

Arrowtown Village Association – Submission to Queenstown Lakes District Council Annual Plan – April 2020

The Arrowtown Village Association (AVA) is a volunteer-run incorporated society that represents the views of residents to local, regional and national government. We take up issues of public interest and work to improve and develop new amenities to meet the needs of the growing and diverse community in Arrowtown.

The AVA was selected by Shaping our Future (SOF) as the Arrowtown group to act as guardians of the SOF Arrowtown final report and utilises the report as the guiding principal of the Arrowtown community and its aspirations. Intensive community input was undertaken to formulate the report which was finalised in 2018.

The AVA collaborates with the Arrowtown Promotion and Business Association (APBA) on some items and agrees with aspects of their projects, and vice versa in that the APBA has supported the AVA on some of its work and representations:

- ∞ The difference in representation is important in that the AVA represents the Arrowtown community in its entirety whilst the APBA has a strong commercial focus on behalf of its members
- ∞ The AVA supports the CBD plan put forward by the APBA, and strongly requests that council proceeds with assistance to ensure implementation

Please note we submitted the following for the 2019/20 Annual Plan, and await update on status and on-going progress in relation to our critical requests:

- ∞ Parks and reserves: on-going maintenance and improvement of reserves is vital to the wellbeing of the community
 - ***Specifically we request timely improvement to the Library Green occurs in the form of grass improvement and aesthetics. A request that \$25,000 annually is allocated.***
 - ***Specifically we request urgent remediation/restoration work is completed on the Butlers Green retaining wall, beneath Buckingham Street. A request of initially \$50,000 be allocated for council to undertake a heritage report and restoration cost analysis.***
 - *Upon further consideration the AVA currently considers that \$50,000 should more than adequately cover any analysis report. However, on-going strengthening, restoration and maintenance is required and will require annual budget costings.*

2020/21 Annual Plan

The AVA requests the following be considered within the 2020/21 Annual Plan. Whilst acknowledging the current Covid19 situation is placing uncertainty on the whole region, the following requests are directly related to our residential community wellbeing which we consider vital.

The guiding aim of the SOF report is:

A vibrant, diverse community that is pro-active in managing its future in a way that values and sustainably protects its heritage, character, lifestyle and the natural environment

Community Vision:

Community spirit is at the heart and soul of Arrowtown. Our community enjoys a safe, accessible town that encourages us to connect as we live, work and play. We feel a sense of belonging, share common values, support and care about each other and are proud to live here. Visitors are welcomed and embraced.

The following are requested

- ∞ SOF Community recommendation includes: “QLDC undertakes a mapping exercise to identify needs for pathways, bike stands, walking strips and lower speed limits with input from the community”
 - Whilst acknowledging that lower speed limits have been implemented, and a shared use zone proposed under the APBA CBD plan, we would like to see the exercise implemented for a study on pathways, bike stands and walking strips.
 - With our change in demographics an assessment of village accessibility is needed. Increased use of cycles has raised the need for strategic bike parking. An increased maintenance/surface standard requirement for existing pathways is also apparent.
 - **Request \$10,000 be allocated for this study with an annual increase in maintenance provision**
- ∞ A major role of the AVA in our support of our community is communication. Currently we are being denied the opportunity to allocate QLDC annual funding to our communication project of keeping our community informed. The AVA does not have funding available to continue this vital service on an on-going basis.
 - The residential population and demographics of Arrowtown has changed over recent years
 - The AVA has increased its role of information provision by both regular membership communications, all community media drops and social media. This is outside the scope of volunteers and contractors are engaged for this project.
 - Previously some of our annual QLDC funds were able to be provided to community events/projects but are no longer able to due to our communications commitments
 - **Request that the annual \$5000 grant be allowed to include our community communications contract**
 - **Request that our annual grant be increased by a minimum 50% to fully cover our communications and allow some community group project funding, based on merit. This request is based on the increase in permanent population over recent years and increasing demand for our core AVA information and community representation role. (No increase in funding to the AVA has occurred for a number of years, and we would respectively suggest funding is now out of balance with our community population and also the rating base due to increased dwellings)**
- ∞ Highlighted by the current Covid19 situation, but advising of our pre-existing discussions with the Kelvin Heights Community Association as they develop a system, we
 - **Request that QLDC staff input is available as required for the establishment of a Community Emergency Response Plan**

The AVA respectively requests that our views are considered in the QLDC Annual Plan as it is finalised. We would welcome the opportunity to speak to our submission. A speaking slot consecutive with the Arrowtown Promotion and Business Association would be appreciated.

Noel Beggs
Chairperson
Arrowtown Village Association
April 2020