Flagstone group forms

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FLAGSTONE residents could soon have a place to go with their concerns thanks to a group of locals who have mobilised to form a community association.

The decision to form an association was taken at a meeting on the grounds of Flagstone State Community College last Tuesday.

A wide crosssection of local stakeholders were in attendance with the common goal of serving the interests of Flagstone and in the future.

Developers, pastors, residents, academics and school leaders were all in the mix and together, they produced a unanimous verdict in favour of an association.

The meeting was spearheaded by David Pohlman, an academic and former chaplain at the school.

Mr Pohlman and his team of research colleagues have been studying the area since 2006 when they surveyed the needs of the community.

In 2009, a meeting was held with 10 community leaders who supported the idea of a community association.

In 2010, residents met again on March 26.

The group is planning to meet again on March 26.

Isolation concerns residents

WHILE crime and antisocial behaviour were mentioned by Flagstone residents at a community meeting last week, loneliness and isolation emerged as more prominent concerns.

Finding a central location for the proposed community association was also discussed. About 20 residents attended the meeting and were invited to make their individual concerns public.

“The issue that affects me most is that I am very conscious of isolation of older people,” Bev Mortensen said.

“This is a new area for most of us and there is no focal point for social activity.

“I think a community association should offer the prospect of a venue for community activities.”

Flagstone Community College principal Jude Fox and state school principal Dr Joe Goodall said they would be happy to make school facilities available.

Another comment about isolation came from Gerry Unwin who has experienced problems with hoons.

“It is such a big area and I can see the avenue I live in going downhill so fast but I feel I’m the only voice ringing the council, I’ve given up ringing the police, but I know I’m not the only one,” she said.

Meeting coordinator David Pohlman said forming a community association would go a long way toward uniting all of the voices throughout Flagstone.

Improving communication between neighbours was also discussed with residents encouraged to stay in touch with the neighbourhood watch.

Pat Hills said life in Flagstone could be ‘desperately lonely’ for older people.

-Jane Forrest, John Fronis and Tanya Euler discuss their concerns for Flagstone at the community meeting.

Flagstone developer MTAA was represented by Matt Levido who said he would be happy to support the association financially or otherwise.

Bob Wiley, Michael and Pat Hills, Jane Forrest, Gary Noble, John Fronis, Gerry Unwin, Bev Mortensen, Tanya Euler and Bill Mathers were chosen to be on a steering committee for the group.

The group is planning to meet again on March 26.

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JIMBOOMBA TIMES, Wednesday, March 10, 2010 – 3