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HBRA Newsletter - July 2021

Hello to all our members and residents.

This newsletter provides an update on our Committee's involvement in a number of community issues. We welcome your feedback and involvement and encourage you to share the Newsletter to the wider community.

We are also looking for volunteers for our committee and so if you are looking to do some community work then please contact either myself or Barry the Secretary.

Ken Daly
President

Brighton Road, Hove Crossing

You would have no doubt heard of the State Governments decision to not proceed with any of the options put forward for review by the public. This matter has been regrettably poorly managed by the State Government which resulted in a substantial backlash from the community and the cancelation of any improvements on the crossing.

A summary of our involvement has been as follows:

Our Committee has been actively engaging with the following groups:

- Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT)
- Representatives of a collated residents group who are objecting to all but the Rail Under option,
- Elected Councillors,
- Committee members of the 5049 Residents Group,

We have also attended a number of the protest meetings, including one where Nicolle Flint (Federal member for Boothby) addressed a group of some 80 attendees.

A substantial number of questions were raised with DIT at a meeting attended by the Alliance and the 5049 group. In particular the rail under option requiring the acquisition of up to 46 properties and the re-routing of the rail line during the project, with an estimated

overall project cost of \$450 million. The option of the rail under was estimated to be some \$300 Million. The amount of money being spent on the project was also questioned as it did not align to the costs of similar projects.

The option preferred by the Residents group and Council was the rail under and we supported this position.

We received the following feedback:

“We are currently reviewing the geotechnical information obtained from the investigation works recently completed in the area. We are also continuing to consider community feedback within the context of determining a suitable solution which minimises the impact on both the local community and rail services.”

Following the swell of protest by various groups and residents the State Government has decided not to proceed with any upgrade at this time. The current position of the government is:

“On 22 June 2021, the South Australian Government announced that the Hove Level Crossing removal will not be proceeding.

This decision was made after extensive stakeholder consultation and detailed analysis of both rail-over and rail-under design options, which found that the least costly of the two would still be around \$120 million more than the available budget. Instead, a *Ten Year Level Crossing Removal Program* will be established to identify and prioritise the removal of level crossings across Adelaide based on potential benefits, strategic importance within the network and affordability.”

Our position is that there is a growing problem with traffic along Brighton Road and surrounding areas and that the Government needs to investigate and provide a long term sustainable alternative that is acceptable to all stake holders including local residents.

We will continue to monitor for any developments.

Glenelg Police Station (GPS) Operating Hours and Procedures

The issues are in relation to the restricted hours of operation of the Glenelg Police station and a lack of a Police presence at Glenelg in comparison to other areas of Adelaide.

Pre Covid meetings and correspondence were raised with the Jetty Road Traders Association and HB Council. Correspondence was forwarded by HBRA in March 2021 to the Minister of Police Vincent Tarzia, highlighting our concerns regarding the above issues. A response was received from the Minister advising that they continue to monitor the situation however there will be no change to the current position.

The Minister’s response does not address the issues that were raised. These include the after hours need to police an active area that includes several licenced premises and problems with the itinerant population. GPS cannot currently respond to an operational need and is reliant on vehicle patrols that are in the main activated from Henley Beach.

The Alliance has again written to the Minister seeking further clarification.

Council Electoral Representative Review

A review is required in accordance with a State Government Bill which seeks to abolish the Chairperson position and have a maximum of twelve elected members, including the Mayor, per Council. Accordingly HB Council invited public consultation on the following items:

- Mayor/Chairperson preference
- Number of Wards vs No Wards
- Number of Elected Members

In conjunction with the 5049 Coastal Community group we have forwarded our submission to Council. The preferences put forward were:

- We were not specific in the preference for Mayor or Chairperson when considering the proposed Government Bill which will abolish the Chairperson status
- Retaining the current four Wards
- To reduce the number of elected members per ward from three to two

Through the HB council an independent consultant completed for release to the public a "Representative Review Report" which purported in part the following:

NOTE: 74% of submissions supported a reduction in the number of Elected Members. The report stated that fewer Elected Members may expedite debate and the decision making process in council. In regard to elector ratios the report stated that a reduced number of Elected Members, including the most favoured by submissions namely eight, would align Holdfast Bay with the elector ratios in most of the 19 councils cited in the report.

Despite the Reports submissions summary and subsequent recommendations the Council Elected members have passed motions that support the continuance of the current structure. It was noted that Councillors Clancy and Bradshaw did not support this position.

In essence the Groups consider this to be a clear conflict of interest in that the decision on the structure going forward is voted on by the current incumbents and therefore lacks independent scrutiny.

The 5049 Coastal Group and the HBRA have sent our joint submission to the SA Electoral Commission and the respective portfolio State Government MP's requesting that they review the current structure.

More to follow.

Seawall Apartment Development.

As you would now be aware the Seawall Apartment Development has been rejected by an Extraordinary SCAP meeting held 30th June 2021. We attended this meeting in support of those parties presenting cases against the development in the form presented by the developers.

A summary of the development application and our involvement has been as follows:

The State Planning Commission received a development application for 21-25 South Esplanade, Glenelg. The development incorporated in principal the demolition of existing structures including local heritage places and the construction of a 13 storey residential apartment building with associated basement car parking.

HBRA supported the local residents group and HB Council, by way of attending resident meetings, together with a submission to the State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP) that called for the development to adhere to the current building code, which restricts buildings being constructed in that area in excess of five storeys. Other problematic aspects cited were visual and infrastructure issues including Pier Street access, volume of cars (unit holders and visitors), State utilities and general impact on the immediate community.

The Advertiser provided significant coverage of the decision on July 2nd 2021, with an editorial headed *"Victory for People Power at the Bay"* and a story with photo heading *"Controversial Glenelg Seawall Development gets thumbs down from State's peak planning body"*

Well done to the Save our Seawall residents group for their active 4 month campaign, and great result.

Traffic Control McAuley School and Surrounding Streets

Our main concerns are the safety of the parents and children during school pick up times. The restriction of traffic during these times in our opinion does not provide an adequate and safe environment. In addition, the type of speed bumps installed along King George Avenue are inappropriate.

HBRA has written to the Council raising the issues and seeking a safer solution. Council have responded stating that they have employed a Traffic consultant and that our concerns will be discussed shortly.

18 months ago HBRA representatives attended a Council sponsored forum/consultation relating to traffic and associated issues within the HB Council precinct and as yet, despite requests, have not been provided with a report.

Discussions have commenced with the new Traffic consultant.

Council Draft Annual Business Plan – 2021/22

The document was released for public consultation and accordingly we reviewed the contents and forwarded a comprehensive submission to the council based on the information provided. HBRA representatives attended along with the 5049 Residents group a special Council meeting held in May on the proposed plan. (We consider our efforts and other submissions by community members on last year's 2020/21 Plan a factor in having a reduction to the proposed original increase in rates from 2.4% to 1.8%.)

Despite our submissions to Council recommending a rise in this year's 2021/22 Council Rates to be in line with CPI 1.1%, the Elected Councillors voted to increase rates by 2.4%. A most disappointing result.

We have recently received a reply from Council in relation to our submission and will discuss a strategy at our next meeting.

Lithium Battery Disposal concerns

Our committee has been concerned about the dangers of incorrect disposal of lithium batteries, including button batteries and 6v lantern batteries. We fear that many batteries end up at landfill sites.

There are quite a few Battery collection boxes in Holdfast Bay but very few people use them. The Council has a box at Jetty Road Brighton and recently Woolworths stores.

Facebook and HBRA Website

We are endeavouring to bring this aspect of our communication up to speed and we appreciate your patience in our doing so.

For a number of months now our Facebook page has been posting historical pictures of the area thanks to our Publicity Officer Maurice Dunstall. They are very interesting and well worth a viewing. Our intention is to develop both the Website and the Facebook page to provide a platform to enhance our communication. Work is currently being completed by the volunteers to upgrade these in the short term.

The Facebook address is Holdfast Bay Residents Alliance and the Webpage is:

https://sacommunity.org/org/217737-Holdfast_Bay_Residents_Alliance_Inc.

If you have an IT background and are in a position to assist your input would be greatly appreciated.

<https://www.holdfastbayresidentsalliance.org.au/>

Membership

HBRA:

- Provides support, advocacy and independent information to resident ratepayers of Holdfast Bay
- Seeks transparency and accountability of the expenditure by Council of your ratepayer dollar.
- Closely monitors how the elected members and the Administration are setting and administrating policies

We raise issues or work with a number of organisations including but not limited to the Mayor, elected Councillors and the staff at the City of Holdfast Bay, as well as with the State Government local MPs and Federal Government local MPs

As a Volunteer, non-political organisation, we do our best to assist local interest groups, and have a good network of supporters throughout the State.

Our membership fee has been kept at the very reasonable price of \$15 per household. The majority of monies received are applied to administration fees there are no paid positions.

Membership by Electronic banking fee remit \$15 to our bank, Bank SA BSB 105-015 Account No. 129415940 (Please include your name as the reference)

Alternatively, you may renew or join by post:

Call our Treasurer today to receive a membership form. Send this signed form with a cheque made out to HBRA for \$15 and mail to HBRA, PO Box 1182 Glenelg South 5045.

For those who are former members or are on our mailing list, we welcome your renewed support. New members are very welcome.

HBRA Committee 2020/2021

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