

Meeting minutes

Benalla Working Group #4

Date / Time

2 March, 2021
6.00pm to 8.15pm AEST

Location

Benalla Bowls Club

Facilitator

Cath Botta

Minute taker

Carrie Donaldson

Distribution

All

Attendees (Show organisation if not ARTC)

- Cr. Justin King (Benalla Rural City Council)
- Cr. Gail O'Brien (Benalla Rural City Council)
- Philip Rees (Better Benalla Rail)
- David Blore (Independent)
- Graeme Paul (Independent)
- Pamela O'Connor (Independent)
- Bill Parris (independent)
- John Dennis (Independent)
- Angeline Daniels, ARTC, Stakeholder Engagement Lead
- Carrie Donaldson, ARTC, Stakeholder Engagement Advisor
- Kasey Robb, ARTC, Senior Environment Advisor
- Marisa Feher, ARTC, Environment Manager
- Zac Cvitkovic, AECOM, Associate Director, Urban Design
- Samantha Smith, ARTC, A/ Manager, Stakeholder Engagement and Communications

Apologies (Show organisation if not ARTC)

- Janette Anderson (Independent)
- Margaret Richards (Independent)
- Rowan McEwan (Independent)
- Susan Pearce (Better Benalla Rail)

Discussions

NO.	ACTIONS
1	<p><i>Opening and Welcome 5.58pm</i></p> <p>Cath formally welcomed those in attendance including Working Group members and representatives from ARTC and outlined the format for the evening's meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received and noted from;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Janette Anderson - Margaret Richards - Suzie Pearce - Rowan McEwan
2	<p><i>Endorsement of Minutes from the previous meeting</i></p>

NO.	ACTIONS																					
	<p>Cath invited feedback on the minutes from the previous meeting held on January 18th, 2021. The following feedback was received and agreed to be updated in the minutes prior to publishing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train/coach passenger movements should be updated to reflect total movements • ATMS signalling system – clarification required in terms of what is possible and what is outside of scope • Meeting schedule was discussed with dates to be updated to reflect changes due to COVID shutdown <p>Based on these agreed changes, the minutes were endorsed as a fair and accurate representation of the meeting.</p> <p>Moved: Bill Parris Seconded: David Blore</p> <p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ARTC to make minor amendments to the minutes as outlined above and publish on the ARTC website under the Benalla Working Group. 2. ARTC to provide clarification on options for signalling in Benalla 																					
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NO.	ACTIONS	
	<p>considered review of design concepts and capture feedback from the BWG and broader community.</p>	
	<p>ARTC investigate legacy clean up requirements</p>	<p>AD advised that NERL works clean-up is currently underway. Members of the group noted that the old loop has been completed as part of the NERL completion works.</p>
	<p>ARTC develop a schedule for regular communication via local media, newsletter and social media.</p>	<p>It was suggested that the Working Group jointly regularly develop content to share with the media and community to keep them informed on the progress of the project in Benalla and the discussions of the Working Group. Cath also advised that a Chair's summary of the meeting is planned as part of communications moving forward and will appear in the Ensign shortly following the BWG's meetings in advance of the minutes being published online.</p>
	<p>ARTC request approval to share environmental plans ie elevation plans with BWG.</p>	<p>Ongoing (standing action item)</p>
<p>6.15pm Break</p>		
<p>4</p>	<p>UDF presentation – 6.30pm</p> <p>Cath welcomed Zak and Sam from AECOM along with Kasey and Marissa from ARTC to present on the draft Urban Design Framework (UDF) for Benalla.</p> <p>Zak highlighted the following (See presentation attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted the Reference Design process. • Council has a role to play to inform what will be delivered “in the long run” • Vision and principles need to be broad enough to cover all locations • The objectives are specific to each location • Emphasised it is not a design. It is a framework to inform direction, to encourage and allow the contractors to be innovative in developing the detailed design • Highlighted the Vision Statement and the desire for a sense of pride – include quote (TBC). • Desire to facilitate future potential. 	

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	<p>UDF Principles include the following underlying principles:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1. Elevating 'Pride of Place'</td> <td style="width: 50%;">07. Encouraging local life</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Contributing to the future</td> <td>08. Enriching the journey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Connecting local communities</td> <td>09. Responding to it's locale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Built to last</td> <td>10. Respecting the past</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Comfortable to use</td> <td>11. Developed through collaboration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Safe for people</td> <td>12. Non-fussy and simple – the ability to maintain</td> </tr> </table> <p>There was a discussion around the project Principles and what was of importance to the group. These included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respecting the wants of the community. The Working Group raised concern regarding the potential of decision makers ignoring the wants of the people siting the demolition of the Tea Rooms without the consent of the community as not respectful of the past. • The context and scope of the UDF physical boundaries and how it connects with other boundaries of the municipality ie incorporation into the planning scheme. Marissa (ARTC) advised that the UDF will connect to the Municipal Planning Scheme Amendment (MPSA) and connect with local area plans such as Precinct Structure Plans (PSP). • Agreement that the project presented an opportunity for the Benalla Station to be much more prominent and better incorporated as part of the town. • Critical importance of health, safety and human life. • Sense of arrival and the visual amenity from both the north and south approaches. The need to address the “visual wasteland”. • The UDF remains present to assess the response of the contractor to the project and the importance of the UDF not being focussed on a particular solution to ensure it can respond to potential changes ie technology, environment, funding etc. <p>Some members of the group expressed a level of frustration with the process, wanting to avoid what could be perceived as “Motherhood statements” and a desire to “Cut to the chase”.</p> <p>Zak advised the Group that the team have reviewed both the reference design and the alternate design presented by BBR. The UDF has taken on board these elements without honing in on specific design solutions, it is important to keep an arm’s length so that the UDF can challenge any proposed solutions from the appointed contractor. It was advised that Independent experts will review the designs and assess their responses to the UDF.</p> <p>There was a discussion of the potential for freight hubs along the alignment. ARTC advised that the positioning of freight/logistics hubs were commercial in capture and outside the scope of ARTC. A business case was currently in development by the Victorian Government for the siting of the hub potentially in Beveridge.</p> <p>Cath requested that the minutes of the last meeting and station visit be shared with AECOM. She highlighted the concern of the group in seeing and clearly understanding the scope of the project. Cath requested that the Working Group park for now and have on the agenda for next meeting.</p> <p>Zak talked through Benalla specific UDF Objectives and draft map (see presentation slides) and highlighted the following;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The station and its connection to Carrier st is central to the project. 	1. Elevating 'Pride of Place'	07. Encouraging local life	2. Contributing to the future	08. Enriching the journey	3. Connecting local communities	09. Responding to it's locale	4. Built to last	10. Respecting the past	5. Comfortable to use	11. Developed through collaboration	6. Safe for people	12. Non-fussy and simple – the ability to maintain
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NO.	ACTIONS
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. The UDF puts a safe and accessible station as one of the first priorities3. The importance of visual amenity4. Heritage is critical5. Any infrastructure will acknowledge and respond to the understanding that there is further growth in Benalla. The project needs to not preclude the future. It needs to be flexible enough to not bias future outcomes. <p>Feedback captured included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern regarding the project area boundaries and the need to consider the heritage signal box.• It was suggested by the group that the current project footprint will not allow the track realignment that is being proposed by BBR.• Safety elements need to include safety of vehicles movement with pedestrians etc. Concerns were raised regarding the level crossing with pedestrians “ducking around” and ongoing issues with the signal box and long delays. There was a suggestion that the level crossing needs to be incorporated into the project site.• Corner house block – currently vacant. Opportunities for a potential bus terminal.• There was a discussion of the old foot bridge and general discussion of lift options in the North East and the limitations due to a lack of locally based technicians. The Group recognised and acknowledged the need for accessibility and the aging population in Benalla. <p>Question from the group included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarification as to the number of objectives. Zak advised that the intention is to keep elements specific to Benalla and to ensure a focus on these elements as the most important.• Theme of budget for Benalla and its role in influencing the outcome. There was an overall question if Benalla has “fought hard enough” as a community for better outcomes for Benalla.• Signal box a high priority for community• How is Nunn street being incorporated into this plan? Concerned that Nunn St is not captured in the project site and is a major access point for vehicles (including Vline buses), pedestrians etc <p>Cath highlighted the importance of the Working Group being clear on the objectives for Benalla as these will be what the Working Group uses to assess options into the future.</p> <p>She invited the Group to consider “are we going to stand behind these objectives as a working group?”</p> <p>Cath summarised feedback from the Working Group as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include vehicle access• The importance of the removal of the overpass• Concerns around the influence of the costings on the project• Intersection of Nunn Street and the level crossing needs to be addressed in the plan• Signal box needs to be incorporated. <p>Zak thanked the group for the feedback and stated that it has been really useful and pitched at the right level.</p>

NO.	ACTIONS
	<p>Marissa emphasised that ARTC want to respect the needs of each town and that we all want to be proud of the achievements. She advised that the MPSA will be scrutinised by both Council and Minister for planning.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>3. Angeline/Carrie will circulate slides for comments/feedback. Request that group provide feedback by 19th March.</p>
5	<p>General business</p> <p>The following items were submitted for General Business;</p> <p>Scope of project. Raised by Pamela O'Connor and Bill Parris.</p> <p>Bill requested more detail of what is included in the scope for the project and highlighted the current project area included in the UDF presentation would not allow for the consideration of a track realignment.</p> <p>Pamela noted ARTC's corporate intent statement on the website and highlighted the commitment to local communities. She recounted discussions with Ed Walker highlighting works outside of scope that were able to be achieved during the NERL project suggesting that the scope can be moved/modified.</p> <p>John suggested that the working group could discuss elements outside scope and elements that the working group wish to achieve and how we may wish to do this. Ed Walker (GM) and Mark Campbell (CEO) advised that they were prepared to work with the community where they could to achieve elements outside the scope of ARTC.</p> <p>David and Cr O'Brien highlighted the need for Council to conduct engagement to inform the Council plan and suggested that the working group could feed into the Council plan.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <p>4. Next meeting agenda item – Scope and non negotiables ARTC</p> <p>5. That the direction of the Benalla Working Group and Project be incorporated into the Council Plan - All</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>There was a discussion around communication of the Working Group's progress to date and the need to keep the community informed along the way. David suggested that the Chair could on behalf of the group develop a media release/communication on the progress of the group.</p> <p>It was requested that ARTC capture and report back on feedback received from the community including a matrix of who has been included in the consultations to date.</p> <p>Cr King suggested that the group come together and adopt an agreed position for the project that supports the final Objectives of the UDF.</p> <p>NERL</p> <p>John expressed concern that the recent article in the Ensign that was critical of ARTC. He highlighted it has taken 59 years to bring the line to a class 2 condition and that ARTC should be congratulated.</p>

NO.	ACTIONS
	<p>John requested 10 minutes in the next agenda to present on level crossing. Action: Level Crossing background be added to General Business.</p> <p>Graham raised question of the status of the Heritage Bridge (Broken River Bridge?) rectification. Marissa advised that a rectification notice had been issued from Heritage Victoria (March 2020) to ARTC as part of the NERL and that these works are currently taking place.</p> <p>CEO Visit</p> <p>The group provided positive feedback on the meeting with the CEO and GM. Indicating they believed that both wanted the best for Benalla and that they found Mark Campbell to be easy to talk to and felt comfortable in meeting him.</p>
6	<p>Closing comments from the group included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficial session • Request for focus on the nitty gritty • Good process and we are working through it. • Key message is that ARTC are revisiting original designs.
7	Close meeting: 8.08 pm

Actions

NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY
1	ARTC to make minor amendments to the minutes as outlined above and publish on the ARTC website under the Benalla Working Group.	ARTC
2	ARTC to provide clarification on options for signalling in Benalla	ARTC
3	A presentation on the Project Scope and non-negotiables be provided by ARTC at the April BGW meeting.	ARTC
4	BWG meeting schedule reflect the timelines of the project phases. To be included in the April session planning meeting.	ARTC
5	ARTC develop appropriate materials to support the considered review of design concepts and capture feedback from the BWG and broader community.	ARTC
6	ARTC will circulate UDF slides for comments/feedback. Request that group provide feedback by 19th March.	ARTC

7	That the direction of the Benalla Working Group and Project be incorporated into the Council Plan	All
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Next meeting

Venue to be advised