

Boroondara BUG Meeting, Wednesday 16th December

Function Room, Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

MINUTES

Attendance and Apologies

Present: David Farrow, Julia Blunden, Gordon Macmillan, Ric de France, Glennys Jones (Chair), John Parker, Graham Ellis, Mark Haywood, Peter Carter,

Apologies: Philip Mallis, David Leong, Mal Faul, John Parker

Correspondence:

In

- Sundry emails from Manningham and Banyule BUGs including meeting minutes and notices of rides
- Sundry commercial offers
- Letter from Jim Hondrakis re lapse of Bicycle Advisory Committee due to lack of a councillor nominee (see New Business 1)

Out

- Letter to Bicycle Network re inadequacy of their handling of Walmer St issue (Need to follow this up as no response from Gary Brennan as yet)

Matters Arising:

- 1. Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** David Farrow raised the issue of a possible bridge over Elgar Rd in Box Hill which would form part of this. Glennys Jones stressed the importance of having this project included in the Council Plan. If Union Rd and Mont Albert Rd are included in the next batch of level crossing removals this may provide opportunities for getting sections of the trail built.
- 2. Darebin-Yarra Link:** Drone footage was circulated to BBUG members showing considerable progress with work on the last stage. David Hall reported that he has asked Tracey Gosby to arrange access for the viewing of works.
- 3. North East Bicycle Corridor:** The possibility of commissioning drone footage of the route to be used as a means of building wider public support for the project. Julia Blunden agreed to contact Graeme Martin, convenor of the Community Coalition for the Darebin-Yarra link about this, referring him to Peter Carter for details. Glennys Jones noted that the new Yarra Council can be expected to be supportive of this project as well as Banyule Mayor, Tom Melican. A meeting with the new Yarra Mayor, Amanda Stone, was suggested. **David Farrow** agreed to contact Troy Parsons about this and **Julia Blunden** agreed to contact Steve Roberts, another Yarra resident.
- 4. Stonnington Matters:** Glennys Jones reported that Brixton Rise had made her Bike Ed school ride a real pleasure, and that there's now a café there. Work on realignment of the Gardiners Creek Trail under High St should start around Easter.
- 5. Jacka Trail/North Balwyn Leisure Trail:** Nil to report

6. **Missing Link in Anniversary Shared Trail at Camberwell High:** Graham Ellis again raised the planned arrangements for cars turning from Spencer Rd into the proposed new car park, which he believes can be improved. It was agreed that this is not a matter for the BUG but that Graham is free to pursue it as a private individual.
7. **Review of Victorian Cycling Related Road Rules:** Nil to report.
8. **Chandler Hwy Bridge:** Nil to report.
9. **Level crossing removals:** David Hall reported that the Bayswater removal is nearly complete. Long shutdowns are planned for the Blackburn and Heatherdale removals. There is 75% public acceptance of the Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail.
10. **Minimum Passing Distance Law:** Glennys Jones reported that the Amy Gillett Foundation met with Luke Donnellan about this. We may need to fight proposed conditions such as riding single file and moving aside at intersections.
11. **Council Elections:** Julia Blunden has not written to the new councilors as yet because of the issue with the BAC – See New Business.
12. **Tacks on Kew Boulevard:** Tacking continues. A new issue has arisen – a proposal to use the government land at *1 Yarra Boulevard* for a garden supplies business. This will not only mean more trucks using the Boulevard which is highly undesirable, but eliminates the opportunity for a potentially vital link between enormous tracts of Melbourne parkland. There is now a change.org petition against this and **individual members** also need to lodge objections.
13. **Web Site and Twitter Account:** Ric de France reported that the Twitter account now has 91 followers and he does 2 to 3 tweets per day, some original and some retweets. He advised that Twitter works best on a smart phone.
14. **Lennox St East:** No progress.
15. **Box Hill to Ringwood Trail:** See also item 9. Most of Blackburn Rd to Ringwood will be done as part of grade separations. The Blackburn Rd to Middleborough Rd sections is still in limbo.
16. **Capital City Trail at Rushall:** David Hall reported that the alternative route that was on the Eddington Plan and that he favours is now on ARUP's excellent Northern Councils Strategy Plan.
17. **Walmer St:** See item 7 in the minutes of the Yarra Council meeting held on 22/11. The working group has proposed that the term 'plaza' be dropped from the plans and that the name Walmer Street retained in view of its significance as a transport corridor. John Parker suggested that Cameron Munro should be involved in the planning as the cycling expert. It was agreed that the BUG take no further action at present.
18. **Bike Repair Stations:** Nil to report.
19. **California Inn Site:** Nil to report.
20. **What Should We Do with the BUG's Money?** No suggestions were forthcoming.
21. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Mal Faul was not present and had not provided a report.

New Business

- 1. Lapse of Bicycle Advisory Committee:** This is the result of a failure of any councilor in the new council to volunteer to be on the committee. It was agreed that Julia Blunden should ring Jim Hondrakis to discuss this. We agreed that it is important that meetings should be scheduled to a regular timetable as they have been, and that Jim should be asked whether councilors are still able to nominate. **Julia** agreed to draft a letter to go to councilors, to alert them to the BUG's existence and purpose and to urge them to consider nominating for the BAC. The looming expiry of the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy should also be mentioned.
- 2. Proposed Community Garden on Outer Circle Trail at cnr Earl St and Willsmere Rd:** It was agreed that while speaking with Jim Hondrakis **Julia** should query VicRoads' funding of \$80,000 to relocate a path that is in good condition while other sections sorely in need of repair, eg east of Belford Rd alongside the golf course, are neglected.
- 3. Bayswater to Lilydale Trail:** not discussed.

Other Business

- 1. Boroondara Bicycle Strategy:** It was noted that this expires in 2018 so 2017 is vital in terms of developing its successor. Council's 10 year Strategic Plan overlaps. The first step is to identify how much of the current strategy has been completed and how much remains to be done.
- 2. Provision of Bike Parking in Apartment Blocks:** David Farrow argued that more bike parking spaces need to be mandated in areas close to good cycling routes. **David** offered to write to BN about this issue.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th February, subject to availability of the function room.

Notes by Julia Blunden