

Boroondara BUG Meeting, Wednesday 12th October

Function Room, Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

MINUTES

Attendance and Apologies

Present: David Farrow, Julia Blunden, Gordon Macmillan, Ric de France, Glennys Jones (Chair), Mark Haywood, Clive Lewis, Rus Hamilton, Graham Ellis

Apologies: David Leong, Peter Carter, John Parker, Mal Faul, Ken Parker,

Correspondence:

In

- Sundry emails from Manningham and Banyule BUGs including meeting minutes and notices of rides
- Sundry commercial offers
- Email from Nellie Montague about free cycling courses

Out

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** David Farrow raised the issue of cycle routes from the north side of the Lynch St underpass. It is unclear from the BAC minutes whether the boom gate blocking access to the west has gone permanently. Access to the east is messy with dilapidated terraces and an intermittently locked gate.
2. **Darebin-Yarra Link:** It appears that markers have been removed from Willsmere Park, but the general view is that VicRoads will manage very well in spite of this. David Farrow reported that he had attended a Lighter Footprints meeting at which most Boroondara councillors were present. Cr Judith Voce was very critical of plans for a sealed path through Willsmere Park.
3. **North East Bicycle Corridor:** Nil to report
4. **Stonnington Matters:** Nil to report
5. **Jacka Trail/North Balwyn Leisure Trail:** Nil to report.
6. **Missing Link in Anniversary Shared Trail at Camberwell High:** It was noted that Prospect Hill Rd, approaching the centre refuge where the AT crosses, is our number one priority for the installation of sharrows. Members were urged to think about other locations where sharrows have the potential to make cyclists safer, and to let the BUG know.
7. **Review of Victorian Cycling Related Road Rules:** Glennys Jones expressed the view that VicRoads are very timid when it comes to changing these.
8. **Chandler Hwy Bridge:** The latest issue to surface regarding this project relates to the VicRoads proposal to demolish the cantilevered section on the west side of the historic bridge which is currently used by cyclists and pedestrians, but which will be superfluous when the historic bridge becomes a shared path. Purists maintain that the bridge has been classified in its current form and the cantilever is part of this.

9. **Level crossing removals:** Glennys Jones reported that she is making progress with her proposal for a new crime to cover both the laying of tacks as on the Kew Boulevard, and the throwing of objects onto roads or rail lines from bridges. She has a second meeting with local MP John Pesutto scheduled and is hoping to get a Bicycle Network representative to attend this meeting.
10. **Minimum Passing Distance Law:** Glennys Jones reported that she is concerned that this will be watered down somewhat, with no minimum passing distance mandated through intersections and restrictions placed on cyclists' right to ride two abreast.
11. **Council Elections:** It was agreed that a letter from the BUG should go out to successful candidates explaining who we are and inviting them to attend one of our meetings so we can brief them on issues relevant to their wards, and to Boroondara generally. It was also foreshadowed that we need to make sure that all councilors are invited to the opening of the Darebin-Yarra link next year.
12. **Tacks on Kew Boulevard:** Still no resolution. It was reported that cars have also suffered serious tyre damage from tacks. The very grainy image of the man vandalizing the bike repair station on the Boulevard can be enhanced but it appears that there is a long queue for this service.
13. **Web Site and Twitter Account:** Ric de France reported that there have been no major changes to the web site in the last month. The Twitter account is very active and has around 60 followers.
14. **Lennox St East:** Julia Blunden reported that this has still to be rectified.
15. **Box Hill to Ringwood Trail:** No Whitehorse representatives were present to report. There was an update in the last issue of *In the Loop*.
16. **Capital City Trail at Rushall:** The issue of path width is still to be resolved and may depend on advice from arborists about significant trees.
17. **Walmer St:** There is a meeting at the Richmond Town Hall, on Saturday 15th October 2016 from 11:00am till 1:30pm. It is important that this is well attended. The revised plans have not been made available to the public but there have been hints from various sources that improvements have been made. There have also been suggestions that this is the final version, but that remains to be seen.
18. **Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting Friday 9th September:** Minutes from this meeting have been circulated to the BUG. These arrived in a much more timely manner than previously, thanks to the new Administrative Officer, Lucia Johnson.
19. **Victorian BUGs Meeting, Tuesday 13th September:** Rachel Carlisle from VicRoads was the speaker at this meeting and her topic was the Cycling Road Rules Review. Roundabouts and footpath riding were two topics that fired up the BUG reps present, with most expressing a hatred of roundabouts and support for legal footpath riding for all ages.
20. **Closure of Yahoo Group:** Julia Blunden reported that she had not acted on this but would consult with John Parker.
21. **Bike Repair Stations:** There was some discussion of the value of these. Some doubted their worth but others were supportive. It was pointed out that not all cyclists own a pump with a pressure gauge, so the stations are of value for this alone.

22. Bike Parking and Parkiteer Bike Cages: There was general agreement that it is highly desirable to have a Parkiteer cage or similar in Glenferrie to serve the station, the shopping strip, the Lido Cinema, the Rec Centre and Swinburne. While the railway vaults are ideally located it is doubtful that VicTrack would consent to any excavation there. Council Officers seem uninterested. However a location can surely be found, even if this means using car parking spaces. Julia Blunden agreed to draft a letter to the Minister for Public Transport, Jacinta Allen putting the case. This would be cc'd to local MP John Pesutto as well as the council officers.

23. What should we do with the BUG's money? No suggestions were forthcoming.

24. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Mal Faul was not present but had submitted a financial report by email.

New Business

Other Business

- 1. California Inn Site:** This was sold with the planning permit in June 2016 for \$40M. The current planning permit expires on 7th March 2017. A PP extension is normally considered by council officers and not by council. David Farrow expressed the view that the BUG needs to get the new ward councilor to oppose any extension unless land is set aside for a shared path.
- 2. Mandatory Helmet Laws:** Ric de France said that there are regular flare ups of debate on this issue on the web. He wanted to try to establish a BUG view on this issue. Members present were quite divided in their views and it was agreed that it would be difficult to reach a consensus. Even if the BUG did oppose the laws they would be difficult if not impossible to change, especially given Bicycle Network's strong support for the current laws.

Other Business

- 1. Doncaster Rail:** David Farrow reported that Infrastructure Victoria has come out against this project with an extraordinarily low figure for the cost benefit, which he questioned.
- 2. Cycling on Main Roads:** Mark Haywood foreshadowed a topic for discussion at our next meeting. Can cycling on main roads be made safe? Is it possible for cyclists and motorists to coexist safely on these roads?
- 3. Sharrows: Where should they be used? Are signs needed to complement them?** This was another suggested topic for discussion at our next meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th November, subject to availability of the function room.

Notes by Julia Blunden