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# Club's future secure as village approved

## \$30m project gets green light from council

**TOM GILLESPIE**  
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THE Toowoomba Golf Club is celebrating after a controversial retirement village proposal designed to secure its long-term viability was given the green light by the council.

Councillors voted unanimously yesterday to approve the 78-unit facility on Rowbotham St in Middle Ridge, a move that one resident said "made a mockery of the planning scheme."

The club will partner with village operators Blue Sky to deliver the \$30 million proposal, which will be built next to the club house in the northern corner of the course.

Golf club general manager Johnathon Zirkler said the golf club's viability relied on the approval of the village.

"It certainly would've required making some hard choices in the future, so at all stages it would've been a dis-



**GREEN LIGHT:** Toowoomba Golf Club treasurer Time Davis (right) and Mark Hosking from Blue Sky were happy to see the club's \$30 million retirement village proposal approved by the council. Photo: Bev Lacey

cussion point (without an approval)," he said.

Blue Sky development manager Mark Hosking said construction would start within six months.

More than 50 residents opposed the development, citing its conflict with the council's planning scheme, impacts on

neighbours and the clearing of trees.

Rowbotham St resident Greg Gola said the approval of four-storey units near a rural residential zone would offer problems to the council in the future.

"If you can put four-storey buildings here, you can them

anywhere in Toowoomba," he said.

This was disputed by development services manager Danielle Fitzpatrick.

Tony and Mandy Mott, who will live just 10 metres from dozens of new neighbours, said they were considering legal action.

## Appeal to find Toowoomba man

**TARA MIKO**  
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POLICE are investigating possible sightings of a Toowoomba man reported missing from the Sunshine Coast.

Brendan Blatchly, 50, is believed to have been involved in a police incident at Caloundra on Monday night, and has not been seen since.

Caloundra police Officer-in-Charge Senior Sergeant John Mahony said investigations were continuing, including validating sightings from around the area yesterday.

"We are conducting further inquiries (yesterday) in relation to Mr Blatchly," he said.



**MISSING:** Brendan Blatchly, 50. Photo: QPS

"We are investigating a couple of sightings but they are yet to be confirmed."

Snr Sgt Mahony said Mr Blatchly was involved "in an incident with police" on Monday night, but was unable to release details except that the

East Toowoomba man allegedly "threatened violence".

"Police would be advising members of the public not to approach him," he said.

"We are not aware of any intelligence he is armed."

"We have had two members of the public attend Caloundra police station with information regarding that individual."

He said police were yet to determine why Mr Blatchly was on the Sunshine Coast.

Mr Blatchly is described as 176cm tall and has a proportionate build with short brown hair and hazel eyes.

Phone Policelink on 131 444 or a local station with any information.

## McVeigh's decisions unknown in party spill

**TOBI LOFTUS**  
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GROOM MP John McVeigh is believed to have voted for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull during the Liberal Party meeting on Monday, despite earlier reports he voted for Peter Dutton.

Both Sky News and the Sydney Morning Herald reported the Toowoomba-based MP supported the Prime Minister in the Monday morning vote.

Earlier it was believed he had voted for Peter Dutton, but Canberra reporters from a



## Briefs

### Picnic Point fire

QUEENSLAND Fire and Emergency Services were last night monitoring a bushfire which broke out near Tobruk Memorial Dr at Picnic Point yesterday morning. The fire started about 9.40am and was burning within containment lines with no threat to property. Toowoomba Regional Council fire crews were on scene monitoring and strengthening containment lines. QFES advised residents may be affected by smoke.

### Stolen trailer

POLICE are appealing for help recovering a trailer stolen from outside a Drayton home between 8.15am and 12.45pm on Monday, August 13. The car carrier trailer, made by Trailers Down Under, was stolen from Cambooya St. The grey trailer has an electric winch attached and registration plates 59IUFG. Phone Policelink on 131 444 with information.

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