

Solway Ward update

Councillor Kevin Chow | June 2011

Dear residents,

Capital works projects across Solway Ward are nearing completion as we enter the final months of the financial year.

The demolition of the old sports pavilion and hall and the construction of the new facility at Eric Raven Reserve will be complete next month, and it is an excellent outcome for the community.

The replacement of the old building at Watson Park with a new pavilion was expedited by the February floods, but the outcome is great all the same. The Warner Reserve Pavilion has also benefitted from a refurbishment and extension.

There is also a great deal happening at the Ashburton Community Garden, including the installation of a new picnic shelter and improvements to the children's playground.

Thanks to a brilliant suggestion from Canterbury Rotary, work has also



Big things happening at community garden: Councillor Kevin Chow with Deirdre Haberli from the Ashburton Community Garden Group.

commenced to collect rainwater from the adjacent public housing estate roofs. This harvested rainwater will provide a more sustainable water supply for the community garden.

Moving ahead is the Ashburton Library and Ashburton Community Centre upgrade. This was the subject of two community

information workshops held in March and I thank everyone who participated in this most important consultation.

Best wishes,

Cr Kevin Chow

Council is lobbying to reduce freeway noise

Too many residents for too many years have had to put up with freeway noise both adjacent to the Monash (M1) Freeway in our area and along the Eastern Freeway in the north of the City.

Resident groups and Council have petitioned the State Government to install noise barriers and other treatments that provide relief from the incessant droning of traffic both day and night.

In April, Council representatives met with the Minister for Roads and Public Transport, Terry Mulder, to seek:

- An allocation of funds for noise mitigation measures along the

Eastern and M1 freeways to a maximum 63 decibel reading as is mandated for new freeways.

- Development of consistent methods of measuring freeway noise across all road networks.
- Support for local community calls for immediate noise mitigation measures.

The Minister confirmed that \$8.4 million for noise treatments along the

M1 Freeway was secure and that further funding would be considered in putting together future budgets. Further, that a VicRoads investigation of several noise black spots due later this year would be expanded to analyse noise levels over the length of both freeways.

The delegation was also told that VicRoads is currently reviewing speed limits that could result in lower noise limits as sought by many residents.



Solway Ward
Cr Kevin Chow

Including parts of
Ashburton and Glen Iris



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Q&A: questions Solway Ward residents ask me

Where do you work?

I am currently working as a doctor at the Royal Melbourne Hospital where I am training to become a kidney specialist.

How long have you lived in Boroondara?

I have lived in Solway Ward for nearly 13 years.

Where did you go to school?

I went to Gardenvale Primary School, Brighton Grammar School and Melbourne University.

Where's your favourite spot to spend free time in Solway Ward?

I enjoy spending time at the Ashburton Shopping Centre. It has a fantastic community atmosphere and a variety of great cafes. We're also lucky to have a number of parks close by, including Markham Victory Reserve, Ferndale Park and Watson Park.

What were you particularly pleased to have achieved on Council?

- Working hard to deliver services and facilities for our local community, including completing the Ashburton Community Garden, refurbishing our many sporting pavilions, securing funding to enhance the Ashburton Library and Community Centre and obtaining a grant to redevelop the Craig Family Centre.
- Representing local residents on issues such as traffic, parking and planning.

What is the greatest challenge facing the City of Boroondara?

To continue representing the interests of our residents at a time when local government's powers and resources are being gradually eroded by other levels of government.

What would you like to achieve over the next year-and-a-half as a councillor?

- Work to keep rates as low as possible while improving our service and facility delivery by maximising efficiency within the Council.
- Protect our residential amenity by ensuring that Council retains its planning authority to reject inappropriate development.
- Improve our local public spaces including areas such as the Ashburton Shopping Centre and our many parks.
- Enable our neighbourhood houses (including Ashburton Community Centre, Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning Centre and Craig Family Centre) so that they can continue delivering programs for our community.
- Advocate on behalf of local residents for the Victorian Government to fix freeway noise.

Gardiners Creek underpass a safe passage for cyclists

The Gardiners Creek Trail is one of Melbourne's most popular bike paths and Council continues to work with bordering municipalities and the Victorian Government to improve accessibility and safety.

The latest addition is an underpass at Warrigal Road between Ashwood and Ashburton that has been a joint project between Boroondara, Stonnington and Monash councils, with the assistance of an Australian Government grant.

Previously, cyclists travelling along this key trail were forced to cross the often congested Warrigal Road at a pedestrian crossing. The new underpass will be far more convenient for cyclists, and, more importantly, vastly improve safety along the path.

At Council, we are committed to improving the Gardiners Creek Trail and the underpass marks the conclusion of stage three of the five-stage 'closing the gap' project.

The final stages of this project will take place around the Solway Street Bridge in Ashburton and be completed in the middle of 2012. The bridge, which collapsed during the February 2011 floods, will be replaced and the path that leads to it will be regraded.

The first two stages of the 'closing the gap' project included construction of the shared path through Markham Victory Reserve and along Markham Avenue and Ashburn Grove, connecting into the Anniversary Trail.

This exciting project will produce a seamless, continuous shared path from Box Hill South to the Main Yarra Trail in Hawthorn. This is a great result not only for Solway Ward residents, but the whole City.

Solway Shopping Centre improvements

We have recently completed streetscape improvement works at Solway (Karnak Road) Shopping Centre as part of our ongoing, City-wide Shopping Centre Improvement Plan.

Solway's facelift includes new street furniture, street trees, a disabled parking space, garden beds, feature paving and improved pedestrian access.



Part of the streetscape improvements at Solway Shopping Centre.