



**MINUTES FOR THE BELLS BEACH COMMITTEE  
MEETING 7  
22 May 2017  
5.45 PM – 7.15 PM**

**PRESENT :**

Committee members: Sandra Ahlquist (Chair), Cr. David Bell, Adam Robertson (Surfing Victoria, until 6.55pm), Andrew Cherubin, James Dean, Cahill Bell-Warren.

Supporting Officers: Rowan Mackenzie (Manager, Environment and Community Safety, SCS), Leigh Irvine (Project Management, SCS) and Gabrielle O'Shea (Environment Officer, SCS).

**APOLOGIES:**

Cr Martin Duke, Bryon Powell (Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation), Graeme Stockton, Dave Matthews.

**WELCOME AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

- Minutes of Meeting 6 on 20 February 2017 were confirmed.

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:**

NA

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Rip Curl Pro debrief discussion**

Rowan gave a brief summary of how the event went from a Council perspective. The continued focus on reducing waste and using non-plastic food and beverage containers was appreciated and in line with Council's Plastic Wise Policy. A small number of people went over the fences and onto the native vegetation while the event was at Winki Pop. Whilst it is difficult to completely prevent this from occurring, further efforts will be made to prevent this from happening next year.

Adam briefed the Committee on how the event went for Surfing Victoria.

- Set up was challenging with purpose built structures from South Africa not reaching Australia in time. These buildings are now in Australia and a trial set up will take place off site later this year.
- New providers were used for other structures on site and these were able to be erected and dismantled more rapidly.
- Short term closures of the car park during bump in/bump out worked well. The pedestrian walkway made the site safer and it was clearer to surfers that beach and toilet access was still available.
- The variable message board used for communications during set up was well received.
- The bump in and bump out were complicated by 100km/hr winds during set up and torrential rain during dismantling.
- The ability to surf Winki was appreciated by WSL and the surfers.
- Surfing Vic met with community representatives after the event to discuss issues such as a small number of people on the heath at Winki. Changes will be made next year such as improved induction for security staff.
- The Audit led to many beneficial changes in event staging. While there was not a substantial reduction in the event window this year (2.5 days), it is expected this will improve next year.

**2. Plans for treatment of Winki pathways and car park layout**

Leigh discussed the latest plans for the car park layout, widening of the pathway in the car park and treatment of the pathways to the lookouts which were circulated pre-meeting.:

Discussion comments for the Winki Pop car park included:

- Some of the car park widths are still too narrow.
- The existing car parks closest to the entrance to the Winki lookout pathway are of an adequate width and adjustments could be based on these.
- Committee would be happy to have a slightly lower number of spaces to accommodate parking bays of a greater width.
- Wheel stops are supported but should be of the least visually intrusive type
- No disability parks marked on plan. Could be located at spaces 63 and 64 or 58 and 59.
- No motorbike parks marked. There are motorbikes there regularly. Consider possibility of locating near space 1.
- Car park islands could be used for wetsuit changing deck, plants or rain garden. There was support for changing decks particularly the area between spaces 21 and 22. Low support for plants as likely to be trampled and looked trashed and to impact Rip Curl Pro set up. May be possible to incorporate stormwater treatment if under decking.
- Retain top rail on fence change of direction near spaces 21 and 22 as this is where everyone leans on the fence to look at the surf.
- Encourage one-way traffic in ocean side lane through pavement arrows. No new signs.
- The circulated plans for pathway widening in the car park were supported with works to be staged to minimise user impacts. On site signage is needed to advise people of works and staging process.

Discussion comments for the Winki Pop pathway to the lookouts included:

- For the pathway to the lookouts, the circulated plans were supported. New planting beside pathway should be lower than the pathway level to avoid dirt and/or mulch washing onto the pathway.
- Pathways must be wide enough to take an all-terrain vehicle for maintenance.
- Design wider area near path junction to allow for camera placement if possible for Rip Curl Pro judging. May need permanent footings for structure, but currently cabling is not long enough to place camera here.
- Generally, works should be staged to minimise disruption to surfers.

***Council Action: Leigh Irvine to revise car park line marking in line with the above comments and circulate this to the Committee.***

***Council Action: Leigh Irvine to advise the Committee when the Winki path widening is going to start and to organise on-site notification.***

***Council Action: Leigh Irvine to commission detailed design of pathway treatment for pathways leading to the Winki lookouts.***

### **3. Bollard and fencing update**

Leigh updated the Committee on the bollard and fencing renewal works in the main car park area:

- The timber for the works has been ordered
- Vic Forests has confirmed that the timber is coming from a site managed sustainably and is included in Vic Forests certification to the Australian Forestry Standard.

### **4. Mural restoration and toilet block**

Rowan updated the Committee around recent works to restore the mural on the toilet block and discussions around refurbishing the toilet block.

Minor structural repairs were undertaken in February to enable the mural to be touched up. Council Officers, Gordon Stammers and the artists, Glenn Romanis and Mark Trinham, have met to discuss short and longer term management of the mural and the building. While the current CMP

recommends restoration of the mural in line with its listing as a Victorian Heritage Place, the artists have mixed feelings about the long term need to retain the mural and there are major issues around the adequacy of the toilet block and options for refurbishment.

An alternative option for the long term management of the mural and toilet block involves the current toilet block being removed and a new earth mounded, or some other low impact structure constructed and the mural either shifted or a similar painting commissioned for an updated facility. Any changed approach would not happen within the life of the current CMP and would need consultation with Heritage Victoria and the broader community. Discussions included the following points:

- The condition of the toilet block isn't good.
- During consultation for preparation of the CMP the idea of constructing a new more up to date facility was discussed. People would not support two toilet blocks but a more sustainable lower visual impact facility might be supported.
- Would need to have an inclusive community discussion if there was to be a significant change.
- The Committee supports Council talking with Heritage Victoria about the long term management of the toilet block and mural and then reporting back to the Committee.

***Council Action: Over the coming year Council will commence discussions with Heritage Victoria about the range of potential management options for the long term future of the mural and toilet block.***

## **5. Helipad viewing area – project close and thanks**

Rowan reported on the formal opening of the new viewing area prior to the Rip Curl Pro and thanked everyone for their assistance in creating this new and popular asset.

## **6. Bells Beach Hinterland Review**

The proposed planning scheme amendment went on exhibition on 18 May and submissions can be made until 19 June 2017. Details of the amendment area available at:

[http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/updates-and-amendments/amendment?id=1196F789BEF165B1CA2581150019FC7F&\\_ga=2.148908403.430858826.1495693587-551453791.1495693587](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/updates-and-amendments/amendment?id=1196F789BEF165B1CA2581150019FC7F&_ga=2.148908403.430858826.1495693587-551453791.1495693587)

***Action: Committee members note the amendment is currently being exhibited and the timeframe for submissions.***

## **7. Cadel Evans Ride update on road graffiti**

Rowan advised that Council covered the costs of the graffiti removal again this year and that he has had discussions with Council's Events team about preventing future similar graffiti. Events has advised that they will be raising the matter with the State government event organisers.

The Committee strongly believes the costs of the graffiti removal (or prevention) should be borne by the event organisers and not local ratepayers.

***Council Action: Rowan Mackenzie to follow up the issue of preventing further road graffiti during the Cadel Evans Ride with Council's Events team.***

## **8. Sustainable procurement**

Draft sustainable procurement guidelines for Bells were circulated pre-meeting. The guidelines are designed to encourage sustainable procurement of goods and services associated with management of the reserve. Council is seeking Committee feedback and additions to the guidelines.

As an example of how the guidelines might be used, there was discussion about the types of wheel stops that would be used when the Winki car park layout is updated. The merits of recycled plastic, timber, the life of the product, cost and the need to look good were discussed. No final decision was made on the wheel stops to be used but based on the discussion a recommendation will be made to the Committee when the updated car park layout is circulated.

***Action: Committee members to provide any comments on the sustainable procurement guidelines to Gabrielle O'Shea.***

***Council Action: Leigh to circulate the proposed type of wheel stop with the updated car park layout.***

## **9. Tour operator licence update**

Rowan advised that officers refused the issuing of a licence to the operator that proposed bringing fee-paying surfers into the reserve.

## **10. Other matters**

Toileting in the heath beside the lower Winki stairs was raised.

Status of the signage near the hang glider set up and launch was raised.

***Council Action: Gabrielle to organise brush matting to deter toileting in the lower Winki steps area and the installation of signage near the hang glider set up and launch areas.***

**Meeting close.** 7.15 pm.

**NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 28 August 2017, 5.30 PM, Shire offices for a 5.45 PM start**

**Other meeting dates for 2017 –27 November.**