

Barwon Heads Association

Monday 17 February 2014
Barwon Heads Community Hall 7.30pm

MINUTES

1 Welcome Chair Judith Brooks

2 Apologies: Principal Primary School, Helen Edwards from the Opportunity Shop; Vicky Strachan from BH Arts Council, Paul Fox Committee member.

3 Attendees: 45 residents including representatives from Senior Citizens, Tennis Club, Traders & Tourism and Barwon Coast met with Scott Lawrence from Vic Roads and Gary van Driel from CoGG.

3 Pedestrian safety.

Those present were invited to identify areas of concern, "hotspots" in the town. Numerous spots were identified including the following:

1. **The Bridge Precinct** (VicRoads & Council)
 - the Bridge intersection Flinders Pde/Ewing Blythe Rd
 - the crossing opposite hotel (dangerous poor design)
2. **Hitchcock Ave/ Bridge Rd** precinct (VicRoads & Council)
 - Hitchcock Ave/Bridge Rd roundabout (dangerous for pedestrians)
 - Bridge rd/Golf links Rd corner (poor visibility)
3. **Hitchcock Ave** (Council)
 - Clifford Pde & Hitchcock Ave entrance (driver behavior)
 - Uniting Church across to doctor's surgery & Starfish (Speed)
 - community market on Saturdays (very poor visibility crossing the road)
 - new development of shops on corner of Ozone Rd (will increase stress in this area)
4. **APCO corner/Geelong Rd** going east to Hitchcock Ave (VicRoads but mainly Council)
 - Skate Park, Bowling Club, Tennis courts (significant increase in usage by juniors tennis club now has 80 juniors on Friday night)
 - Training on ovals for athletics, cricket, soccer on Friday nights and weekends, new kinder traffic into Geelong Rd and general pedestrian usage to the park and from the river.
5. **13th Beach Rd** (Council & Barwon Coast)

- (no pedestrian paths from golf club track to surf club),
- pedestrian crossing at surf club has been removed

6. 13th Beach Golf Club to Barwon Heads (VicRoads)

- no path at all

CoGG advised that pedestrian crossing in budget for next year 2014-15, but needs to be approved by council. Referred to walkability study (which has not been published). Main intersections are Vic Roads responsibility. VicRoads is currently looking into technical solutions.

Residents concerns and suggestions.

It was clear early in the meeting that residents thought the optimal approach was one of integrating various solutions and taking a whole –of-town approach. We are aware of solutions that have worked in other towns, for example Hastings Street in Noosa and Morningson main street as well as Gilbert Street in Torquay

There was general agreement that the increase of cars and pedestrians in town generally means that what used to work for “the village” doesn’t work anymore. There was also general agreement that we would prefer, if possible, a minimum impact - maximum effect approach. Another point of interest was universal agreement about lessening speed limits through Barwon Heads, something that would not have been considered so favourably five years ago and highlights the considerable growth we are experiencing. There is no doubt that Barwon Heads faces ever greater growth in traffic and housing density on a year by year basis.

Lessening speed limits to 40 kph was supported for the following areas, from Hitchcock Ave along Bridge Rd to the bridge, from Ozone Rd south along Hitchcock Ave to Bridge Rd. There was also support for one speed from Barwon Heads to Ocean Grove to limit constant changes.

While the introduction of traffic lights to Barwon Heads was only supported by a few, pedestrian crossings, and speed humps (the wombat variety) were supported. The use of rumble strips, better speed signage and better visibility near corners because of illegally parked cars were also mentioned. Residents of Margate St and Flinders Pde expressed concern at the usage of their streets as throughways which means in reality, speedways. Residents of Seaview Estate spoke of the difficulty of crossing busy Golf Links Rd especially now that young children from the estate were out and about. This of course was especially important during summer. Poor lighting in some areas was also mentioned as was the possibility of making Grandview Pde south one way to stop right hand turns into Grandview from Bridge Rd outside IGA.

A member asked what assurance do we have that Council & VicRoads will listen and act on our concerns and that the meeting would, frankly, amount to something positive. The Chair responded that as other towns along the coast are facing the same issues the answer is clear- it is up to us to keep the relevant authorities aware of our needs

Next meeting Monday 17th March 2014
Close meeting