

Minutes

Kirwans Bridge Community Panel Meeting #1

Date: Wednesday 30 June 2021 – 7pm

Ward: Lake Nagambie

Invitees: Bob Arnold, Des Mason, Darren Lyons, Andrew Cox, Robyn Taylor, Paul List, Richard Hiscock, Gordon Akers, Milton Hammond. and

Councillors: Mayor Chris Raeburn, Cr Reg Dickinson and Cr Mel Likos.

Council staff: Director Community and Planning Amanda Tingay, Manager Infrastructure Uwe Paffrath, Communications and Engagement Officer Merrill Boyd.

Guest: Alan McLean

Apologies: Claire Ewart Kennedy

Michael Greenaway, Robert De Fazio, Edwina Knights and Tony Hammond did not respond to the meeting request. However, Edwina Knights has advised she no longer wishes to participate in the panel.

Time	Item	Responsibility
7 pm	Acknowledgement to Taungurung Country	Cr Chris Raeburn
7.03pm	Welcome and thank you for EOI	Cr Chris Raeburn
7.05pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of Reference <p>Attendees were asked to read the ToR and if comfortable sign the ToR to acknowledge the intent and purpose of the Panel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting purpose <p>Cr Raeburn explained the purpose of the panel is to assist the Council's thinking for the future of the bridge and that he valued the commitment of each member who is prepared to attend meetings, explore options and provide advice.</p>	Cr Chris Raeburn
7.10pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election of a Chair <p>Nominations were called for the position of Chair for the Community Panel and Darren Lyons accepted his nomination and was duly elected unopposed.</p>	Amanda Tingay
7.20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current state of Kirwans Bridge 	Uwe Paffrath

	<p>Uwe gave a synopsis of the current state of the bridge and this prompted some questions and statements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is Kirwans bridge a heritage bridge? • What would make the bridge last longer? • Heritage Victoria supplied grant opportunities in the past for the bridge, but they appear to not have any money. • Are we able to ask Heritage Victoria to address the Panel? • Will we need to look further for funding? • There will be upcoming works on the bridge over three days, but the community will have prior notification. • Every three years roads and bridges are conditioned assessed. • Upgrading of the Murchison/Goulburn Weir Road – is it feasible to get Regional Roads Victoria involved? 	
7.30pm	<p>Community priorities in 2010-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan said that the community coming together in this collaborative format was a good start. • He presented a snapshot of the last 20 years and the community's constructive suggestions. • In 2010-11 funds were raised to engage a second opinion on the condition of the bridge. • During the first closure there was a great deal of community anger. • 60 people attended the second meeting but there was only a slight change of sentiment i.e. a new bridge should be sort. • 4500 people signed a petition for both State and Commonwealth funding. • Tee shirts were produced and the sentiment on the shirts has not changed. • We could get endorsements for its use from our local market operators. • The height barrier is partially successful. • Would the bridge become an eyesore? • At the eastern 'shallow end', is there a possibility to utilise/install box culverts as a causeway during normal flows? This could possibly reduce the total cost for a new crossing • At that time, the community were galvanised against the steel frames and the large granite boulders. 	Alan McLean

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments were made around the fact that the area is in a safe Federal seat. • Funding for a new bridge needs to come from all sources. • People were worried that the lowering of the load limit means the '<i>beginning of the end</i>'! • Comment was made that it was encouraging that the bridge is not lost – but how are we going to galvanise efforts to restore and then maintain it? • The issue of a fire escape on the west side is still relevant today. • It was the understanding that the pylons were in good condition. • Can the bridge be assessed by a 'wooden bridge builder'? • Can anything be linked in with the Foreshore Walk? 	
7.50pm	<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are these priorities still relevant? <p>Paul List said he understood that \$100k per year was to be put aside for restoration/replacement of the bridge – is this still available?</p> <p>In what year did the shire put the bridge on the list for funding?</p> <p>Constructing a new (2 lane) bridge would be around \$9m but a one-lane bridge would be around \$3-4m.</p> <p>The traffic count on the bridge is double or triple that of 2010. In response Uwe stated that there was little difference between the 2016 count (558 vehicles per day) and the 2021 count (553 vehicles per day). (Subsequent investigation has the 2010 vehicle count at 458 vehicles per day)</p> <p>Many ratepayers depend on the bridge for work as well as police, fire and ambulance.</p> <p>Where is the bridge on the Road Maintenance Plan?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we prioritise them? <p>Do we talk to Greater City of Shepparton?</p> <p>Do we have a one lane bridge?</p> <p>Do we put money into the old bridge?</p>	Amanda Tingay

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	<p>Immediate priorities - do we need a CCTV camera on the bridge to monitor loads?</p> <p>Look at traffic calming measures to reduce speed on the bridge</p> <p>Uwe will talk to the wooden bridge specialists and provide a report.</p>	
8.10pm	Confirming next steps and information requirements from Council	Cr Chris Raeburn
8.15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting Wednesday 14 July 2021 7pm at the Regatta Centre • Meeting frequency Fortnightly then monthly 	Cr Chris Raeburn
8.20pm	Closed 8.35pm	Cr Chris Raeburn

ACTIONS to be reported on at next meeting #2

Are we able to ask Heritage Victoria to address the Panel?	Merrill
Should we invite COGS to speak with the group?	Amanda
Upgrading of the Murchison/Goulburn Weir Road – is it feasible to get Regional Roads Victoria involved	Amanda
Can the bridge be assessed by a 'wooden bridge builder' and can we provide that report?	Uwe
Paul List said he understood that \$100k was to be put aside for restoration/replacement of the bridge – is this still available?	Amanda
In what year did the Shire put the bridge on the list for funding?	Amanda
Where is the bridge on the Road Maintenance Plan?	Amanda
Current bridge – Traffic Calming measures on the bridge to reduce the vehicle speed / Camera	Uwe