

From: [Governance](#)
To: [Governance](#)
Subject: RE: Council Meeting Today - Agenda Item 8.2
Date: Friday, 10 December 2021 11:20:38 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 December 2021 9:17 AM
To: Lisa Miscamble <Lisa.Miscamble@wsc.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: interim admin <interim.admin@wsc.nsw.gov.au>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Council Meeting Today - Agenda Item 8.2

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Dear Ms Miscamble

I refer to Agenda Item 8.2 - Southern Highlands Bridge Club - Request for Financial Assistance

On behalf of the members of our club I wish to express my bitter disappointment after reading this agenda item and its recommendations.

Firstly, some communication from a WSC officer this week to give me a 'heads up' as to what would actually be in the paper and its recommendations would have been an example of good practice in working **with** the community.

Secondly, regardless of whether or not the previous administration followed due process, **I have never been advised that our funding was not approved by the Council Meeting on 10 March 2021.** (I have attached email correspondence from the CFO Richard Mooney and Damien Jenkins, most recently on 28 May this year to the contrary.) The CFO at the time certainly believed that the former Council did approve the funding at the meeting (at which he was present). We have continued to progress our clubhouse project on the understanding that funding was approved, which is why we put in many hours and allocated funding into preparing and submitting a development application. Was someone intending to advise me that the funding was not in fact approved in March prior to the meeting today? The last time [REDACTED] and I met with Mr Mooney and Mr Jenkins, (May or June this year), it was agreed that a revised repayment schedule would be drawn up to better reflect the stages of the building process, and would not commence until we were ready to start building.

Thirdly, the agenda item states that *'SHBC has indicated, however, that they are not prepared to sign a formal loan agreement that would commit future boards to the ongoing repayments'*. I have no recollection of giving any indication to that effect, and I believe it is quite incorrect.

The agenda paper also refers to the SHBC DA. Following its initial approval by Council's Development Assessment Planner, it was considered by the newly formed Planning Panel (WLPP) which granted deferred development consent. Four conditions needed to be met to satisfy Council and receive consent to proceed. Evidence to that effect was provided to Council in early November following consultation with WSC Heritage as requested by the WLPP. I have written twice to the WSC Planning area seeking feedback on our submitted evidence. I have not received a reply to either email.

We have not given any statement to radio station 2ST which called yesterday asking for comment. At that time I had not seen the agenda paper and was very surprised to be told of the call. However I do need to report to SHBC members on Saturday at our AGM.

During the last four years we have worked collaboratively and in good faith with WSC officers, complying with all requests. We have employed an architect, a surveyor, a traffic engineer and a number of other professionals, attended countless meetings, written submissions and reports, and given presentations and briefings, not to mention the amount of email correspondence, the man-hours or the financial outlay. All to achieve a designated bridge hub for the Southern Highlands community. Recommendation 2 in agenda paper 8.2 would take us right back to the frustrating activity members of the club undertook during the ten years prior to 2008 - without success.

I trust you will give due consideration to my initial response on reading the agenda item this morning and act accordingly in good faith.

Yours sincerely

Craig Curry - SHBC President