

# SERVICES DELEGATED COMMITTEE



## MINUTES

(Open to the public)

**Monday 10 July 2023**

Council Chamber, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell.

**Commencement** 6:33pm

**Attendance**

- Councillor Di Gillies (Chairperson)
- Councillor Felicity Sinfield (Mayor)
- Councillor Jim Parke
- Councillor Victor Franco
- Councillor Wes Gault
- Councillor Jane Addis
- Councillor Cynthia Watson
- Councillor Susan Biggar
- Councillor Garry Thompson
- Councillor Nick Stavrou

**Apologies** Councillor Lisa Hollingsworth

<b><u>Officers</u></b>		
Phillip Storer		Chief Executive Officer
Daniel Freer		Director Places and Spaces
Jeanine Nieuwenhuizen		Acting Director Urban Living
Mans Bassi		Director Customer and Transformation
Kate McCaughey		Director Community Support
Amy Montalti		Chief Financial Officer
Bryan Wee		Manager Governance and Legal
Fiona Brown		Manager Community Planning and Development
Nicole White		Manager Strategy and Performance
Jim Hondrakis		Manager Traffic and Transport
Michael Hutchison		Head of Strategic Property and Revenue
Bhushan Jani		Coordinator Transport Management
Nikhil Maharaj		Strategic Transport Engineer
Liam Merrifield		Senior Governance Officer

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## **1 Adoption and confirmation of the minutes of the Services Delegated Committee meeting held on 8 May 2023**

### **MOTION**

**Moved Councillor Cynthia Watson**

**Seconded Councillor Jane Addis**

**That the minutes of the Services Delegated Committee meeting held on 8 May 2023 be adopted and confirmed.**

### **CARRIED**

## **2 Declaration of conflict of interest of any councillor or council officer**

Refer to item 3.2 - 2023 Small Grants Report - Councillor Gault, Councillor Franco, and Councillor Biggar.

## **3 Presentation of officer reports**

### **3.1 Connecting the Anniversary Trail with Mont Albert Road**

#### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the consultation findings for the proposal to connect the Anniversary Trail shared path with Mont Albert Road and to seek Council endorsement to advocate to the Victorian and Federal Governments for funding to deliver the project.

#### Background

The Anniversary Trail provides an important north-south shared path connection through the City of Boroondara. It connects the extremely popular Gardiners Creek Trail in the south to the Main Yarra Trail in the north and ensures that residents and visitors are provided with good quality intra-municipality connections.

The Anniversary Trail at Mont Albert Road is in the former railway cutting which results in limited points of access between Whitehorse Road and Rubens Grove at Shenley Ground, with approximately 900 metres between points of access for pedestrians and cyclists due to high embankments and fence lines.

An access point at the Mont Albert Road overpass would reduce this distance resulting in access points to the trail being no more than 370 metres towards Rubens Grove and 530m towards Whitehorse Road. The staircase access to the trail from Barnsbury Road, about 220 metres north of Mont Albert Road is not suitable for cyclists, or anyone with a pram or mobility challenges. A new link at Mont Albert Road would also allow for emergency access and lead to improved safety and security benefits for all users, including the elderly and children using the trail. A locality plan with distances between existing access points to the Anniversary Trail is shown in **Attachment 2**.

The access ramp would create a link between premium east-west and north-south bicycle routes and existing pedestrian routes that would serve several schools as well as improving access to the Burke Road shopping strip and the Mont Albert Road bicycle lanes.

A technical feasibility study was commissioned in 2014 and finalised in 2016. The technical feasibility study found it was possible to construct a ramp connection from the Anniversary Trail to Mont Albert Road on the north-west side of the Mont Albert Road bridge that met the requirements of all technical stakeholders in VicRoads (now the Department of Transport and Planning), the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (now the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action), Bicycle Network Victoria (now Bicycle Network) and the Boroondara Bicycle Users Group. In principle support was received from these stakeholders.

In late 2022, community consultation was undertaken with residents within approximately 500m of the site as well as users of the Anniversary Trail. Feedback from the broader community was encouraged through Engage Boroondara and social media.

Overall, there was overwhelming support for the construction of the proposed ramp connection with 167 (87.4%) of the total 191 submitted responses supporting the construction of the proposed ramp connection. A total of 13 (6.8%) were opposed and 11 (5.8%) were unsure.

### Key Issues

The consultation raised several issues for consideration, including:

- Retaining as much current vegetation as possible and including more native trees and general vegetation.
- Improving the design of the proposed ramp to consider better disability access and general access improvements.
- Enhanced lighting options for the structure.
- Design of a structure that is sympathetic to the natural environment.

Council officers will consider the above feedback in consultation with internal stakeholders and update the concept design, feasibility study and cost estimate accordingly.

### Next Steps

Considering the very high level of support from the community, significant benefits to the broader community and alignment with the Boroondara Community Plan and the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy, this report seeks Council support to update the feasibility study, concept design and cost estimate, considering comments received and to seek external funding for the construction of the ramp connection.

*One speaker in support of the officer's recommendation addressed the meeting.*

## MOTION

**Moved**            **Councillor Felicity Sinfield**

**Seconded**    **Councillor Garry Thompson**

**That the Services Delegated Committee resolve to:**

- 1. Support the proposed Anniversary Trail ramp connection with Mont Albert Road on the north side of Mont Albert Road, west of the Mont Albert Road bridge as depicted in Attachment 1.**
- 2. Update the concept design as shown in Attachment 3, the feasibility study and cost estimate considering consultation and Councillor feedback.**
- 3. Seek funding for the proposed ramp connection from the Federal and Victorian Governments to deliver the project.**
- 4. Notify the community of the Services Delegated Committee resolution.**

## CARRIED

### 3.2 2023 Small Grants Report

**Councillor Gault** *declared a general conflict of interest in this item in accordance with section 127 of the Local Government Act 2020. He advised the nature of the interest was "attending meetings of a group that will benefit".*

**Councillor Gault** *left the Chamber at 6:46pm prior to the consideration and vote on this item.*

**Councillor Franco** *declared a material conflict of interest in this item in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2020. He advised the nature of the interest "may be material if the nature strip in front of my home has work done which is funded to some extent by a grant".*

**Councillor Franco** *left the Chamber at 6:46pm prior to the consideration and vote on this item.*

**Councillor Biggar** *declared a general conflict of interest in this item in accordance with section 127 of the Local Government Act 2020. She advised the nature of the interest was that she "held membership at a club which has applied for and will potentially be a recipient of a grant in this grant allocation".*

**Councillor Biggar** *left the Chamber at 6:46pm prior to the consideration and vote on this item.*

### Purpose

To present 2023-24 Small Grants recommendations for Services Delegated Committee endorsement.

### Background

The 2023-24 Small Grants opened on Monday 20 February and closed on Sunday 19 March 2023.

Small Grants support projects and equipment costs associated with the delivery of new one-off services, programs and activities that strengthen the Boroondara community. Small Grants also address key priorities in the Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31.

The six streams in the Small Grants program are:

- Healthy Community
- Sustainable Community
- Creative Community,
- Vibrant Retail Precincts
- Active Community
- Life Long Community.

Funding is available for up to \$3,000 per applicant across all streams.

### Key Issues

The total funding pool for the 2023-24 Community Strengthening Grants is \$526,185. This includes a Council contribution of \$318,185 and a Rotary Club of Balwyn contribution of \$208,000. In line with the Boroondara Community Strengthening Grants Policy, 25% of the Annual Community Strengthening Grants allocation is provisionally allocated to the Small Grants, which is \$131,546.25.

Sixty (60) applications were received for the 2023-24 Small Grants round, which is 32 more applications than in 2022. Twenty-five of the applicants were new to the grants program. Of the 60 applications received, 55 were assessed, two were ineligible, and three were withdrawn prior to assessment. Vibrant Retail Precincts received one application that was assessed though subsequently withdrawn. Full or partial funding totalling \$96,108.87 is recommended for 53 applications.

### **MOTION**

**Moved            Councillor Cynthia Watson**

**Seconded      Councillor Felicity Sinfield**

**That Services Delegated Committee resolve to endorse the 2023-24 Small Grants funding as listed in Attachment 1, annexed to the report.**

### **CARRIED**

**Councillor Gault, Councillor Franco, and Councillor Biggar returned to the Chamber and resumed their seats at 6:52pm.**

**4 General business****4.1 Passing of Michael Baden-Powell, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Baden-Powell**

**Councillor Thompson** offered his condolences for the recent passing of Michael Baden-Powell, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Baden-Powell.

**5 Urgent business**

Nil.

**6 Confidential business**

Nil.

**The Services Delegated Committee meeting concluded at 6:55pm**

**Confirmed**

**Chairperson**

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**Date**

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