

Brunswick Terminal Station Upgrade

Community Reference Group Meeting 2

6.30 to 8.30, 11 November 2014
Brunswick Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Apologies:

Ray Radford, resident, Friends of Merri Creek

Attendees:

Bruce Turner, Chair

Peter Brown, CEO Moreland City Council (for introductions only)

Kirsten Coster, Director Planning & Economic Development, Moreland City Council

Darren Camilleri, Coordinator City Development, Moreland City Council

Denis McCrohan, AusNet Services

David Grant, AusNet Services

Sandra Nielsen, AusNet Services

Anne Voss, resident

Craig Burton, resident

Chris Black, resident, Merri Creek Residents' Group

Fatima Alisak, resident

Ramon Collodetti, resident, Merri Creek Residents' Group

Neil Gascoigne, CitiPower (guest)

1. Welcome & Introductions

Peter introduced Bruce Turner as the new independent Chair. Bruce took the Chair and proposed revisions to the order of agenda items and combined items 6 and 9 of the original meeting agenda.

Sandra Nielsen, David Grant and Neil Gascoigne introduced themselves to the CRG. Sandra and David's role is to assist with community liaison for AusNet Services for the BTS upgrade.

Chris advised that Paul Murfitt of Moreland Energy Foundation (MEFL) had expressed interested in joining the CRG.

It was agreed to provide the opportunity for Paul to nominate. It was agreed that following Paul's application, it would be appropriate to close nominations.

ACTION 2.1: Chris Black to forward Paul a nomination form to be returned to Arthur Vatzakis, Principal Urban Planner, Moreland City Council.

2. Adoption of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a reasonable record that meeting.

Actions from the previous meeting:

- View on separate CRG newsletter – discussion deferred to 'General Business'
- Independent Chair – appointed
- CitiPower to attend next meeting – Neil Gascoigne in attendance
- Proxy form – contact Darren for form if needed
- Use of Merri Creek PS – Brunswick Town Hall booked instead
- Revised Terms of Reference – circulated for discussion/ adoption this meeting
- Contact telephone number for community complaints – David advised the number was tested and has worked.

3. Finalisation of Terms of Reference (TOR)

Bruce explained the minor revisions he had made, mainly to clarify the process of preparing and finalising the minutes of meetings. It was suggested that draft minutes should be circulated to the CRG within two weeks of meetings, with a further two weeks for members to endorse or suggest revisions leading to confirmation of the minutes. This suggestion was generally agreed.

Chris expressed concern about the content of the 'project background' section of TOR. It was felt this section should focus on how the CRG came to existence, i.e. in response to community concerns, rather than be a justification for the project. It was agreed that this section of the TOR should be amended as suggested by Chris.

ACTION 2.2: Chair to edit TOR to reflect the agreed timeframes for issuing and finalising minutes.

ACTION 2.3: Sandra and Chris to collaborate on redrafting the Project Background section of the TOR. TOR to be adopted at next meeting.

4. Guest Speaker – Neil Gascoigne, CitiPower

Neil provided information of CitiPower works to date. He reported that these were almost complete. Overhead wires have been placed underground. He said some works were still needed for sealing permanent conduits and reinstating the road. Once these are complete, no other CitiPower works are anticipated for BTS for another year.

Fatima asked about consultation from CitiPower during the works. She said it appeared there had been no information about why the works were being carried out. Neil said people directly along the cable route had been letterbox dropped and that advice was also provided on CitiPower's website. Council staff who issue Roads Opening Permits were also notified of the works.

Fatima encouraged greater notification, i.e. fliers in libraries, local newspapers, signs on site, etc. Neil undertook to take back the feedback for future CitiPower works.

It was noted that there is often confusion about which works were being undertaken by which company (CitiPower or AusNet Services) and what construction environment management plan (CEMP) provisions apply. It was felt that better coordination and consistency of approach could occur between the two companies.

ACTION 2.4: Neil Gascoigne undertook to pass on feedback on additional notification methods to CitiPower Communications.

5. Construction Environment Management Plan Update

David reported that a new CEMP (submitted to Council on 23 October 2014) updated the 2012 CEMP and is a more condensed document (approx. 95 pages) since, following approvals, superfluous documents are no longer included. David summarised some of the changes. These included: minor edits such as updating the new company name; updated project timeframes; referring to the new approvals such as the Planning Permit, including plans approved under the permit; correcting errors in the previous CEMP, e.g. tree removals require a planning permit; reflecting existing site conditions as the site is now very different from 2012; documenting the process undertaken to date, e.g. asbestos removal; and updating operating procedures such as emergency evacuation procedures.

The Municipal Emergency Management Plan is also now referenced in the CEMP.

A copy is available for viewing on the AusNet Services website. Chris requested two hard copies.

ACTION 2.5: AusNet services to provide two hard copies of the CEMP to Chris Black.

6. Activities on site – recent, current and upcoming

Chris outlined concerns around the impacts of the works at the BTS site on the surrounding area. In particular, she spoke about the truck traffic along Glenlyon Road and the amount of rock debris strewn along the road. She produced a sample bag of these rocks for viewing by the CRG.

David commented that it was unclear how the rocks were getting onto the road. The rocks looked like rail ballast that was used as fill on temporary roads within the BTS site, rather than the rocks that were being excavated, broken up and taken away in the trucks. Other possible sources of the rocks included reinstatement works following Yarra Valley Water works.

David explained that he had spoken to the front gate staff and had also discovered rocks in the street. It had been relayed to the workers on site that this was not acceptable. He went on to outline what AusNet Services had been doing in response to the issue. A dedicated staff member had been employed to walk Glenlyon Road with a barrow and broom to ensure it is kept clean. Trucks are checked, and go through a wheel wash if necessary, before they leave the site to try to ensure debris doesn't leave the site. If it does, AusNet Services have engaged a street sweeper to be on call. Security staff and David, when he is at the site, are also patrolling the local area. AusNet Services is also planning to fill potholes on Glenlyon Road, with Council approval.

Chris noted that, according to the CEMP, trucks should not sit outside the site idling, but this is occurring. She asked if the 60 trucks per day would continue. David said this was the peak volume that was required to remove soil and rock stockpiles. He said truck movements would reduce from now on, with the 48 truck movements that had occurred on the previous day being an approximate average for the next 3-4 months. It was acknowledged that this was still a high volume.

David advised that residents on Glenlyon Road and King Street were door knocked twice in the recent weeks (most recently on Monday 10 November 2014) to better understand residents' issues and to provide information on what was happening at the site. He said doorknocking would continue frequently.

Chris said that earlier than 7am starts were occurring. On the day of the meeting, at 5:15 am, trucks were outside the site. David said that a hire company had delivered a piece of equipment at that time

despite being advised 7am was earliest time for delivery. The delivery vehicle was not let in and the equipment was left in front of the site. David said that as a consequence this hire company would no longer be used. In terminating the hire company's involvement, AusNet Services expected this would send a clear message to contractors that the company will only employ businesses that do the right thing in accordance with the conditions on the operations.

Chris said she had heard second hand that reverse beepers had been operating on site earlier than 7am. David was not aware of this and undertook to follow up.

Chris said she lodged an EPA report in September due to dirty storm water coming out of the front of the site. EPA responded a month later saying it was a Council responsibility as it was a condition of the planning permit. The water was coming from the site and into the creek drain. Chris said there was also run-off during heavy rains from the soccer ground side of the site which floods the path and pitch (which is damp most of the time).

Craig said he lived across Merri Creek from the site (on the Darebin side) and his household had been affected by constant noise of machinery sorting rocks and stockpiles for the last 3 months. David said the rock sorting was now largely completed.

There was discussion of the configuration of noise barriers (shipping containers), which do not face Merri Creek. David said an acoustic engineer was employed and modelled noise impacts, including towards Darebin. This led to a recommendation to place shipping containers strategically around the site, which had been implemented. Subsequent monitoring showed the noise drops by up to 15 dBA due to the containers. David undertook to look in to what could be done about noise impacts on the Darebin side. Later in the meeting, Chris requested that the noise modelling data be presented to the CRG, and Ramon asked how the walls worked with gaps in them.

ACTION 2.6: AusNet Services to examine what can be done to manage noise impacts on the Darebin side of the site, and provide noise modelling data to the CRG at the next meeting.

On the subject of upcoming works, David said concrete foundations would be placed in part of the basement by the end of the month. Excavation will continue until around March/April 2015.

In the northern area of the site, footings were being put in place for the replacement rack structure and the palm tree had been relocated to Bridges Reserve in Coburg (to fill a gap in a row of similar palms).

David indicated the concrete retaining wall construction would start in November. Anne asked about the final treatment of the retaining wall. Denis and David said that the final treatment had been determined by VCAT following the recent hearings, and the plans were now endorsed. The endorsed plans were circulated for the CRG to view. It was clarified that these are legally binding on all parties and require AusNet Services to build the retaining wall exactly as detailed in the endorsed plans.

7. Emergency Management Plan (EMP)

David indicated that AusNet Services had been talking with Council about how the site emergency management plan will relate to Council's overall plan. Responsibility rests with the Moreland Municipal Management Plan (MEMP) in terms of community evacuation. Grant Thorne, Director of City Infrastructure is responsible for the Moreland MEMP and will be invited to the next meeting to discuss further. Ray asked if the MFB had been consulted on the site EMP.

ACTION 2.7: Grant Thorne to be invited to the next meeting (10 February 2015) to discuss the MEMP. Grant to inform the CRG whether the Metropolitan Fire Brigade had been consulted on the MEMP.

8. Concept Plan for 'goats track' and other potential Developer Contributions

A draft version of the goats track was circulated. The path was drafted as a gravel path. In initial comments, Ramon suggested a hard surface, like concrete, would make it more weather proof for cyclists and also suggested consultation on the draft plan.

David pointed out that the draft works were in two parts – one that was required by the conditions of the Planning Permit (from Alister Street to the northern edge of the soccer pavilion), and an offer 'above and beyond' that to informally link that path to the Council-owned shared path to the north (to somewhat formalise a currently informal track). He noted that there was an existing concrete path from Alister Street to the shared path, beginning close to the soccer pavilion.

Council will also be required to be consulted given the path extended into land managed by Council.

ACTION 2.8: AusNet Services to consult with the Merri Creek Management Committee on the draft plan for the track prior to submission to Council for endorsement.

Chris mentioned possibilities for other facilities and improvements in the area that would benefit the community that AusNet Services might consider funding as a contribution beyond the permit requirements. She gave examples such as toilets in Sumner Park and other improvements to the park and Merri Creek. She suggested a consultation process could identify opportunities for AusNet Services to 'give back' to the community, and leave the area as good as if not better than before, especially considering the disruption residents are enduring.

Kirsten advised there isn't a formal developer contribution in place for the BTS. However Council would welcome discussion with AusNet Services in relation to potential contributions. Such contributions would be on a voluntary basis and should tie in with objectives for this section of the Merri Creek, as informed by established studies and master plans.

ACTION 2.9: Council to check if there is a master plan for Sumner Park and what the Merri Creek Plan says about this section of the creek.

ACTION 2.10: AusNet Services to consider suggestions of other voluntary contributions and then discuss possible options with Council and report to the CRG with regard to what contribution (and associated process) might be possible.

9. General Business

Communications

With regard to the concept of a separate CRG newsletter, Bruce suggested the group consider the existing availability of information about the CRG process. The CRG minutes should reflect the work of the group in a balanced way and will be placed on Council's website and be available for members to distribute. It was also suggested that the minutes and other information could be displayed on a noticeboard adjacent to the site, and that a suitable location for this could be discussed on the forthcoming site visit. At this stage, a separate newsletter was not considered necessary.

ACTION 2.11: CRG minutes to be displayed at a suitable place at the site. An appropriate location to be discussed on the site tour.

Tree works

Ramon noted that fallen trees and stumps remain to the north of the pavilion and still require removal.

ACTION 2.12: Council to lodge a formal Customer Service Request for works to be completed

David said recent tree pruning undertaken by a cherry picker on a Sunday was by Council's Open Space Unit. Ramon asked why Council was doing these works while AusNet Services reacted quickly to other issues such as drainage. He pointed out that the CEMP calls for residents to complain to initiate action and called for the CEMP to be updated to include trigger points for more self-directed action by the company.

Preparation for meetings

Darren requested that CRG members bring along any attachments that form part of circulated agendas in future as, in the interests of saving paper, full copies for all members will not generally be available at future meetings.

10. Next Meeting / Site Tour

The agreed options for the site tour were – Tuesday, 25 November or 2 December 6pm – 7:30pm. (The latter was subsequently confirmed).

Next CRG Meeting – Tuesday 10 February 6:30 – 8:30pm, venue tba.