



**BANYULE ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

March 11 2009

*Community Representatives:* Craig Reichenbach, Doug Munro, John Cary, George Paras, Averil Hedley, John D'Aloia, John Merory

*Councillor:*

*Council Officers:* Ellen Mitchell

**1. Apologies**

Marissa Cesario, Cr Tom Melican, John Milkins, and Natasha Reifschneider

**2. Confirmation of February meeting minutes**

Attendance corrected. Craig, Averil and Marissa were in attendance.

Confirmed by Doug Munro and Craig R.

**3. Matters arising from previous meetings**

*04.09 Greensborough Project*

Craig attended the GPAC CCC meeting in February. Attendance was low. Community representatives were keen to confirm that the project would proceed. A start date will soon be announced. At the meeting there was discussion about reopening of the Greensborough pool (February 21<sup>st</sup>), the design of Main St, with regard to buses as well as the modal interchange at Greensborough railway station. Given current funding limitations, the modal interchange project is likely to be staged. Craig was disappointed in the discussions regarding the hierarchy of parking options as commuters were considered last on list.

*08.20 Darebin Parklands Masterplan*

Ellen reported back to the committee that the Darebin Parklands Rangers would not be able to enforce the dog exclusion areas and that Local Laws officers for Darebin and Banyule would only be able to enforce their respective areas. This item will be taken off the agenda.

*08.19 Melbourne Water works on Plenty River, Greensborough*

This time will be taken off the agenda until management plan is available.

*08.22 Banyule Bicycle Strategy*

BEAC expressed concern that there is no structure of input for regular meetings with stakeholders. BEAC believe that comprehensive consultation is essential and suggest a term-limited committee be established that would report directly to Council, similar to a previous group; the HBAG – Heidelberg Bicycle Advisory Group. The strategy needs to have input from people who are experienced bike riders with local knowledge. Ellen told BEAC that Bicycle Victoria have been engaged by Council to conduct a Bike Scope Survey. John Merory felt the survey has limitations as although it will capture current riding routes it doesn't allow identification of potential new routes. BEAC would like to request a presentation from Council's transport planner regarding the Bicycle Strategy.

*08.15 VEAC Investigations*

There are Crown land areas in Banyule that are reserves that may have been road reserves that are actually significant wildlife corridors. BEAC asked if Council can identify these parcels of Crown land within Banyule that coincide with wildlife corridors. George has offered to assist Council officers to identify such parcels. BEAC asked if Council is going to put in a

submission for the other VEAC investigation of remnant native vegetation on Crown land and public authority land outside of largely-intact landscapes across Victoria to identify opportunities for ecological linkages.

#### *08.24 Planning Scheme amendment VC49*

Ellen will check with the Department of Sustainability & Environment & VicRoads as to the extent of exemptions. This item will be postponed until the Royal Commission.

## **6. Other Business**

#### *09.01 Solar power*

John Merory raised this issue in relation to roof-top hot water panels and photovoltaics, community solar thermal and concentrated photovoltaics and whether Council outfit community and other council buildings with such elements. BEAC would like to know what opportunities Council are investigating for these topics.

#### *09.02 Communal wind power for Banyule*

BEAC suggested Council investigate opportunities for communal wind power for Banyule. Perhaps located off site e.g. Hepburn Springs where there is already the required infrastructure and experience.

#### *09.03 Energy Conservation Education*

John Merory asked if there was an educational campaign for 2009 in conservation of energy. Ellen mentioned that the Sustainable Homes Program for this year will have several workshops focussing on energy conservation. It was noted that Council's Greenhouse Education Officer Position will not be replaced. BEAC expressed concern that Council will not be able to achieve its Greenhouse Gas emissions target without the support of that position. Ellen will send BEAC information about a workshop on 'Fostering Sustainable Behaviour'.

These three items will be renamed '09.07 Energy Conservation opportunities' in the next agenda.

#### *09.04 Future-proofing our natural assets*

BEAC would like to know if there is a study to investigate retaining and enhance natural assets given the impacts of Climate Change. E.g. heat, lack of water, natural assets competing with ovals and golf courses for storm water harvesting. Discussion arose regarding stormwater management and a suggestion was made to replace the aquifer option with a wetland model (i.e. sacrifice the bottom oval at Chelsworth park). BEAC would like Council to investigate a wetland model for stormwater harvesting at Chelsworth Park.

#### *09.05 Banyule Community Plan*

A community reference group of approximately 30 people has been established which Doug was asked to participate in as an individual. Doug will report back at the next BEAC meeting he will attend.

#### *09.06 Banyule Flats Heritage Listing (raised by John D)*

John D raised this item in response to the Notice of Motion submitted by Cr Mulholland that *Council officers report to Council on the process involved in declaring the Banyule Flats and Warringal Parklands areas heritage areas under Council's planning scheme, including the implications of such a proposal.* John asked Council to report back whether dog off/on lead areas as well as exclusion areas are being considered.

**Meeting closed 9.30pm**

Contact Ellen Mitchell on 9457 9828 for further information

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009