BBTCMP Meeting - Wednesday 6th March 2019

Claire McGarry, Mark Arnold, Rob Van Iersel, Phillip Holloway, Cr Cate Coorey, Cr Paul Spooner, Donald Maughan, Troy Eady, Helen Buckley, David Michie, Gail Fuller, Anne Leitch, Tony Gembeck, Denzil Lloyd, Mark 'Mono' Stewart, Charlie Wilson, Anthony Pangallo, Lyn Leger, Jack Dods, Melissa Pleiter, Peggy O'Neill, Vicki Henricks, Ben Gordon

Apologies: Cr Simon Richardson, Cr Jan Hackett, Chris Hanley, Craig Johnston

Chair: Donald Maughan

BSC Round up - Claire McGarry

Tender for Railway Park awarded – construction will be April – October 2019.

Final decision of location of Rotunda – near tree stump along side wall of CBA building.

Location of park artwork on hold until upgrade is complete and a decision can be made on most appropriate location within the park.

Review of public art process and review of selection criteria with a weighting on local artists.

Relocation of markets during by-pass construction – discussions have been held with market managers over the last 12 months. They are now having these discussions with stallholders. No sites chosen as yet. Closure date after 7th July market.

Looking at how to deal with loss of free parking space.

Cr Spooner raised importance of consideration of where the markets should be relocated to long term, especially looking in the centre of town. Important to make people aware.

Suffolk Park cycleway has progressed to the design stage. Not funded but a Grant application has been lodged. Some funding has been secured for section from Byron@Byron to Suffolk Park Tavern. BSC endorsed naming 'Ben Donohoe Memorial Cycle Way' Donald Maughan mentioned that some older, long term residents were opposed to this name. Process in place to go through for legal process of naming. Donald suggested perhaps memorial seats for many prominent residents, not just one.

Bus Interchange

Not a BSC project – Transport for NSW

Transport NSW is looking at awarding the contract and being present on site by the end of March.

Question of why there is secrecy behind the plans being public and if so, why?

Frustration from BSC with lack of co-operation from State Govt to put plans on show and get some community consultation. This has caused confusion in the general community that the BSC is to blame for not putting out information sooner.

By-Pass

Tenders for construction are open now. The precinct should be completed in 18 months which includes Railway Park, Butler St Reserve, Bus Inter-Change and By-Pass.

BY-Pass is a BSC project. Tenders close 22nd March and hoping to start construction in July 2019 (hence closure of Butler St Reserve).

Town Centre Changes

Moving the Bus Station and the start of the By-Pass is the first process in prioritising people over cars in the town centre.

Discussion with the group about what changes they would like to see or 'test' in town.

The question was raised if either side of the By-Pass would be zoned as Commercial (like a new main street). Rob advised this had not been floated to his knowledge.

This is the start of the process of sieving ideas and concepts into a meaningful process. Testing can be process of using bollards and planters to temporarily close of areas to test sections and determine what works.

Ouestion raised of why not raise paid parking rates, particularly in the more popular areas such as the beachfront. BSC can do this quite easily and are giving careful consideration as to what works best. Concern for the 'tipping point' when it becomes simply too expensive and revenue is lost all together.

Many influencing factors for improving movements in the town centre i.e. slowing traffic. Also noted to see what impact Mercato car park has when fully functional centre.

Need to remember accessibility for elderly, families with small children, people with reduced mobility etc.

Need to bring ideas to a few scenarios and then modelling can be developed.

Timing is crucial also – allow the By-Pass to commence to allow for community adjustment to this change and then bring ideas forward slowly to test.

Butler St Residents Group

10 Questions submitted which Chris Hanley, Donald Maughan and Claire McGarry will develop rough outline of answers and then circulate to the group for input.

Manor House Update

BSC applied to State Department of Planning for a further extension beyond 01/07/19 and also requesting the ability to be able to nominate certain areas as exempt.