

Boroondara BUG Meeting, 7.00pm, Wednesday 11th April 2018
Function Room, Elgin Inn, Cnr Burwood Rd and Elgin St Hawthorn

Minutes

Present: David Hall, Peter Carter, Glennys Jones (Chair), Gordon Macmillan, Julia Blunden, Mark Haywood, David Farrow, Ric de France, Ed Hore (Cycle Alliance)

Apologies: Mal Faul, Graham Ellis, John Parker, David Leong, Ken Parker

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Accepted

Correspondence:

In

- Sundry emails from Manningham, Banyule and Glen Eira BUGs including meeting minutes and notices of rides
- Sundry commercial offers
- Email notice about Chandler Hwy closures
- Email from Philip Mallis, Darebin Transport Planner, re review of their Open Spaces Strategy

Out

Matters arising

1. **Darebin – Yarra Link:** The grand opening on Sunday 25th March at Sparks Reserve was attended by hundreds of cyclists and walkers. David Farrow has undertaken a number of counts since the opening and reported that the link is being well-used. Glennys Jones reported receiving an enquiry about the Farm Road access which is still to be constructed. It was agreed that she should provide the enquirer with the email addresses of Graeme Martin and James Thyer as the two members of the Community Coalition most involved in this project.

ACTION ITEM: Glennys Jones to provide email addresses

2. **North Eastern Bicycle Corridor and North East Link:** There is now an option to register online and ask questions. See <https://jointheconversation.northeastlink.vic.gov.au/> Peter Carter, now the BBUG rep on the NELA Southern Liaison Group, emphasised that, though NELA accepts the NEBC in principal, it has not agreed to any particular route as yet. Bus lanes on the Eastern Fwy from Doncaster may preclude the BUG's preferred route. Glennys Jones stressed the importance of pushing for universal design standards for new paths. David Hall reported that NELA is drawing up terms of reference for an Active Transport Group, which will focus on the southern end of NELA. Peter Carter said he would seek clarification on this. Glennys Jones also raised the issue of the Belford Rd underpass.

ACTION ITEM: Peter Carter to enquire about Active Transport Group

3. **Chandler Hwy Bridge:** Two of the four centre spans are now in place with two more to be installed soon. However some piers are still to be done. Peter Carter emphasised the importance of BBUG engagement in cycling aspects of the project and David Hall urged maintaining contact with Graeme Martin. Glennys Jones has been pushing for improvements to Outer Circle Trail south of the Chandler Hwy, but these are now in question due to plans for widening the Eastern Fwy.

ACTION ITEMS

- Glennys Jones will maintain contact with Sasha Yarwood on works south of Chandler Hwy

- Peter Carter and David Hall will visit VicRoads in Footscray.
4. **Promotion of BBUG at council run cycle courses etc:** Flyers have now been delivered to Nellie Montague for distribution.
 5. **Need for a Formal BUG Committee:** The subcommittee has had its first meeting and another is planned for Tuesday 17/4. Mark Haywood said he hopes the subcommittee will be ready to report back to the June BBUG meeting. However the crunch point will come when the attempt is made to fill positions on the new committee.
 6. **Stonnington Matters:** Nil to report.
 7. **Jacka Trail:** Peter Carter reported that he has heard that the Balwyn Rd pedestrian crossing is to go ahead.
 8. **Missing link in Anniversary Trail at Camberwell High:** This was raised at the last Council catch up. It appears that there is no firm date for this project to proceed. It is being held up by the need both for the land swap and for state government funding. It was agreed that the BUG should approach the local member, John Pesutto to see if he can help expedite this.

ACTION ITEM: Julia Blunden to write to John Pesutto about the need to complete this project, and linking it to the Darebin –Yarra link

9. **Web Site and Twitter Account** – Ric de France reported that he has made some changes to the web site including changing the background colour from green to white. Ed Hore explained that overseas cycle advocates look to Australia, and that this probably explains the number of overseas people watching our Twitter account.
10. **Walmer St Bridge:** Glennys Jones reported that the community group have a meeting on 26/4 which she will attend. However she emphasised that BBUG doesn't necessarily support a complete new bridge. Ed Hore was unaware of Boroondara Council plans for replacing the land bridge and access path on the northern side of the bridge.

ACTION ITEM: Glennys Jones to send Council's plans to Ed Hore

11. **Boroondara Bicycle Strategy:** BUG members at the recent Council Catch Up meeting learned that the current plan is for the existing Bike Strategy to be extended until the end of 2019 when the new strategy should be complete. A consultant will be engaged and there will be public consultation. There was agreement that Council has been tardy in moving on this. Ed Hore pointed out that active transport strategies are always delayed and expressed the view that our new strategy is likely to be an active transport strategy rather than a bicycle strategy. It was agreed that enquiries should be made as to whether this is the case and about the proposed timeline. An offer to help should be included as well.

ACTION ITEMS: Julia Blunden to email Jonathan Florent, cc To Clare Davey

12. **Glass Creek Trail:** - Nil to report.
13. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** Glennys Jones reported that Council is currently planning a Cookson Street Improvement Project. As Cookson St could well be a part of the HTBHT BUG members should have a look at this and consider providing feedback along the lines that cycle access through this street is very important. See <https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/about-council/have-your-say/all-consultations/cookson-street-camberwell>

- 14. Heritage Bluestone Guttering:** BUG members at the Council Catch Up met David Horseman of Asset Management who is overseeing the revision of Council policy on this. He was receptive to our views on the need to consider the needs of cyclists as well as heritage. Glennys Jones alerted him to the need for smooth crossings at pram ramps, not just for cyclists but for all wheels. The subject of laneways was also raised. The BUG view is that many lanes could be more useful for active transport if there were a smooth section down the centre of the bluestone.
- 15. Council Catch up Meeting:** Apart from issues already covered, there was discussion of Road Safety for Seniors programs. Glennys Jones urged that opportunities should be provided for seniors to try e-bikes as these may be a very good option for them, offering a safe way to access local facilities.
- 16. Victorian BUGs Meeting – New Venue:** Ed Hore recommended Dan O’Connell’s, 225 Canning St, Carlton as a good option. They are keen to support cycle advocacy.
- 17. Treasurer’s report – Malcolm Faul:** Mal was not present and had not provided a report.

New Business

- 1. Possibility of BBUG becoming a chapter of Cycling Alliance:** Ric de France explained that Mark Haywood’s move to formalise the BUG’s structure had suggested this idea to him. He invited Ed Hore to speak about Cycle Alliance. Ed related how subsequent to his setting up a Facebook page about the lack of support he experienced after a cycle crash, Cycle Alliance has experienced rapid growth. It is now incorporated with six directors, three men and three women. It has about 30,000 supporters, which include all types of riders. CA is a non-partisan, non-militant lobby group. Ed claimed that CA has achieved significant change in the way media reports cycle issues. Some of their current projects include pushing footpath riding for over 12s, opposing the narrowing of Beach Rd and opposing compulsory helmet wearing. CA works with 175-200 groups but there are no formal membership requirements. Their only rule is that if a group wishes to reference CA in a communication this must be approved by CA. It was agreed that any decision on forming a relationship with CA should wait until the conclusion of Mark Haywood’s subcommittee’s work.

Other Business

- 1. TAC Excess Removal:** Glennys Jones reported that there is no longer an excess for TAC claims. This means that more cycle crashes, those involving relatively minor injuries, will now result in claims which will then enter TAC statistics, leading to a more accurate picture.
- 2. Wilson Reserve Trail:** David Farrow outlined his idea for a trail linking the path on the right bank of the Yarra downstream of the Burke Rd footbridge through to the new Darebin-Yarra link. While many present could see the merit in such a proposal, as the path would not be in Boroondara it was agreed that the BUG would not take this up as a project.

Notes by Julia Blunden

Next meeting: Wednesday 9th May? subject to availability of function room