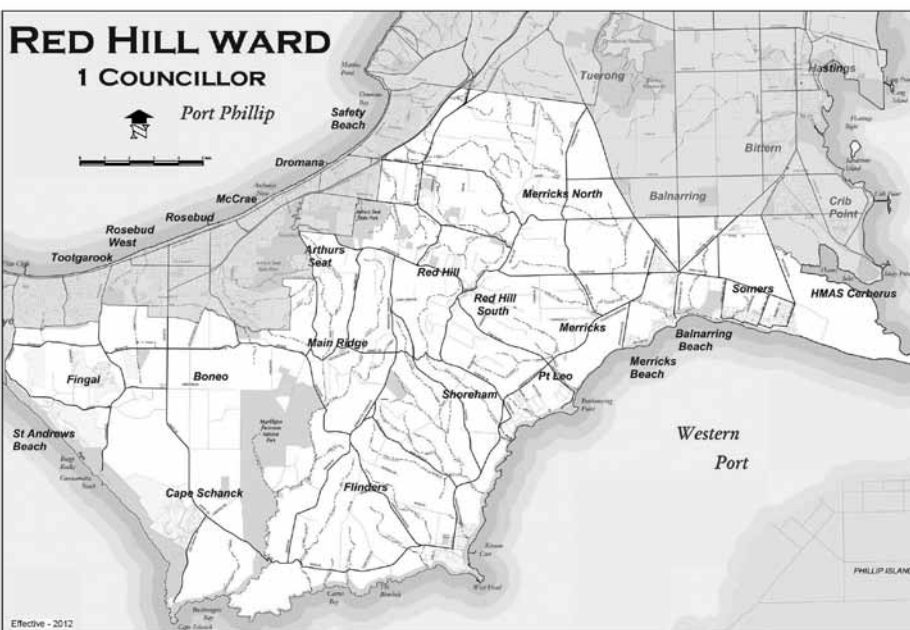
Spending by Council on the coastal villages

We allocated each candidate no more than 250 words in total for their response. This fixed word count is set to encourage answers that are specific, targeted and concise.

One candidate did not respond by the deadline set. However all six candidates were given the same opportunity to participate.

We hope you find this edition useful in gathering insights from candidates on some of the issues that are important to our coastal villages. We wish candidates luck in the coming election.

The editorial team at
Somers Paper Nautilus



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Our purpose

Somers Paper Nautilus aims to connect all the groups and individuals of Somers and to help reinforce a sense of community and belonging by giving them an avenue of expression.

The *Paper Nautilus* will not become involved in party politics nor take sides on any issue. However, we encourage readers to feel free to express their opinions on matters that concern them and the Somers community.

The volunteer editorial committee will have the final decision of the paper's content and reserves the right to edit or omit any item on legal grounds or because of space.

Views expressed in the *Paper Nautilus* are not necessarily shared by the editorial committee but are those of the authors. We aim for inclusiveness and openness, catering for a diversity of views without rancour.

Questions

1. Tell us your view of the top issues or priorities for Westernport coastal villages in the next five to ten years?
2. What is your view of 'urbanisation' in the Westernport coastal villages?
3. How will you consult with Westernport coastal village communities if you are elected?
4. How would you like Council spending to be prioritised for Westernport coastal villages? What do you see as key spending priorities?

Tom Davies

Q1. Westernport coastal villages are under threat from over development which risks the slightly isolated charm of the place. My priorities are to limit development to simple community needs such as the much awaited footpath in Somers. We also need to ensure that any developments has the correct amount of community facilities to cater for the growth.

Q2. Urbanisation risks defeating the reason many people choose to live around Westernport. Despite a national demand for low value housing, I believe that particular policies handed down from federal government create these needs and does not justify destroying our coastal area.

Q3. I am always open to receiving emails enquiring about council matters and will reply honestly and quickly. My Facebook page is regularly updated with council matters and I will engage in discussion with the local clubs.

Q4. First and foremost is the exposed aggregate footpath that the community of Somers has made clear that they need. Secondly, most of the roads toward Westernport face some of the worst neglect on the peninsula, a proper maintenance schedule has to be implemented for the sake of car damage and safety.

Roslyn Browning

Q1. I will be a strong voice for Red Hill Ward and will fight for the issues that you have told me are vitally important to our communities.

High on my list of priorities must be first and foremost ensuring that we move forward to a sustainable future with our unique environment protected from inappropriate development.

The character and ambience of our beautiful historic Westernport coastal villages must be properly recognised and protected from inappropriate development. I will be working hard to advocate for extensive community consultation for all council proposals that effect our beautiful villages and local lifestyles.

In the immediate future I will be addressing community concerns around the footpath works in Somers; including lack of community consultation, implementation of the special charges scheme and environmental impacts. Genuinely respecting community wishes, and complying with established overlays must underpin all council decisions.

I will lobby the State Government to improve public transport options for the Red Hill Ward providing better access to employment for locals and required services for older residents.

Q2. I would be opposed to our Westernport coastal villages taking on the characteristics of Melbourne. Any future housing or business growth in the Westernport coastal villages must be carefully considered within the context of recognising, preserving and enhancing their unique balance of character and lifestyle.

Q3. If elected, I will consult with Westernport coastal village communities via community meetings, regular public forums, council meetings, phone and email.

Q4. Enhancing and maintaining streetscapes, parks, roundabouts and public amenities. Heritage conservation projects.

David Gill

Q1. • The character of our coastal villages being ruined by insensitive developments

- Dangerous roads and intersections including the appalling 5 ways intersection
- Maintenance of our natural foreshore areas and reserves. This cannot all be left to our willing volunteers
- Upgrade community facilities
- Review the need for enforced user pays schemes

Q2. Our coastal villages are treated like suburbs by our Council and Councillors. Planning scheme special overlays need to be tightened and enforced to protect our villages from insensitive developments like the one being built at the Balnarring Village. Council initiated schemes should have the support of residents and should not affect the character of our villages.

Q3. I share information with representatives from all of our Red Hill Ward Community Associations, Somers to Flinders, and I will continue attending these formal monthly meetings which has been part of my role as President of the Balnarring Beach Community Association.

I already write about issues in community papers like The Nautilus and The Bridge and will continue to include my phone number - 0435260384 - and email address davidgill4redhillward@gmail.com as an avenue for feedback from all members of our coastal villages. I welcome your continued input.

Q4. Employ strategic planning officers to update planning scheme protective overlays and bring back the coastal villages study recently dumped by council

- Road maintenance and dangerous intersections
- Funding for foreshore and reserves upkeep
- Supporting grants for the Balnarring common and other valuable community initiatives
- Fire prevention measures
- Improve facilities for team sports and leisure activities for members of our community

Esther Gleixner

Q1. My vision for the Mornington Peninsula is to rival the world renown Lakes District in England which has successfully preserved its unspoilt natural beauty, with livability, compatible thriving local businesses, eco-tourism and local employment. Red Hill Ward with 50% of the Shire's rural area and coastline, is the key to the preservation of the whole peninsula. Providing strong representation in Council to protect our unique rural and marine environments, and beautiful coastal and rural villages for generations to come, will be one of my main priorities.

Q2. Council's Future Planning Document states it does not want to become suburbanized like Melbourne. I take this to mean rejecting inappropriate development proposals that are inconsistent with zoning protections, green wedges and the character of our coastal villages - and will be holding Council to it.

Q3.

- Listen and be available to talk to people
- Return calls and emails
- Meet with residents, ratepayers and community groups to continually be informed
- Continue the RAMS consultation group
- Provide regular Red Hill Ward updates on a Red Hill Ward Facebook page
- Submit regular reports to local Residents and Ratepayers Groups, and local newsletters such as "The Bridge" and "Nautilus" for distribution to the wider public.

Q4. Continuity on projects community groups have worked hard on and already have underway with Council would be a first priority. People clearly want our roads fixed and roundabouts at the Balnarring 5 Ways and Shands/Mornington Flinders Road Intersections, and a better return for our substantial rates contributions.

James Whelan

- Improved public transportation, we are seeing growth in permanent residents and need to ensure we are providing cost effective & time effective options for travel.
- Provide more outdoor public spaces/ facilitates to engage the community, ie; walking paths, cycling paths, bike/skate parks.
- Health services are often at peak even outside of the holiday seasons, we need to attract more providers.
- Retaining the village identity through a specific plan that recognises the organic growth in population and therefore need for improved services & facilities while incorporating guidelines to ensure all elements of the village remain. This would also address concerns with subdivisions and developments to ensure we are not at risk of becoming an urban suburb.
- Business & employment prospects, we need to encourage more opportunities for local employment to provide local career options.

Q2. We need to protect the 'village' sense of our communities. This means being mindful of building design, housing density, vegetation, traffic impacts and even protecting local business from major operators.

Q3. Initially, a monthly meeting with a representative from each area/committee and review upon consultation. In addition, I will provide opportunities for residents to meet one on one.

Q4. I believe in the past the Westernport villages have come second, in attention and funding, to other wards such as Nepean as the council has chased the tourist dollar. I would like to see more funding towards services & facilities for residents & I would seek feedback from the community as to the priorities.

Don't forget back issues of the *Nautilus* are available for viewing at www.somers-nautilus.org.au



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