

**MASSBUG MINUTES AND NOTICES
AUGUST 2006**

Present: John
Dom
Geoff
Brenda
Gilbert
Robert
Jonathon
Ian
Fiona
Paul

Apologies: None

Chair: Fiona
Minutes: Gilbert

AGENDA

**MINUTES
MATTERS ARISING
LOCAL ISSUES
ADMINISTRATION
MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL NEWS
CITY OF SYDNEY NEWS
ADMINISTRATION
RIDES AND EVENTS
OTHER ITEMS**

Meeting commenced at 7:30

MINUTES:

1: Matters arising

Matters from the previous minutes were read and actions were either completed, ongoing, or awaiting action.

Items:

- 3/ Trench, Wilson St** - Megan has sprayed hump.
- 4/ Alexandra Canal** path witches hats – RTA has on urgent list.
- 5/ Motorbikes** using bike lanes – no action.
- 6/ Letter to MC** re logo outside Herb Greedy – deferred.
- 7 Contra-flow Wilson St** – meeting with CoS staff, new line marking.
- 8/ Thefts Broadway** – draft letter written.
- 9/ Liberty St root damage** – awaiting traffic committee meeting.
- 10/ Illawarra Road RRPMS** - awaiting traffic committee meeting.
- 11/ Alice St raised traffic markers** - awaiting traffic committee meeting.
- 12/ Forward information on Alexandra Canal** to Fuji-Xerox enviro officer – no action yet.
- 13/ Letter John Watkins** re Redfern Bridge – letters sent.
- 15/ Bike Plan thanks** – Sent to Kendal and response received.
- 16/ Meeting with Carmel** – has been arranged. Call for participants.
- 17/ Glass rides** – on hold till further notice.
- 18/ City Circuit Ride** – email forwarded.
- 20/ NSW Govt funding**, letter to Carmel – Brenda drafted forwarded to John to sign.
- 21/ Elections** – liberal party news release/policy process posted to massbug site.
- 23/ T-Shirts** – MC has offered part funding under Marrickville Festival.

- 24/ Tail lights – 10 purchased to be distributed at M Festival or to new massbug riders.
- 25/ Rail corridor – deferred. Refer to Gilbert GreenWay Steering Committee for further.
- 26/ PushOn – Jenni has emailed stating there is ongoing effort to retain hardcopy dist.
- 27/ Bike Parking – Email forwarded to Clover Moore's office.

LOCAL ISSUES

2: Guest – John

John has approached MASSBUG to obtain advice and or assistance with having a bike parking rack installed at a private tennis club adjacent to council owned tennis courts in Auburn. He has not approached anyone outside of the club at present for advice as how to proceed.

The courts themselves have bike parking facilities but the private club does not. John owns an electric moped and has approached the club on numerous occasions to have the bike parked in a direct line of sight from the club premises and has been often refused permission.

His moped was stolen on one occasion and because the theft was filmed on CCTV. The person responsible was a club member. A club official accompanied John to the persons residence and the bike was regained the worse for wear.

Some efforts were once made to locate an undercover facility at the club but was then denied.

John has already purchased a rack and is prepared to have it installed.

There seems to have been a persistent attempt by at least one board member to thwart the provision of facilities to the members.

John is one of at least five persons at the club who cycles to the venue.

Various opinions were offered including:

1. Get a response in writing from the club as to why the board has previously rejected his application.
2. Approaching Council, and individual councillors,
3. Approaching State Government member,
4. Approaching a respected member of the community to act as champion.
5. Raising a petition amongst members.
6. Raising a petition amongst the community.
7. Beginning a BUG for the local area and having them support his action.
8. Hold regular bicycle meetings on the club premises to raise the profile of the cycling community.

We wished him well and await further information of his success or otherwise.

3: Wilson St – Fiona

Meeting was held on site between MASSBUG members and representatives of Council of the City Of Sydney – Adam Fowler (landscaping) Peter Donley (engineering) and George Angelis (construction). They sought opinion as to what was necessary work and which could be completed immediately and which were short to medium term. Line marking has been commenced followed by renewing the green surface and signage, at which point the lane will be legally off limits to cars heading east. There was concern expressed about centre medians about pedestrian crossings, etc.

N.B. Little Eveleigh Street did not receive line marking.

Action: CoS to continue and Massbug and BikeSydney to continue to pressure for completion asap.

4: Redfern Street – Fiona

Redfern Street is also presenting problems with council employees seeming to deliberately frustrate implementation of various measures pushed for by BikeSydney and agreed to by Councillors.

Wells Street surface cannot be improved at present as the road is heritage listed, there are

endblock cobbles beneath the current road surface which cannot be removed. The road surface will in time be "re-sheeted".

Action: none at present.

5: Alexandra Canal – Geoff

Has been in contact with RTA and hazard opposite Link Road is on their list of works.

Has also noticed that riders travelling along Pacific Highway south through Tempe seem unaware of L13 path diverting to Smith St.

Action: Geoff to obtain and keep on hand copies of the relevant bike route maps to distribute to riders.

6: Petersham Bike Bus – Paul

Bike bus started 1 August.

*Interest from Ashbug

*Handed out maps and info at Newtown to passengers

*Andrew Dodds caught us and joined the trip in

Promotion - stuff that has happened

Massbug Website details up and emails sent to News and List

Media release, Brenda prepared and sent this.

Fiona Vaughan took photos and sent them to Brenda for the media release.

IWC, Phone Interview on Monday

2SER, Interview Friday.

Ashbug, Col will promote the BB and encourage others to ride on Census day.

Promotion - Other Ideas

Gilbert suggested a poster at the local cafes. I'll aim to put something up at the local Portuguese cafes in Petersham and at cafes and station at Stanmore.

The Ride

Morning

Three passengers turned up at Newtown. Debra, Jo and Emma. Andrew Dodds caught us and joined us for most of the way.

At Newtown I handed out Maps, Rides calendars, Massbug and BNSW flyers.

As the riders may not have known the best way to approach each part of the ride, (ie at the Eliza St crossing, take the road on Wilson street not the footpath), I had to lead at the front. But this meant I had to keep an eye out to ensure everyone was together and the pace was OK. Thus it was a bit disconcerting leading from the front. I know Fiona does lead it from the back, but most of her passengers probably know the route.

Evening

No-one "Officially" booked for the ride, but I met other regular cyclists Louisa & Megan Webb along the way. Louisa exited at Redfern and Megan joined me to the end of the official route.

General message from passengers was that they finish work at irregular times and thus can't commit to a regular return journey time.

My passengers chose to get the train home or ride a bit by themselves.

Action: suggest putting the route on bikely.

ADMINISTRATION

7: T-Shirts – Brenda

Kendall has offered to partially fund printing of the t-shirts as part of the Marrickville Festival budget. This will delay printing of shirts by a few weeks. All agreed to delay. We still need to obtain commitment from people to purchase asap.

MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL NEWS

8: Email received from Kendall

Hi Fiona & massbug

Just a quick update on the Bikeplan for tonight's meeting.

Engineering Study provided for distribution. The only part of the Engineering Study yet to be done is the 'costed works program', which Warren is working on now and plans to complete shortly. After that, I'll wrap up the Bikeplan report by merging the full Engineering Study with the Planning & Social Study (which I'm still developing). As soon as this is completed, I'll distribute the report as a single entity.

My immediate (and ongoing) challenge for the Bikeplan is to ensure it is well co-ordinated with (and supported by) the Urban Strategy discussion papers and Integrated Transport Plan. We plan to put submissions to Council on the latter two documents to September 06 meetings and the Bikeplan soon after. All of these documents will need some form of formal exhibition after that.

Worth reporting too that we are up and running the active preschool project (handing out surveys to parents at Globe preschool this week) and the TravelSmart primary school projects. Dulwich Hill Primary is the first cab off the rank, and last week Carolyn New (Area Health Service), Belinda Keir (P&C) and I started the 'audit', which included an inspection of walking/cycling facilities and behaviours, including the 3:15pm 'pick up'. We'll be doing further inspections today and next week.

Also worth reporting is the Cooks River Path Upgrade project report has almost been finalised (with some form of exhibition likely to occur soon) and we've almost finalised the GreenWay Co-ordination Strategy brief, so will be looking for a project co-ordinator soon (\$60K total cash funding for this 12-month project).

As always, feedback welcome at any time

Action: due to shortness of time discussion deferred to email list.

CITY OF SYDNEY NEWS

9: Draft Cycle Plan Released – Fiona

CoS Traffic Committee Meeting - Tuesday 01 Aug

Plan available online see MASSBUG website for links.

Shane Mallard (Lib) thinks target of 10% journeys to city by 2010 (?) set too low.

All councillors have been positive and supportive.

There were various submissions accepted from the floor.

10: Williams Street - Fiona

State govt is still proceeding with the removal of the cycle lanes between Palmer St and Darlinghurst Road.

Attempts are still being made to challenge the legality of removal of cycle lanes specifically.

Action: Gilbert to forward concerns (as per notices) re: 1 - off-road cycle lane/shared path and 2 - speed of traffic, to Road Minister.

11: Marrickville Matters And Active Marrickville Supplement - Ian

Marrickville Matters And Active Marrickville Supplement features MASSBUG.

RIDES AND EVENTS

12: Centennial Park – Brenda

Coincides with City To Surf. Consensus not to postpone as flyers and information already distributed.

13: Addison Road Markets – Fiona

The supply of Bike-It 2 selling well. Calendars are doing well.

Action: More copies of Bike-It to be requested.

14: New PushOn website.

New url and format.

13: MOST 2007

Following from previous offer to provide bike transport details between MOST (Marrickville Open Studio Trail) sites we have been approached by MC to write letter of support for funding for 2007 event.

Action: Gilbert to draft letter of support.

14: Sydney Festival Rides - John K

John is eager to present themed rides in conjunction with the Sydney Festival in January.

Action: John to submit proposal to MASSBUG (via email). (2007 Rides Calendar to be finalised when?)

OTHER ITEMS

15: Australian Ethical Grant Application – Gilbert

Online submission made for funding to assist production and distribution of video on road rules. Potential audience – TVS (community tv), distribute via schools and libraries, etc.

16: GreenWay Steering Committee – Gilbert

Inaugural steering committee was held Ashfield Community Centre Wednesday 07 June 2006. Minutes have been received by attendees, Bruce has said he will post minutes to the website when he updates it soon.

Proposal mooted at last meeting re: sub-committees have been put on hold at present.

Initial feed back is that RailCorp will be defensive about any attempts to roll the rail easement over to cycling or active transport.

17: Advertising Bits– Gilbert

Some instances from the mainstream media of how bicycles are being featured in advertising promotions: Good Weekend – Tasmania tourism double page with competition on following page, Financial Review – humorous graphic (front page) featuring two wheel recumbent.

MEETING CLOSED 9:10

Could anyone with amendments, or, notices for next meeting, please forward those before 16 August, thanks.

Items for September

1/ REACHING NON-CYCLING BIKE OWNERS - Brenda

Regular calendar rides

The calendar has served a useful vehicle for promoting the MASSBUG name but hasn't resulted in many people actually attending rides. Its probably time to review the usefulness of the calendar as a tool.

ISSUES

Aim of rides

Service to Bicycle NSW members, MASSBUG members and regular cyclists.

Listing rides in PUSHON is important for lots of reasons, it lets BNSW members know that MASSBUG exists, an avenue for sharing routes and company for regular cyclists. Without rides listed and *pushon* articles, new BNSW members wouldn't know MASSBUG exists.

There probably doesn't need to be such a long lead time for planning these rides. No reason why they can't continue and be done maybe 2 or 3 months in advance using only push on and email.

Providing opportunities for non-cycling bike owners

Providing short easy rides with a theme or to recreational destinations, like the beach or Olympic Park have been targeted at the inexperienced rider.

This has mixed success. The most successful have been the 'themed' rides, which attract other specific target groups – environment, heritage, art history etc. Many of which require a lot of planning. Most participants are not inexperienced cyclists.

Perhaps there are different services that non-cycling bike owners need and a way to reduce the amount of work involved. Perhaps one way of reducing the work is to have other groups do the organising of bike riders.

What are some of the barriers for the non-cycling bike owners:

- Time and place that is flexible
- Bike that is working
- Owning lights and rain gear or other practical clothing and bike accessories
- Joining a group on your own – not knowing what you are going to find
- Feeling confident with level of fitness

Can't overcome all of these issues, and there are probably others. Perhaps we could offer a service that provides an opportunity for organised groups to cycle. This should guarantee more people attending in the target group and on current rides. We only run a ride where there is a demand.

This option doesn't require any commitment, as dates would need to suit the ride leaders. I expect the rides would also be open to others, putting ride on PushOn and so on. If there were lots of requests we could set up a criteria to accept/reject requests.

New Service – customised group bicycle rides

Half day cycling tours for your group or family – Ride leaders provided free

Target: family or group – sport, recreational or social group

Service – The group selects a route and negotiates a date. MASSBUG will provide ride leaders to take the group on the ride. The ride can start and finish at a location convenient to the group (must be within Marrickville LGA).

The members of the group will need:

a contact person who will coordinate the times and relay information to members of the group.

All participants will need a working bicycle and helmet.

Pay for any expenses, fares, lunch or coffee stops on the trip for their participants.

Participants must be over the age of 12

Group will have a minimum of 5 participants and a maximum of 15

Participants between the ages of 12 and 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Rides are only offered on weekends and are dependant on availability of ride leaders.

Benefits

May reach groups – such as ethnic specific group

Reaches larger numbers without the work – the group does the organising

Target those that have bikes with specific needs based information

Increases support for cycling in groups that have influence in other areas of the community

DEVELOP BROCHURE

Would include SUGGESTED ROUTE OPTIONS

The group can suggest its own destination – to be negotiated with ride leaders. Ride leaders will then design the safest route.

(IN ORDER OF LENGTH AND DIFFICULTY)

Easy rides

- Sydney Park
- Coffee on Cooks River (Saturday only)
- Centennial Park
- Sydney Fish Markets

Moderate rides

- Hawthorn Canal – coffee stop
- Brighton le Sands (along Cooks River)
- Sydney Harbour tour

Moderate to difficult

- Olympic Park
- Cronulla

