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Priorities moving forward

The Mayor of Gawler, Karen Redman, and the newly elected Council are thinking about the future.

Mayor Redman said that “The new Council has been sworn in and now it’s down to business. Since Council’s first meeting in November, following the 2018 local government election, Council is starting to think about the future. Council met on 4 December 2018 for a workshop to start to prepare the 2019/20 budget and I want you to think about what is important moving forward.”

As with all such budget deliberations the medium to long term community priorities need to be considered equally as what are some of the more immediate actions to be addressed. Mayor Redman has started to reflect on both her own thoughts but also feedback from the community on what will be some of the priorities over the coming years.

Mayor Redman goes on to say “2019 will see the continuation of an exciting period of growth and change in the Gawler area. Many decisions will need to be made and everyone’s contributions will be sought to make sure when Council decides on key matters that it understands key community points of interest. I ask that as you and your family when enjoying the start of the New Year that you reflect and discuss what you want Council to focus on. Then it’s a matter of getting involved over the next 3-6 months as Council seeks community input into its updated 10 year Long Term Financial Plan and annual budget for 2019/20 budget”.

Mayor Redman further reflects as she enters 2019 on the daily tasks when considering matters that have immediate impacts on the community. Importantly Karen is also mindful of driving initiatives that will influence all of the community in the coming decades.

Mayor Redman presents some of her initial ideas below relative to what she thinks will be important but exciting challenges and opportunities that Council will need to address in 2019 and beyond:

- Identity – Southern rural area. What will come of this rural area? Does the community wish to maintain its identity as a separate community to northern metropolitan Adelaide. Or should this area be rezoned to allow more land division for either rural living or new housing estates?
- Identity – Heritage – As the State Government changes the planning system how hard do we fight to protect what is dear to my, and I’m sure many of your, hearts in protecting our past and our heritage. Gawler is founded on its strong history that continues today as reflected in our historic suburbs and buildings.
- Growth – We are one of the fastest growing communities in the State. This brings many challenges. This growth cannot be at the expense of serving existing communities.
- Boundary reform – Hewett is on our door step but is part of the Light Regional Council. Its residents are for all intense and purposes part of the Gawler community. They use our roads, our reserves, our library, our pool etc. We welcome the residents, but should they



be part of Gawler? Concordia will be rezoned in the coming years and create a new community of some 20,000 people. Let's not create another Hewett.

- Creating community – it's the human aspect of a community which creates ownership and friendship. How best can we bring people and community together? Let's be creative and be a happier and stronger community. Events, volunteering, supporting community and sporting groups. These are some ways we build and create who we are.
- Back to basics – the community is saying that we need to get back to Roads, Rates and Rubbish. Cost of living demands that Council rates need to be kept low and we need to function within our means.
- Environment – Effort needs to be directed at helping the environment for future generations by using more sustainable power and water supplies. These and such other initiatives will also reduce costs.

Mayor Karen Redman asks the question, is it these future challenges that should form the focus of the newly elected Council or are there others that you think should be considered as your Council works towards creating the best possible Gawler for today's and future generations? Take time at the start of the New Year to consider your contribution to your community.

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