

**MINUTES FOR THE BELLS BEACH COMMITTEE
MEETING 2
18 JANUARY 2016
6.00 PM – 8.00 PM**

PRESENT:

Sandra Ahlquist (Chair), Cr. Eve Fisher, Cr. David Bell, Dave Mathews, James Dean, Cahill Bell-Warren, Graeme Stockton, Andrew Cherubin, Adam Robertson (Surfing Victoria) and Bryon Powell (Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Other people in attendance were Kate Sullivan (General Manager, Environment and Development, SCS), Rowan Mackenzie (Manager, Environment and Community Safety, SCS), Ross Lister, Capital and Operation Projects, SCS), Rochelle Griffiths, (Community Engagement Facilitator, SCS) and Gabrielle O'Shea (Environment Officer, SCS).

APOLOGIES:

NA

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Confirmed

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

NA

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Committee guiding values for operating – facilitated discussion

Rochelle Griffiths facilitated a discussion on the way that BBC members would like the new Committee to operate.

Firstly, members listed what has worked well on other committees they have been a part of:

- Commonality of purpose
- Set agenda with a strong chair
- Brevity
- Valuing diverse opinions
- Willingness to hear and adapt view points
- Solutions focused
- Deal with issues and move on to the next item

Members then identified the following guiding values for how the Committee will operate:

Bells Beach Committee Values

Loyalty – faithful to the wider community's feelings for Bells

Honesty – a good value in life generally

Cooperation – working together on the best for Bells

Independence – freedom from control, everyone puts views forward

Trustworthiness – with each other and the community

Integrity – working with openness, honesty and trust

Empathy – broadminded approach and work to understand the different views

Success – reward and success for being part of the process

Professionalism – important to maintain and assist the committee to deliver on items

Respect – everyone on the committee has an opinion and if we respect that we can reach common goals

Creativity – will help to achieve common goals

Wisdom – bring information and views together to improve outcomes

Dedication – put in intellectually and emotionally and good outcomes will follow

If the Committee starts to go off track from these values:

There will be a reminder from the Chair

All members will take responsibility for speaking up if they feel the values are not being adhered to, this will be done honestly and respectfully and be issue focused.

General operating agreement

Committee members will:

Raise agenda items directly with the Chair. Policy matters to be discussed at meetings rather than via group emails

Limit unnecessary group email conversations – save discussions for meetings where appropriate. Use a common sense approach to this.

Urgent management matters will be raised directly with Council staff or with other Committee members with a goal to try and resolve them quickly

Action: The Bells Beach Committee guiding values for operation will be used on an ongoing basis to manage the operations of the Committee.

The Committee would like correspondence, meeting papers etc. to be available via a central electronic storage system.

Action: Council to investigate an on line system for BBC meeting materials and associated papers.

2. Helicopter landing area – draft design for Committee advice

A preliminary draft design for the treatment of the former helicopter landing area was discussed by the Committee, with the designer, Gill Mexted, of Mexted Rimmer present to hear the views/issues on the design. A summary of the discussions is provided below.

Sight lines – there was discussion on which sight lines we are trying to provide a view from (which breaks or take off points).

- There was general agreement that the Boobiallas on the embankment could be removed, to provide clearer viewing
- There might need to be a minor orientation change for the deck area to align the view to the Winki break
- The proposed works will be pegged out and the Committee will be able to go on site to check the sight lines, orientation, levels, appearance from the water etc.

Size of the platform – there was discussion about the extent/scale of the viewing area, whether it went beyond the current disturbed area and old fence line. It was confirmed that the works will be confined within the existing disturbed/fenced area and people felt the scale was appropriate.

Number and location of pathways – various points of view were expressed about the location of the pathways including number of pathways, separation between users of the viewing area and the Surf Coast Walk, the functioning of the pathways during the Rip Curl Pro, relationship to the landscaping etc. Different layout options were discussed. These options will be considered by Gil Mexted in the development of the next draft plan.

Drainage and erosion potential – there were some concerns with drainage, where water would flow, impacts on pathways and landscaping. The final design will need to cater for this.

Stone ‘ruins’ – there was support for the stone ruins in the design comments included discussions about the size of the area, orientation, location etc. The next plan will retain the ‘ruins’ but there may be some change to dimensions, location to accommodate changes to pathways or landscaping.

Bike racks – there was a feeling that the bike rack location was reasonable but it was suggested this should be checked with students from the Surf Coast Secondary who requested these racks. This will be done before the next plan is prepared. There was some support for providing more parking for bikes to facilitate increased bike usage in the future.

Landscaping – there were suggestions that the landscaped area should be wider to make people less likely to walk on it, though there were some concerns that dense landscaping could encourage an expansion of the toileting issues experienced in the Winki car park island. Location or width of landscaped area may change in the next draft with changes to the location of the mound, pathways or bollards. Species selection will be important to manage views, unintentional foot traffic, toileting.

Levels – idea that different tiers/ levels could be used to ensure more people could have a standing view of the water at one time. Southside was given as a good example and Gil will look at this prior to amending the plans.

Capacity – it was generally agreed that this size area is likely to accommodate around 20 to 25 and that this was reasonable capacity.

Seat – questions were raised over whether the seat beyond the timber viewing platform is required. It was generally felt this seat wasn't required. People will stand or sit on the stones.

Bollards/ Mounding – there was discussion about the use of bollards, distance from the kerb, prevention of parking by vehicles that pull up over the kerb. Support for preventing cars from parking here and moving bollards as close to the road as possible. This could also be achieved by mounding this area. This will be further considered in the design.

Main entrance sign – there were discussions about the current problems with the location of the sandstone entrance sign – people crossing the road for photos, parking outside of designated spaces, trampling vegetation. There was support moving the sign to this area.

Action: A new draft plan for the helicopter landing area will be prepared by Gill Mexted in the next two or three weeks, the new layout will be pegged out on site and Committee members will be able to go on site to consider the new design and provide comments. This will happen prior to the next meeting in April.

3. Rip Curl Pro – ‘Bump in and Bump out’ audit discussion

Council is seeking to engage a suitably qualified and experienced event management professional to undertake a thorough review of the current Rip Curl Pro Bump in/Bump out process. The Committee was circulated draft aims and scope of works for the engagement (Attachment 1).

The following comments were made on the draft:

Draft aims;

Environment – should include the aim that the event personnel stay off the vegetation during the bump in and bump out.

Construction methods and infrastructure – any permanent fixtures should not be visible when they are not in use eg in-ground sleeves that may assist with set up.

Costs/Efficiency – aim should include desire to make bump in and bump out more efficient and of a reduced duration.

The following suggestions were made to the Draft scope of works:

- The first inspection should occur before the bump in commences.
- Facilitated discussions should include SANE and Surfrider.
- The process audit should reference the new Coastal Management and Implementation Plans.

Action: Council to include the above suggestions in the consultant brief for the Audit. The consultant brief will be circulated to the Committee prior to it going out.

4. Surfing events calendar and general discussion on events

The events calendar for 2016 was circulated (Attachment 2). This calendar is available on line and will be updated regularly.

Committee members would like to see advice relating to the traffic management for the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road ride to be added to the calendar and any other events like this that go through Bells Beach.

Action: Council to add information relating to the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Ride and any other events that go through Bells Beach to the events calendar.

5. Other matters

Camping at Bells

Recent camping at Bells at the site of the old toilet block was discussed. Local laws officers will include this area in inspections once the new signs are erected.

6. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Monday 18 April 2016, 5.30 PM, Shire offices

ATTACHMENT 1: Draft Aims and Scope of Works for Rip Curl Pro Bump in/Bump out Process Audit

This process audit will aim to identify improvements in the process with regard to:

- Environment – ensuring there is no impact on the natural environment within Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve and surrounding areas
- Construction methods and infrastructure – the construction methods used and the use of repeat infrastructure and potential use of in-ground infrastructure that may assist construction during the bump in/ bump out of the event
- Access - potential reduction in the timelines and resource requirements to complete the bump in/out process to minimise the impact on reserve user groups, particularly surfers using the reserve while the event is on.
- Waste management – reviewing the waste management methods used during the bump in/out process and the event
- Costs/ Efficiency – assessing the costs and efficiency of the set up operations

Scope of works (draft):

- Complete a review of the event management plan and associated documentation (*Council's events officer to confirm material to be reviewed*)
- Desktop review of the set up operations of other events in a similar situation to identify best practise methods/ approaches
- Facilitated meeting with Surfing Victoria representatives to discuss current process, site and process constraints, current expenditure on process
- Minimum of three (3) inspections during Bump In, with the first inspection being conducted on the first day of the bump in period
- Minimum of one (1) inspection during the event
- Minimum of two (2) inspection during Bump Out
- Assessment of current process after the event
- Identification of opportunities for improvement including estimated costs associated with each improvement
- Preparation of draft audit report for circulation to Council, BBC and Surfing Victoria
- Review and assessment of feedback on draft report (all feedback to be included in report as an appendix)
- Finalisation of report

ATTACHMENT 2: Events Calendar for Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve 2016

The events calendar is available on line at

http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/My_Environment/Bells_Beach_and_other_coastal_land_in_the_Surf_Coast_Shire/Bells_Beach_Events_Calendar

Dates have been set for all of the surfing events for 2016. It has not yet been determined which body will host the Hells Bells contest. If it becomes a Torquay Boardriders Club event, then TBC will drop one of their aggregate events.

2016

Date	Event	Contingency Date (if applicable)	Organiser	Comment
15 January	Bells Bash Cliff Run		Jan Juc Lifesaving Club	The course takes runners pass Bells Beach on the Surfcoast Walk track. No impact on surfing access.
22 March - 5 April	Rip Curl Pro including trials		World Surfing League and Surfing Victoria	Trials are 22 and 23 March, lay day is 24 March
20 to 22 May	Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles		Surfing Victoria	Bells breaks only. Non-competitors able to surf the Winki breaks
18 OR 19 June	Hells Bells		To be confirmed	Event on one of the days only. Competition on Bells breaks. Non-competitors able to surf the Winki breaks
20 August	Aggregate 4 - Torquay Boardriders Club	21 August	Torquay Boardriders Club	The event is a one day event. If the contingency date is going to be used, five days' notice will be given. The break not being used for the competition will be open for surfing by non-competitors.
3 & 4 September	TOLL Victorian Open Series Round 5		Surfing Victoria	Competition both days on the Bells breaks only. Non-competitors able to surf the Winki breaks
8 October	Aggregate 5 - Torquay Boardriders Club	15 October	Torquay Boardriders Club	The event is a one day event. If the contingency date is going to be used, five days' notice will be given. The break not being used for the competition will be open for surfing by non-competitors.
29 October	Aggregate 6 - Torquay Boardriders Club	5 November	Torquay Boardriders Club	The event is a one day event. If the contingency date is going to be used, five days' notice will be given. The break not being used for the competition will be open for surfing by non-competitors.