

Kim Turner <yasskim@gmail.com>
To: John Connelly
Tue, 16 Nov at 16:04

Dear John

Always happy to hear from you.

As usual a searching, probing questionnaire to which I will try to provide suitable response.

1, I have been a member of the Yass Valley Community for 56 odd years. I had the opportunity to settle almost anywhere in the world given my childhood history and I chose Yass! It has been very good to me and now is an opportune moment to repay what I consider my “debt of gratitude” to that community before I am too old to do so.

2, I can't prioritise your selection as I believe they are of equal importance to any prospective Councillor and I have an inherent distrust of “single issue” or politically motivated candidates. Neither of which, needless to say, am I!

3, Perhaps the most important relationship of all. Important issues, like your environmental example, require the best possible contemporary advice which may or may not be within the scope of current staff. We should never be averse to seeking expert opinion where necessary. The ultimate decision of course devolves on us as Councillors and consensus is always the best result.

4, Probably the most contentious issue in your part of the world. My position is well known to those who follow Council meetings and I still struggle with the solutions attempted thus far.

As far as “pros” are concerned probably the only redeeming case that warrants such large loads of fill are well planned and designed soil conservation projects to repair the ravages of earlier disastrous decisions made by landholders.

5, “Cons” include (in no particular order) weed contamination and other biosecurity issues, potential chemical/asbestos contamination, road damage, damage to social amenity and neighbourhood relationships, vehicle safety, cycle safety, pedestrian safety, and potential environmental damage like runoff and further erosion. The additional costs to Council in road maintenance is massive and a constant drain on resources required for the 1200 kilometres under our control. Cost recovery will remain an aspiration I'm afraid for the time being.

6, Clearly the ACT have a cost structure for disposal that puts a large financial incentive to drive over the border. Their business case appears to be “out of sight is out of mind” and negotiations with the ACT Government have proved largely ineffectual thus far. While ever landholders are being offered financial gain by accepting landfill Council will be faced by ever more imaginative applications to take the spoil and I suspect it will consume more and more of valuable time in the forthcoming 3 year term of the new Council.

7, The first step toward compliance has been taken with an Officer included in the budget. However it is a fine line to provide the financial incentive necessary to curtail the current practices, which in many cases merely provoke proliferation of illegal dumping. Police are really only interested in vehicle violations and the cost of pursuing legal action, let alone the collection of sufficient evidence to so do, will ensure the compliance officers days will be well filled in your part of the world.

Probably not what you want to hear but we have made a start and I hope your community appreciates what I have tried to do thus far.

Please consider returning me to continue that task!

Thanks and all the best

Kim

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows