



City of Whitehorse

MINUTES

Special Committee of Council Meeting

Held in the
Council Chamber
Nunawading Civic Suite

379 Whitehorse Road Nunawading
on

Monday 14 May 2018

at 8:00pm

Members: Cr Andrew Davenport (Mayor), Cr Blair Barker, Cr Bill Bennett,
Cr Raylene Carr, Cr Prue Cutts, Cr Sharon Ellis, Cr Tina Liu,
Cr Denise Massoud, Cr Andrew Munroe, Cr Ben Stennett

Peter Smith
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Audio Recording of Meeting and Disclaimer

Councillors and members of the public please note that in order to provide greater access to Council debate and decision making and encouraging openness and transparency:

- *Formal Public Committee and Council meetings are audio recorded and the recordings (except for Confidential meetings) are uploaded and available on Council's website*
- *Opinions expressed or statements made by individual persons during a meeting are not the opinions or statements of Whitehorse City Council and therefore Council accepts no liability.*



GUIDELINES SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

OBJECTIVE

To enhance the consultative process and facilitate public participation and involvement of the community in Council decision making in accordance with Council's Corporate Plan strategies – good governance.

PURPOSE OF GUIDELINES

To facilitate public participation and involvement in meetings of the Special Committee. These Guidelines complement Council's Meeting Procedures and Common Seal Local Law 2013.

PROVISION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public has two opportunities to participate in this meeting – either by a submission which may be heard at the start of the meeting, (i.e. **Public Submissions**, refer below) or if the item is on the agenda, immediately prior to consideration of the item, and by **Public Comment** later in the meeting. There is no public interjection during the meeting and speakers are heard in an orderly manner.

Public Submissions:

A submission may be made on any matter, providing it is not in contravention of Council's Meeting Procedures and Common Seal Local Law 2013.

A maximum of 10 speakers will be permitted to make a submission and they will be determined in order of registration.

No individual submission shall exceed three minutes.

Where submissions have been made, under the provisions of any statutory process, further submissions shall not be heard, unless the matter is listed as an item of business on the Special Committee of Council agenda.

Procedures for Public Submissions:

Persons wishing to make a submission to the Special Committee on matters other than land planning matters must directly notify the Committee Clerk, Civic Services Department by 4pm on the day of the meeting and register to speak, by telephoning 9262-6337. The person who registers to speak shall be the person who will make the submission to the Special Committee.

Persons wishing to make a submission to the Special Committee on any land use planning matter must directly notify the Committee Clerk, Civic Services Department, at least five working days prior to the day of the meeting and register to speak by telephoning 9262-6337. The person who registers to speak, shall be the person who will make the submission to the Special Committee.

At the time of registering to speak, that person must indicate whether he or she will be speaking in support of or opposition to any planning permit application or Planning Scheme Amendment (or proposed planning permit application or proposed Planning Scheme Amendment). The Special Committee must not listen to or read anything said by that person unless it is satisfied that, at least four working days before the day of the Special Committee Meeting, a member of Council staff has contacted the person(s) whose interests are inimical to the person who has registered to speak (eg has contacted the planning permit applicant if the person who has registered to speak has indicated that he or she will speak in opposition to the grant of a planning permit application) and invited the first-mentioned person (or a person authorised by him or her) to also register by 4pm on the day of the meeting to attend the Special Committee Meeting and speak.

Persons wishing to table written material must provide 15 copies to the Committee Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting to enable distribution to Councillors prior to the start of the meeting. No material will be distributed during the meeting by any person, including Council staff.

Requests to speak will be registered strictly in the order of receipt. Speakers for topics not listed on the Special Committee Agenda for the meeting will be heard first, then speakers who wish to cover more than one topic (3 minutes in total, not 3 minutes per topic).

In instances where a number of persons wish to address the Special Committee on the same matter, the Chairperson at his or her discretion may request they nominate a speaker/speakers to represent them.

In accordance with Clause 48.5 of Council's Meeting Procedures and Common Seal Local Law 2013. It is not necessary for Standing Orders to be suspended to allow a person to address the Special Committee, subject to compliance with these Guidelines.

Public Comment:

After the "Other Business" Section of the meeting has concluded, the Mayor will invite members of the gallery to indicate by show of hands if they wish to make a comment. *Only matters pertaining to this evening's meeting are to be commented on, (i.e. a Council Officer report or presentation, and any "Other Business" matters) and a 3 minute period per speaker applies.* A maximum period of 15 minutes shall be provided for public comment. The Mayor will call individuals forward to be heard and they should begin by clearly stating their name. This is a period for comment, not questions or debate *and there is no opportunity for any further **Public Submissions***

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THESE GUIDELINES

These guidelines were adopted by resolution of Council dated 21 August 2017 and may be further amended by resolution of Council from time to time. The Chairperson at his or her discretion may vary procedures under these Guidelines, at any meeting of the Special Committee.

Meeting opened at 8.00pm

Present: Cr Davenport (Mayor), Cr Barker, Cr Bennett, Cr Carr, Cr Cutts, Cr Ellis, Cr Liu,
Cr Massoud, Cr Stennett

1 PRAYER

1a Prayer for Council

We give thanks, O God, for the Men and Women of the past whose generous devotion to the common good has been the making of our City.

Grant that our own generation may build worthily on the foundations they have laid.

Direct our minds that all we plan and determine, is for the wellbeing of our City.

Amen.

1b Aboriginal Reconciliation Statement

"In the spirit of reconciliation, Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present."

2 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Mayor welcomed all.

APOLOGIES:

Cr Munroe has sought a leave of absence for tonight's Special Committee of Council Meeting 14 May 2018.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Massoud, Seconded by Cr Bennett

That the apology from Cr Munroe be received and leave of absence be granted for tonight's Special Committee of Council meeting 14 May 2018.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None disclosed

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Special Committee of Council Meeting 16 April 2018.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Stennett, Seconded by Cr Cutts

That the minutes of the Special Committee of Council Meeting 16 April 2018 having been circulated now be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Interested parties who wish to address the Special Committee of Council during the Public Submissions period of the Special Committee Meeting must register with the Civic Services Department by telephoning 9262 6337 by 4pm on the day of the meeting.

Persons speaking will be identified and recorded for Council Minutes and become part of a permanent record of the Council. Please indicate if you do not wish your name to be recorded.

Persons wishing to make a submission to the Special Committee on any land use planning matter must directly notify the Committee Clerk, Civic Services Department, at least five working days prior to the day of the meeting and register to speak by telephoning 9262-6337.

Nil

6 REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Nil

7 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons speaking will be identified and recorded for Council Minutes and become part of a permanent record of the Council. Please indicate if you do not wish your name to be recorded.

Nil

9 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

10 CLOSE MEETING

Meeting closed at 8.08pm

Confirmed this 12th day of June 2018

CHAIRPERSON

Submission to Budget 2018/19

Submission 1

1/ Again (for the 15th time) there is no specific provision for restoration of the ponds at the miniature railway in Elgar Park. The landscape plan, prepared by an architect, continues to be ignored and the concept of aesthetics is not accepted, neither is the importance of these two ponds as the focal point of the design of the railway. Perhaps this is the time to take this issue of park neglect to the ombudsman.

2/ There is a problem with the dance class which has been held at the Forest Hill Hall for the last fifteen years. Council has made it uneconomic for it to continue. The benefit to the community is not being recognized whereas the medical profession is beginning to value this type of activity especially as part of cancer therapy. It provides the opportunity of total exercise to those who would not otherwise engage in this activity.

I would like to speak to this submission.

from

Kenneth Weeks -

9th May 2018

Resident for 62 years.

CEO	
CITY OF WHITEHORSE RECEIVED	
11 MAY 2018	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Years
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent
<input type="checkbox"/> 40 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> Attachments
<input type="checkbox"/> ARC/	

Subject: FW: Council rates

From: John Hinkins

Date: 6 May 2018 at 11:21:15 am AEST

To:

Subject: Council rates

We have recently received our copy of the May 18 Whitehorse News

As a new resident in Whitehorse we find the News of interest and appreciate our copy

However there is one particular comment that I take strong exception to.

On Page 9 the News addresses the issue of property valuations for rate calculation purposes.

The council says “ The revaluation is not designed to increase the pool of rates that Council collects – **it is to ensure a fair distribution of rates**”

How is calculating rates on the basis of property valuation **FAIR?**

What extra Council benefits does an owner of a higher value property receive over those in a lower value property ?

Surely the benefits from council relate to the people residing in the property – not its value.

Things need to change dramatically before you can say rates are distributed fairly.

Yours sincerely

John Hinkins

To: Whitehorse - CEO & Councilor`s

24th May 2018

From: Walker Park - Project Working Group (Spokesperson - Garry Wathen)

Re: Walker Park Redevelopment: 2018 / 2019 Budget – Public Submission

Dear Nolene and Councilor`s

The Walker Park - Redevelopment Working Group acknowledges and greatly appreciates the proposed \$2,070,000 funding for the refurbishment of the pavilion at Walker Park

We wish to submit our comments, some of which is new information regarding the Council`s decision to approve Plan SK - 01 Existing Pavilion refurbishment only.

And not Plan SK - 03b which includes a small and modest new building extension of 115 m2.

For a new indoor viewing deck.

Plan SK - 03b was agreed to by all , the WCC working group , Springfield Councilor`s and the Walker Park Club`s working group.

Please note.

I also wish to speak on this submission at the Council meeting on the 12th June 2018

Project objectives

1. To refurbish facilities to cater for the unisex amenities and make all area`s building compliant

Given this is a major WCC spend and with Federal Govt funding -

2. Redevelopment works meets the Club`s needs for the next 30 to 40 years.
And thus, ensuring the ongoing viability of the servicing Club`s.

Same four walls

- Objective number 2 is not achieved. Meeting the Club's future needs
- Club's will remain within the existing four walls, which are bursting
- As the Club's growth and participations levels are going through the roof.
- This growth is at all junior levels and a rapidly growing female teams
- 3 years ago - zero females. Now in 2018 120 + females playing sport and growing year on year
- Plus another 60 girls in the Aust Kick clinics
- Plus 3 Netball teams and growing each year
- Over 1,000 players in all using Walker park
- Funding being well spent reaching many many young Whitehorse youth

Why - An Indoor Viewing Deck

- This is a very modest new build of 115 m2
- Enabling people to be sheltered from the weather elements and view the ground.
- This is especially for mum's and dad's watching or training picking up of their children
- Older supporters have drifted away from the loved Saturday at the footy. Too cold.
- As are our disabled friends, who are left in the rain and cold, til it's too much. Head home
- An indoor viewing area, is all they need to be happy and comfortable. A good day out returns

Oldest Sporting Club's - Within the City of Whitehorse

Mitcham Cricket Club Est 1883 (135 years)

Mitcham Football Club Est 1888 (130 years)

- Been through the recession of 1890's recession, WW1, Great Depression, WW11
- And still faithfully serving the local community for over 130 years.
- Financed and supported all by local volunteers.
- We stand today as the oldest and still vibrant Club's, experiencing a wonderful explosion of participation, especially among females.
- And looking forward to the next 130 years.
- We have made a long and huge contribution to the Whitehorse community
- Which we hope, City of Whitehorse will fully support our ongoing needs

Equity for - Springfield Ward

- Last 20 years. No bricks and mortar sports pavilion and upgrades within Springfield
- If WCC constructs 2 new pavilions pa x 20 years = 40 new pavilions across WCC Wards.
- **Not one** new build has occurred within the Springfield Ward.
- Remaining 4 Wards. Average 10 new pavilions over the last 20 years. (Guide only)
- Springfield - Zero.
- There is football, cricket, tennis , bowling clubs, etc all needing long overdue support

Whitehorse - Funding indications

- As per WCC minutes of 22nd May 2017, which stated .
- Council will fund between ` \$ 2.5 - \$ 3.0 million`
- Plus the \$ 400,000 Federal Govt grant.
- Therefore, the Walker Park project ` may have up to \$3.4 million ` an indicative figure.
- Council subsequently decided to fund \$ 2.07 million
- Some \$ 400,000 to \$ 900,000 short of what was indicted to us

Funding - Indoor Viewing Deck

- Cost \$ 460,000 approx
- 115 m2 x \$ 4,000 m2 = \$ 460,000
- 80% of this area is fresh air, being the viewing area and foyer. Thus, less costs

Secured funding

- \$ 400,000 Federal Govt Community Grant
- Almost there.

To be secured

- \$? State Govt - Sporting Facilities grant. Liberal or Labour, it will happen.
- \$? AFL - Vic Facilities Development Grant. Known early June 2018
- \$? Cricket - Vic Facilities Development grant. Awaiting timelines

Summary

- We request that WCC revisits the proposal to re instate plan SK – 03b
- We are close to securing the funding, and maybe more than what we need.
- To build the Indoor Viewing Deck from 3rd party funding
- Please , lets proceed with the detailed design staged with Plan SK - 03b
- Allow detailed design costing for this purpose

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinions the pavilion/ facilities redevelopment at Walker Park.

As we continue to grow and meet the ever increasing demands of providing sporting opportunities for our youth.

Garry Wathen

Spokesperson – Walker Park Working Group.



23rd May 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Whitehorse City Council Proposed Budget 2018/2019

We write this submission in support of project number 2017-393 (Brentford Square - Car park improvements) proposed in the draft 2018/2019 Budget.

The damaged surfaces and tripping hazards in this car park have been the subject of discussion for some time between the Traders Association and Council representatives and we fully support the proposed remedial works to address safety concerns and improve the overall appearance of the Centre as a welcoming and safe place for the community.

The clientele at the Centre are predominately the elderly and more recently, younger families who have expressed concern at the condition of the carpark as it stands.

Our Association recently facilitated a meeting with local members of Parliament and Councillors in our Ward and presented our appeal for assistance. In this meeting we requested assistance for urgent help in making our Centre a safe and appealing place to shop, and to alert all present of the risk to the public due to the unsafe and damaged car park. Following on from this meeting we have also discussed the opportunity for Federal and/or State funding to have both CCTV installed and increased lighting to enhance the overall area.

We request the opportunity to be heard at the meeting of the Special Committee of Council to be held on Tuesday 12 June 2018 and speak in support of the proposed budget allocation.

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact me via email at:

Kind regards,

Rohan Brown.

Brentford Square Traders Association President.













25 May 2018

**Chief Executive Officer
Whitehorse City Council
Locked Bag 2
Nunawading DC 3131**

Budget submission by email to Annual.Budget@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Dear sir / madam

We are fortunate to live beside and look over a council park in Mont Albert North.

The park is in **Jackson Avenue, directly opposite Tie Street**, and has a small playground.

I write to request **additional play equipment** in this park, so there is more of a challenge for children in the neighbourhood, and visiting grandchildren, as they outgrow the current equipment.

My suggestion is the addition of a swing as per the photo enclosed.
For your information, this fantastic swing is in the Winfield Road Reserve Playground (City of Boroondara).

Attached:-

1. photo of the super duper swing
2. map showing location of swing (at Winfield Road Reserve Playground)

Yours in sincere anticipation

Robyn Pearson







BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP INC.

Protecting the distinctive features of Blackburn since 1987

CEO

City of Whitehorse

c.c. Ward Councillors.

Budget Submission

Purpose

The purpose of this submission is to request additional funding for residential street tree planting in the 2018/19 budget and subsequent budgets to meet objectives of Councils Planning Scheme and Streetscape Strategy and Policy (2002) An appropriate formula should be used to adjust future funding to ensure new planting addresses the widening deficit in street tree planting.

Background

- There has been significant canopy tree loss over recent years through development on private and public land.
- Treed streets provide habitat buffers in and around Significant Landscape Overlay areas that are identified in the Planning scheme which now cover the whole municipality.
- We understand that Council currently has a replacement only policy for street trees that die, are diseased or lost for other reasons but limited to 1500 trees per year across the whole 64 sq. km municipality.
- Street trees provide:
 - Amenity through visual softening to the built form.
 - Passive cooling by way of shade and
 - Corridor linkages used by birds and wildlife connecting linear parks such as the Creeklands to other parks and reserves in the municipality.
- The Whitehorse Planning Scheme, The Streetscape Strategy and Policy 2002, and Council web site highlight policy that supports a more realistic approach. (see appendix 1. The Streetscape Strategy and Policy 2002 already in place informs desirable themes and species. Indigenous species should be planted in streets near to or linking bushland reserves.
- As a percentage of Council's budget an increase in funding to redress the steady loss of street trees over time would be minor but provide a rapid and measurable improvement in amenity and liveability of Whitehorse. Alternatively developers could be levied a fee for each tree removed from a site that would go directly into the street tree replacement budget.
- The proposed 2018/19 budget allocates \$300,000 for general street tree replacement from its almost \$200 million budgeted income. This has not changed over recent years meaning that there has been a real cut to the funding of important Council objectives. An additional \$100,000 per annum indexed would show significant benefit.

Request.

That Councillors reconsider the proposed allocation and find the additional funding for the 2018 /19 budget that increases:

- Replacement of street trees lost to disease, age or damage
- Replanting where street trees have been lost in the past and gaps exist

David Morrison

Secretary BVRG.

27th May 2018

Appendix 1 – Existing City of Whitehorse Policy

City of Whitehorse Streetscape Strategy and Policy 2002.

Appendix D Policies and Procedures

STREET TREE PLANTING PROCEDURE

1 PURPOSE

To set guidelines for the planting of street trees:

- Individual sites, and
- Multiple sites in a street or a whole street.

This document is to be read in conjunction with the Street Trees Policy and the Street Tree Removal Procedure.

2 OBJECTIVES

- To improve the physical environment of the City through the planned planting of appropriate tree species as per the Streetscape Strategy (2001) while providing opportunities for the community to have input to the process, and
- To have a tree planted in all available sites within the City of Whitehorse.

City of Whitehorse Planning Scheme

Clause 22.03-5 Preferred Character Statements

Many of the Preferred Neighbourhood character statements include references to the importance of street trees in defining the character.

The Municipal Strategic Statement (*a concise statement of the key strategic planning, land use and development objectives for the municipality and the strategies and actions for achieving the objectives*)

Clause 21.05.1 Environment

Para 1. ...*'There is an urgency to put appropriate controls into place to protect natural features, buildings and areas of historical significance to avoid further loss of the City's environmental assets.'*

Para 4. States*'Council wants to ensure that the streetscape is improved by way of street tree planting and landscaping among other things. It is also essential that all new development provide for appropriate landscaping and high quality design to reinforce the regeneration process'....*

Council Web site - Street Tree Planting

'The City of Whitehorse's street trees are one of our most important assets. They provide numerous environmental, social, health and financial benefits to the municipality. Street trees provide shade for humans and shelter for local wildlife; add value to surrounding properties; and make streets more attractive, greener and liveable.'

From: Simon Andersson
Sent: Wednesday, 9 May 2018 12:08 PM
To: Annual Budget
Subject: Funding for cycling in Whitehorse

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was disappointed to find out that less than \$200,000 was allocated in the annual budget for cycling specific projects.

In particular:

- there seems to be no funding for the Pipetrack path extension
- no funding for the Easy Streets strategy

I cannot believe that the Council will spend over \$5m on roads and car parking, but spend less than \$200,000 for cycling facilities.

If the Council is serious about promotion of cycling, it should spend a lot more on cycling and lot LESS on cars. How about fully funding the Pipetrack extension and the Easy Streets strategy and cutting back on car parks!

Has the council done a cost benefit study on spending on roads/car parks compared to money spent on cycling facilities? If it hasn't, how can it justify spending without any evidence to back this up?

cheers

Simon Andersson

--

Vom ersten Zug an auf Matt!

From: Tony Lammens
Sent: Tuesday, 15 May 2018 8:18 PM
To: Annual Budget
Subject: Bicycle/Pedestrian facilities funding

Hello,

I would like to offer some minor comments on the 2018/19 proposed budget.

I am very grateful for the facilities and services provided in this municipality which makes Whitehorse (and in particular my neighbourhood) such a wonderful place to live. In particular, garbage collection, parks maintenance, playgrounds, and libraries make this a wonderful place to live.

I notice there are about \$2.3 million set-aside for footpaths improvements and rebuilds which I welcome. I and my dog are keen users of these footpaths and welcome the continued focus on improving these facilities. May I ask if any of these funds will be used to construct a footpath along the south side of Central Road, between Springvale Road and Joyce Street?

I am not sure if it is a council or VicRoads responsibility, but there are a range of traffic lights at key crossing points of Springvale Road (the two near Nunawading station, the one near Milton Street) where it is easily possible to spend about 5 minutes crossing about 20 metres of road. It is particularly frustrating to spend 5 minutes stuck in the middle of this busy road with trucks hurtling past at 80km/h when a downpour hits, as happened to me recently!

With regards to bicycle facilities, I note with pleasure the funding of approx. \$132,000 towards traffic signalling improvements. I presume this is part of the council's 'Smart Paths' (sorry I think it's called something else!) program of implementing on-road facilities across key neighbourhood roads through the municipality.

However, I am concerned about the apparent lack of funding for other improvements - for example:

- * Wayfaring signs along the Blackburn-Ringwood rail trail.
- * Some way of crossing Springvale Road by bike at Nunawading station that doesn't involve taking a lift down to the platform and then taking another lift back up, or alternatively riding on the footpath (or on Springvale Road) to the next crossing point).
- * Continued funding of the Mitcham-Syndal Pipe Track. A modest section of this has been completed between Forest Hill College and Highbury Road, however what is the plan for funding this path's extension north to reach the railway line?

With the continued densification of key areas around Box Hill in particular, now is the time to focus on key bicycle linkages across the municipality. With roads increasingly saturated with cars, people will need to have options - public transport, walking, and bikes provide these options.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the budget.

Kind regards,

Tony Lammens

Subject: FW: Information about the proposed Whitehorse budget 2018/19

From: Correspondence Secretary

Sent: Sunday, 20 May 2018 3:34 PM

To:

Cc: WATAG Committee

Subject: Information about the proposed Whitehorse budget 2018/19



Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc.

ABN 63 938 570 447 Incorporation No A0098729X

20th May 2018

Hello

At the last WATAG Committee meeting the Proposed Whitehorse Budget 2018/19 was discussed, and the following questions raised.

Can you please give information about the allocations proposed for bicycles and how they relate to the Bicycle Strategy? In particular, have funds been allocated towards the following, and if so how much for 2018/19:

- Easy Ride Route development – Which routes?
- Easy Ride Route implementation – Which routes?
- Further TMD improvements – Which TMD's?
- Further Pipe-track development – Which section/s?
- Other allocations relating to implementation of the Bicycle Strategy?
- Other allocations of a more general nature?

If any of the above are not included in the proposed budget, are they slated to be proposed in 2019/20 budget or some other year?

Many thanks

Chris Trueman

Correspondence Secretary, WATAG



METRO EAST BICYCLE USER GROUP INC.

26 May 2018

Submission on Whitehorse Council draft budget 2018/19

This submission by Metro-East Bicycle User Group Inc. is confined to cycling related components of the draft budget.

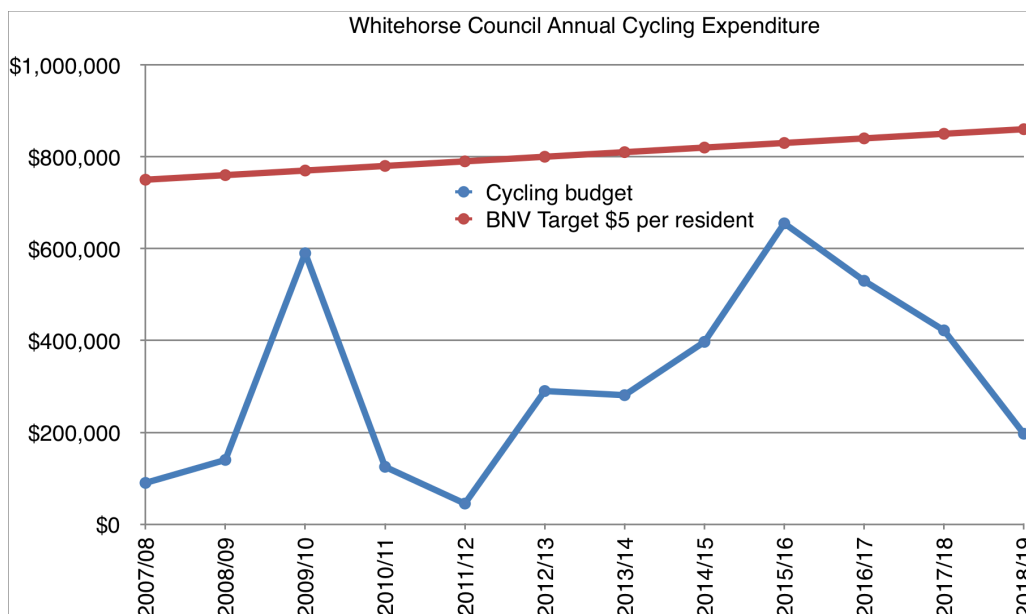
Inadequate provision for cycling infrastructure

Total cycling allocation for 2018-19 of \$197,000 is the fifth lowest in the last twelve budgets as depicted in the graph below. Whitehorse Council consistently fails to achieve the Bicycle Network Victoria objective for cycling investment of \$5 per resident.

The draft 2018/19 budget contains only two¹ cycling related items:

- 2014-175 Bicycle Improvements at Traffic Management Devices - \$132,000
- 2014-180 Bicycle facilities - Installation of bicycle racks, signage and line marking - \$65,000

There is **zero provision** for any **new shared paths**. This is a **major shortcoming** of this planned budget that **should be redressed**.



1

appear to be intended as a cycling path. 80k) does not

Failure to meet strategic objectives.

The current cycling allocation represents a failure to implement several of Council's endorsed strategies.

Bicycle Strategy 2016

The strategy has the following targets for the year 2026:

- Increase the percentage of all journey to work trips made by bicycle from 0.7% to 2%.
- Increase the percentage of journey to work trips by bicycle, which start and end in Whitehorse, from 1.1% to 3%.
- Increase the total percentage of females riding within Whitehorse from 14% to 30%.
- Increase the number of short distance bicycle trips (1-5 km) by 7.5%.
- Decrease the number of cyclists who are killed or injured on roads by 15%.

The strategy further identifies cohorts of the community as follows:

- Strong and fearless. <1% [Ride in almost any traffic conditions]
- Enthused and confident. 7% [Comfortable riding in most situations including bike lanes along arterial roads]
- Interested but concerned. 60% [Find situations in which they have to negotiate with traffic streams uncomfortable but respond well to standalone paths and streets with little and slow traffic]
- No way no how. 33% [No interest in riding a bicycle]

The strategy also notes:

The key messages received from the community engagement activities include:

- Build more off-road paths
- Create safer ways for cyclists to cross arterial (main) roads

While the budget item for Bicycle Improvements at Traffic Management Devices is welcome, it is of little benefit to the major segment of the potential cycling population, the 60% 'interested but concerned', who need separated paths.

Integrated Transport Strategy 2011

This strategy makes numerous references to the importance of cycling as part of transport mix, e.g.

"Council recognises that the adoption of safe, sustainable and active modes of transport have a range of health, environmental and community benefits and this strategy seeks to encourage a shift toward the use of sustainable transport modes, including walking, cycling and public transport."

"The goals of the Whitehorse Integrated Transport Strategy 2011 are to *[inter alia]*:

- Increase the use of sustainable transport modes that promote healthy lifestyles, such as walking and cycling"

“Four strategic objectives have been developed that form the basis of the Whitehorse Integrated Transport Strategy 2011 for the aspects of transport that Council can control or influence. These are to:

- Encourage walking
- Maintain and improve the cycling network
- Encourage an increased shift toward public transport
- Provide safe and efficient movement of vehicles.”

“Strategic Objective 2

To maintain and improve the cycling network through the municipality in accordance with the Whitehorse Bicycle Strategy 2007, while continuing to promote cycling as a practical alternative to the private motor car for local trips, commuting and recreation.”

Sustainability Strategy 2016-2022

Cycle related references include:

“Council heard from the community that the top priorities for the environmental sustainability and liveability of the Whitehorse municipality are:

- Healthy parks and vegetation
- Public transport
- Walking / cycling”

“Sustainability Outcome #2 [Table 3] Easy to walk or cycle

To encourage walking for all members of the community through a range of operational and educational programs, and by providing a safe, attractive, connected and well-designed pedestrian environment.

To maintain and improve the cycling network through the municipality, while continuing to promote cycling as a practical alternative to the private motor car for local trips, commuting and recreation.”

It seems ironic that despite the paragraph above, the biggest item in the capital budget is 15.6M for a carpark, that will attract car traffic and exacerbate congestion.

Community Road Safety Strategy 2013

Cycle related references include:

“Environmental issues such as peak oil, carbon price and climate change are a concern to many residents in our community. Council actively encourages the use of sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, walking, cycling and car pooling to limit our impact on the environment. The number of pedestrians and cyclists are expected to increase in coming years; therefore, requiring emphasis to be placed on pedestrian safety and bicycle safety programs.”

“Council has a robust maintenance program to ensure its road and path assets are maintained to a high standard. It is essential that roads, footpaths and off road paths allow for convenient and safe travel, particularly for our vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

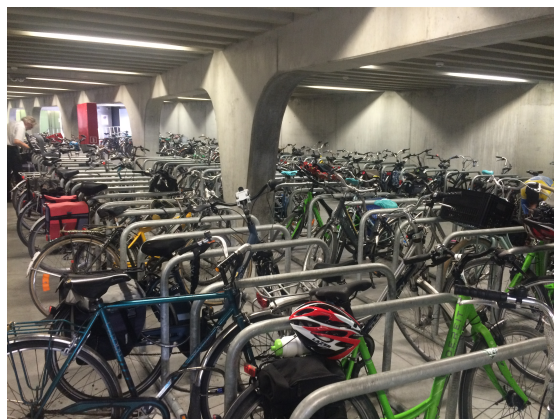
Council allocates significant funds each year for capital works improvements for walking and cycling infrastructure. Advocacy to other levels of government also continues for funding new infrastructure to allow safer and more convenient options that separate vulnerable road users from other vehicles.” [my underlining]

It appears that in framing its budget, Council has paid little if any heed to these strategies. We question why Council spends considerable funds on consultants to write these strategies if it pays little attention to them in its budget process.

Scope and need for cycling investment by local government

While state government projects such as the Box Hill to Ringwood Shared path, the VicRoads Strategic Cycling Corridors project and the Healesville Freeway Reserve redevelopment have already and will in the future greatly improve cycling infrastructure in Whitehorse, there continues to be need for complementary projects by Council.

As cycling advocates, we perceive a withdrawal by Council from cycling investment, possibly as a tactic to retaliate in alleged cost shifting of some responsibilities from state to local government. We urge that such temptations be resisted. There are many projects that can and should be carried out by Council to fulfil its various endorsed strategies to promote active transport and



Bike parking, Ghent, Belgium

address emerging problems of traffic congestion arising within Whitehorse and elsewhere due to journeys that originate in Whitehorse. In other words, Council should play its part in mitigating car use across Melbourne, which many transport experts will attest, is heading for crisis.

With the substantial increase in public transport patronage, there is a developing critical issue in parking shortage caused by commuters driving to train stations. The provision of a network of safe paths on and off roads with high capacity bike storage at stations can mitigate these parking issues. Councils have a responsibility to contribute to car traffic reduction strategies, as recognised in the Sustainability Strategy.

MeBUG has provided Council with a list of potential projects, but none have received funding in this budget. The list, with Council's response is at Appendix 1. Several of these, e.g. numbers 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 21, 23 are capable of being prioritised and implemented notwithstanding the evolution of the 'Easy Rides' project that has an excessively long time frame.

Two further projects (11 and 16) could be carried out if Council would accept some relaxation of standards where unavoidable space constraints apply. Surely it is better to have a less than perfect path than no path at all. Project 2 could proceed if Council would be willing to enter negotiations with VicTrack for access to the rail reservation.

Recommendation to Council

We assert that there is ample budget scope to provide a reasonable amount, such as \$200,000 additional funding to allow some new shared path projects to proceed.

In making this suggestion, we note that;

- The overall budget surplus is more than \$31M (15% of income);
- Some \$15.6M has been allocated to build a carpark (Harrow Street) that will attract additional traffic through Box Hill streets and exacerbate traffic gridlock in Box Hill Central.
- An amount of \$240,000 allocated for the Melbourne Water reserve shared path in 2017/18 appears to be unspent.

MeBUG urges Council to add \$200,000 to the Footpaths and Cycleways budget to provide specifically for new shared paths in 2018/19 in recognition of the guidance of the Bicycle and other adopted strategies.



Appendix 1

Whitehorse City Council
379-397 Whitehorse Road
Nunawading VIC 3131
Locked Bag 2 Nunawading VIC 3131

ABN: 39549568822

Telephone: (03) 9262 6333
Fax: (03) 9262 6308
TTY: (03) 9262 6325
TIS: 131 540

customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au
www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au

15 March 2018

File Ref: 18/44603

Mr M Hassett
Metro East Bicycle User Group

Dear Mr Hassett

CYCLING PROJECT SUGGESTIONS

I refer to your email dated 22 February 2018 outlining a list of suggested cycling projects for Whitehorse Council to consider.

Council undertook extensive community engagement activities while developing the Whitehorse Cycling Strategy in 2016. The outcomes of this engagement enabled Council to identify projects and activities to be undertaken over the ten year life of the Strategy.

While Council prioritises actions within the Strategy, consideration may still be given to additional projects if resources are available and the projects meet the Strategy aims of promoting a low stress cycling environment.

I appreciate the time your group has taken to compile the project suggestions and I have carefully considered them. Attached is information about each project. Many of the projects are already being planned and others will be implemented in the longer term. There are a few projects that fit under the responsibility of VicRoads and Council will write to VicRoads asking for consideration to be given to your suggestions.

It is a challenge to construct new cycling infrastructure in an already developed, urban environment, and Council must consider the safety, risk, environmental and financial context as well as community views when planning projects. In order to meet Council's legal responsibilities in the design, construction and maintenance of cycling infrastructure, Council has determined that all new bicycle and shared use paths should generally be in accordance with relevant Austroads and VicRoads guidelines. This means that some of your project suggestions are unfortunately not feasible, mainly due to not having sufficient space to construct the new infrastructure.

Thank you for your interest in cycling projects within Whitehorse. Council officers look forward to continue working with MeBUG on cycling projects into the future.

Yours sincerely

ILIAS KOSTOPOULOS
MANAGER, ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

MeBUG suggested cycling projects for 2018-19, City of Whitehorse

Ref #	Item	Justification	Council comments March 2018
1	Shared path beside Middleborough Road on either east or west side between Albion Road (or Sweetland Road) and Whitehorse Road	Provides a north-south route linking Gardiners Creek path with Box Hill North and Bushy Creek path. Also access to Box Hill High.	<p>A shared path in this location, as a minimum, would need to be 2.5 metres wide but desirably 3 metres with at least 0.5 metre clearances to any obstructions either side of the path. It is not feasible to provide a compliant shared path alongside Middleborough Road due to retaining walls, power poles, signs and other obstructions.</p> <p>An on-road option through local streets has been constructed to connect Gardiners Creek path to the Box Hill to Ringwood shared use path, via Haig St, Wavell St, Maple St, Rose St and Rutland Road. Upgrades to roads, signage and the traffic lights on Canterbury Road have been undertaken to provide a safe link between paths.</p> <p>Other options to connect off-road paths are being considered as part of the Easy Ride project.</p>
2	Construct 530 metres of new shared path on rail reserve, north side from the Oliver Avenue bridge to Moncrief Road	Provide safe access to Nunawading commercial area from Box Hill to Ringwood shared path	Council will forward this suggestion to VicRoads for their consideration.
3	Remove access impediments to Box Hill to Ringwood shared path at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvey Norman/ Home Hardware • McGlone Street Mitcham • Richards Street Mitcham • Provide kerb crossovers at Oliver Avenue Blackburn, Terra Cotta Drive, Nunawading and Tennyson Street, Mitcham 	Improving safety for path users.	The Box Hill to Ringwood path is still under the management of VicRoads. There are no formal responsibilities or maintenance agreements to allow Council to consider the works at this time. Council will however forward your suggestions to VicRoads for their consideration.
4	Shared path along north side of Whitehorse Road from Middleborough Road to Bolton Street	Widen existing footpath to provide a safe route to Bushy Creek path via local roads	This suggestion can be considered by Council as part of implementing Action 14 of the Whitehorse Cycling Strategy - improve safety for cyclists parallel to arterial roads using service roads. This is listed in the Strategy as a long term action (to be implemented in years 8-10 of the Strategy).
5	[Deleted]		NA
6	Shared path on Melbourne Water Pipe Reserve from Menin Road to Rooks Road Nunawading.	This section not in the scope of the VicRoads Strategic Cycling Corridors project.	Council will consider options for this section of the path when details of the VicRoads project are confirmed.
7	Create cycle path/route through Box Hill shopping centre to Churchill Street Mont Albert.	Link BHRRT to cycle routes to city.	This route is being considered as part of the wider Easy Ride project.
8	Whitehorse Road – widen footpath on south side between Alfred Street and Metropolitan Avenue	Access to megamile and Nunawading community precinct	MeBUG comments: "Delete? Superseded by item 2? Also BHRSUP provides access as far as Ceylon St"
9	Delineate/mark wide sidewalk from Metropolitan Avenue to Springvale Road, as a shared path	Access to Megamile and Nunawading community precinct	Do you mean along Whitehorse Road? This would need careful consideration given the potential conflict with the large number of pedestrians in the area. Alternatives could also be investigated including creating a safe environment for cycling along the north and south service lanes along Whitehorse Road.
10	[Deleted]		NA

Ref #	Item	Justification	Council comments March 2018
11	Widen footpath to create shared path on west side of Middleborough Road from Canterbury Road to Ailsa Street	Access to Bunnings, old Masters store and other businesses in Middleborough Road.	As per item 1, it is not feasible to provide a compliant shared path in this location due to the presence of power poles, signs and other obstructions.
12	Shared path beside Blackburn Road to link Holland Gully Path to Hawthorn Road	East end of Holland Gully path is currently a dead end.	This option is being considered as part of the Easy Ride project.
13	Shared path along south side of Burwood Highway from Morack Road intersection to Dandenong Creek.	A complimentary project with Knox to link the Eastlink path and cycle bridge with the Dandenong Creek path.	Whitehorse Council and Knox Council are actively advocating for this project to be constructed by the State Government.
14	Kerb crossovers in Derby Street and Fuchsia Street Blackburn to facilitate cycling along the gravel path to Blacks Walk.	Eliminate obstacles	Council officers are investigating this option.
15	Woodhouse Grove and Mitta Avenue, Box Hill Nth. Construct short length of shared path to improve cycle linkage on Bushy Creek path.	Currently cyclists have awkward kerb crossings and are forced to ride on footpath.	This project is being considered as part of the Easy Ride routes.
16	Rooks Road Mitcham - build a shared path (widen existing footpath) along west side of Rooks Road between the BHRSUP and Pipe Track Reserve.	Link Pipe Track Reserve track to BHRSUP	It is not feasible to provide a compliant shared path in this location due to power poles, signs and other obstructions. It is for this reason that the VicRoads proposal (as part of the Strategic Cycling Corridors) connects the pipe track path to the Box Hill to Ringwood path via Menin Road and Mount Pleasant Road.
17	Severn Street Box Hill – signage, eg sharrows, defining east-west cycling route via pedestrian lights and Melrose Street.		This route is being considered as part of the wider Easy Ride project.
18	Nelson and Saxton Roads Box Hill – signage, eg sharrows, defining north-south cycling route connecting to Box Hill Gardens.		These streets form part of the draft NS2 Easy Ride route.
19	a) Dorking Road/Whitehorse Road intersection. Provide cut through to link Dorking Road with Whitehorse Road service lane on north-east corner. b) Improve traffic light configuration and/or phasing so northbound cyclists can cross and proceed in one phase of lights.	For eastbound riders leaving Dorking Rd. Improve inconvenient and frustrating delay.	This suggestion can be considered by Council as part of implementing Action 14 of the Whitehorse Cycling Strategy - improve safety for cyclists parallel to arterial roads using service roads. Council will forward this suggestion to VicRoads for their consideration.
20	Mont Albert Road/Elgar Road intersection. Additional cycle/pedestrian crossing aligning with westbound lane of Mont Albert Road.	Would remove existing need for westbound cyclists to wait for two phases of lights.	Council will forward this suggestion to VicRoads for their consideration.
21	Springvale Road service lanes between Canterbury Road and Highbury Road. Provide cut throughs and footpath widening (where no service lanes) to	General cycling safety. Will require joint action with VicRoads. MeBUG can furnish further details.	This suggestion can be considered by Council as part of implementing Action 14 of the Whitehorse Cycling Strategy - improve safety for cyclists parallel to arterial roads using service roads.

Ref #	Item	Justification	Council comments March 2018
	provide cycle routes both north and south bound.		
22	Springvale Road Forest Hill - widen eastern footpath between Emmaus College and Jolimont Road pedestrian lights.	Provides access to future HFR path.	Council is actively advocating for the design phase to commence of the path along the former Healesville Freeway Reservation. This includes advocating for improved connections to other walking and cycling facilities in the area.
23	Route markings Mullauna College to Mitcham station via Halliday Park, Fellowes and Edward Streets.		This route can be considered as part of the wider Easy Ride project.

Subject: FW: Annual Budget submission

Comment to Whitehorse Council Budget 2018/2019

Box Hill area improvements

To whom it may concern

Regarding the budget we would like to hear my voice that Looking putting more money in the budget for improvements in Box Hill Mall. For far too long, lighting is not conducive to evening activities. It made us felt unsafe under the dark. Arrange some of night events for family would be benefit for anyone.

There are now 3 hotels within the Box Hill area which brings in many tourists to the city, further, many people visit the area as part of using the interchange. Council should look at ways at activating the Box Hill mall, especially on weekends and evenings, to take advantage of this opportunity. Some activities which should be undertaken include trialling night markets in the summer of 2018 within Box Hill Mall; encouraging live music within the precinct; reducing the per square meter rate for table and chair permits within Box Hill Mall and give an even lower rate for tables and chairs within Carrington Road, to encourage outdoor seating in the area.

The Saturday Parking rate should be reduced to a comparable rate as what is charged at Vicinity.

Thank you for your time to ready my email and look forward any update.

Name Michelle Liu

Subject:

FW: Comment to Whitehorse Council Budget 2018/2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is David Tang. I am a member of ABAW.
I am writing to you is related to Box Hill area improvements

Make it short, please consider the followings:

There should be more money in the budget for street lighting improvements in Box Hill Mall. For far too long, lighting is not safe for evening activities.

There are now 3 hotels within the Box Hill area which brings in many tourists to the city, further, many people visit the area as part of using the interchange. Council should look at ways at activating the Box Hill mall, especially on weekends and evenings, to take advantage of this opportunity. Some activities which should be undertaken include trialling night markets in the summer of 2018 within Box Hill Mall; encouraging live music within the precinct; reducing the per square meter rate for table and chair permits within Box Hill Mall and give an even lower rate for tables and chairs within Carrington Road, to encourage outdoor seating in the area.

The Saturday Parking rate should be reduced to a comparable rate as what is charged at Vicinity.

Name : David Tang

David Tang

From: Rufina Chan
Sent: Tuesday, 22 May 2018 4:29 PM
To: Annual Budget
Subject: Suggestion to Whitehorse Council Budget 2018/2019

Dear Sir,

This is Rufina Chan here and I am having my business in Box Hill couple of years ago. Since my family migrated to Melbourne 26 years ago. Box hill is one of my favour suburb where I come few times a week. And now I am having my business in Box Hill central as well.

In order to have a "Better Box Hill" I will appreciated if you can consider to have the following improvements.

Lighting Improvements:

Improve lighting in Box Hill Central around is very necessary. This suggestion I already email to our Mayor Andrew, councillor Tina Liu and Box Hill central management few months ago.

Increase population:

Since couple of apartments coming up in the coming months and years plus 3 more hotels within the Box Hill area. Of course it will attract more tourist and residents to Box hill as well. I would suggest to have like a permanent perform stage, music activities, Sunday or night market in cheap rate. Cheaper parking etc.....

Thanks & Warmest Regards,

Rufina Chan 陳

This email including any files and attachments transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the recipient to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error you should notify the sender immediately and delete this email and attachments from your system. Email transmissions and their content cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. The recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The company accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.

Phone:

17th May, 2018

The Chief Executive Officer.
Whitehorse City Council,
379 Whitehorse Road,
Nunawading 3131

Dear Madam,

Attached is my submission with regard to the Proposed Draft Budget for the 2018-2019 years.

I have also outlined areas where spending could and should be reduced – unnecessary, non-essential innovative projects which are not the Council's mandate to supply.

Yours sincerely,

Kath Cummings

(Mrs) Kath Cummings CPA

CITY OF WHITEHORSE RECEIVED	
21 MAY 2018	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Years
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent
<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> Attachments

SUBMISSION ON DRAFT 2018/2019 BUDGET CITY OF WHITEHORSE

I have lived in the City of Whitehorse for over 54 years and am a self funded retiree

On page 21 of the Proposed Budget an amount of \$6,75m has been allocated to City Works which includes 'maintenance of footpaths'. In the past year all the footpaths in Bermuda Drive and the Courts off this street have been totally replaced even though it was unnecessary while people in other areas are complaining of uneven footpaths causing trip hazards. I have seen this happening in other areas and it seems like a total waste of ratepayers money. I would like an explanation of Council's policy as to why this is occurring and what is the cost of total replacement rather than maintenance..

On page 25 an amount of \$3.334m has been allocated to Civic Services which include 'fostering international relations particularly with Council's sister city Matsudo'. What is the benefit to ratepayers in Whitehorse of a sister city in Japan and how much is being spent on this? I can find no reference to what this entails– does it include travel expenses, publications??

On page 25 an amount of \$3.357m has been allocated for Information Technology to manage and maintain Council's computer systems. This amount seems excessive considering on Page 26 another \$2,656m has been allocated for a related area in Digital Transformation Strategy.

On page 35 the staff numbers are forecast to increase by 19 EFT. The percentage rise in total employee costs in the proposed budget is 4%. With the advances in technology many businesses have been able to cut the number of staff required while the Council only increase but rarely reduce staff.

Everyone knows that we need open space and trees if we are to avoid what is happening overseas. Yet Council still continue to approve multi storey developments with a minimum provision for grass and trees. It is pleasing to see an allocation of \$201,000 for city wide tree planting.

Obviously the hearing of budget submissions at the Special Meeting in June, 2018, is merely a formality. Submissions are circulated via the meeting agenda but there would be insufficient time to make any changes prior to the planned adoption of the budget approximately two weeks later. Over the years I have heard some excellent suggestions on improving Council efficiency and reducing spending but to my knowledge they have not been adopted.

I ask this question again – Has anything ever been changed in the budget as a result of submissions by ratepayers or is it just a waste of everyone's time?

Communications – The publishing and distributing the Whitehorse News must be a costly project both in money and trees which seems to be an unnecessary public relations exercise. 16 pages of Councillors promoting themselves with lots of colour photos and padding. Any information which needs to be communicated to residents could easily be included in the local paper – in fact all important information is repeated in the local paper. Although previously I have been advised that the cost is only \$1.23 per household if we have 150,000 households this would be quite a saving!

Calendar The issue of a calendar by Council is an unnecessary expenditure as most people end up with more calendars than they can use. The calendars have been most unattractive and probably many ended up in the recycle bin as mine did. The cost of cancellation of this item would be a further cost saving.

The purpose of the local Council is to provide necessary, essential services for local community and Councillors being accountable to residents must take that responsibility seriously and curb unnecessary spending.

Just a few examples of unnecessary non-essential spending

1 On Page 46 Two items relating to installation and upgrades of traffic management devices on local roads at a cost of \$150,000 is not necessary. Roads are created to drive on – speed cameras have been introduced to catch speeding motorists who pay the price with fines and demerit points.

Obstructions on roads are a hazard and a frustration for the majority of road users who are law abiding. They also slow down emergency vehicles (fire trucks and ambulances) which could be disastrous.

2. Unnecessary replacement of park furniture which does not have to be replaced just because of a stipulated renewal program – it should only be maintained in good order – cost \$60,000/

3. Play Space Renewal program at a cost of \$1.05m – cyclical replacement – should just be maintained in good order

4 Capital works over and above what is absolutely necessary.

I respectfully request that you consider and act on the issues I have raised in this submission

Please contact me if you wish to discuss any of these issues.

(Mrs) Kathleen Cummings, CPA

17th May 2018

From: Tanya Tescher
Sent: Sunday, 27 May 2018 7:37 PM
To: Annual Budget
Subject: WHITEHORSE COUNCIL 2018/2019 BUDGET SUBMISSION

WHITEHORSE COUNCIL 2018/2019 BUDGET SUBMISSION

I will begin by stating that it is virtually impossible to make an adequate appraisal of the Council Budget 2018/2019 without a detailed schedule of operating expenditure. I have requested this from the relevant council officer without any success. I have therefore been forced to make a Freedom of Information request in relation to this but have not to date received back a response.

In relation to some operating expenses which have been individually highlighted in the budget or mentioned by one of the councilors I provide below the following comments:

1. The expenditure of \$2.66 million dollars is ridiculous in the extreme. Last year a substantial amount was spent on this and the total cost of the so-called digital transformation technology could be in the order of around \$7 million. This is basically a revamp of the council website with some expenditure on social media. In comparison Glen Eira Council has just budgeted \$700,000 for its website revamp as a one-off cost. Setting up Facebook pages costs \$0 and many Facebook groups manage to run their pages for no cost as was quoted to me by a resident. Given that there will need to be input by the council into the social media I acknowledge that there will be some costs involved in keeping Facebook etc pages updated but this should not be a major cost. It would appear to me that this whole exercise has not been properly thought through and has resulted in a massive waste of ratepayers' money..

2. We feel that the amount of \$320,000 mentioned in relation to preparation of a possible waste management charge is also an outrageous waste of ratepayers' money given that all that would be required to determine who was not utilising the council waste collection service could be achieved by either phoning the body corporates in the municipality or checking planning applications etc. If council decided not to go ahead with this charge, then this money would have been spent for nothing.

3. As mentioned by one of the councilors we understand that \$200,000 of ratepayers' money is being utilised to prepare a book on the sister city relationship. We believe that this is an unwarranted use of ratepayers' money and the amount of funds to be expended on this project is extravagant.

4. We believe that the \$3,000,000 committed for a new Whitehorse Centre in the Budget should be deferred and instead used for a contribution to either an expansion of the recycling industry in association with contributions from other councils, thus obviating the need for a recycling charge, or in the establishment of a biogas plant which would utilise food waste etc and produce fuel. We are in the process of a statistical analysis of the surveys used to justify the new Whitehorse Centre and our research to date has led us to believe that the results may have been misconstrued. We therefore believe that given challenging waste disposal issues and power issues etc the whole redevelopment of the Whitehorse Centre needs to be reexamined and any further action on it to be put on hold, given that total projected expenditures at the current time may be around \$80,000,000, which is a huge amount of ratepayers' money.

5. As no details of the operating expenditure have been given we are unable to determine if there has been adequate provision in the figures provided for costs to do with recycling and increases in power prices etc.

6. We have requested information as to how the monies projected to be spent on roads and footpaths has been determined, but have not been provided adequate details. We understand that there have been injuries incurred by residents on unsafe footpaths as well as issues with roads etc, therefore bringing in to question the adequacy and allocation of funds provided for these purposes as well as for possible litigation in respect of claims.

7. We note that in the general community wages have not been increasing ,but it appears that at Whitehorse Council, executive service salaries have increased by \$126,000 without an increase in personnel, and Corporate Services full-time salaries have increased by \$868,000 with an increase in personnel of 2 and part-time salaries increased by \$191,000 with an increase of 1 position.. We question the efficacy of this given that ratepayers are asked to pay an average of 2.25% increase in rates and a possible waste disposal charge..

In conclusion we again emphasize that an in-depth appraisal of this budget is not possible without detailed schedules supporting operating expenditure, as has been done for capital expenditure.

Tanya Tescher on behalf of the Whitehorse Ratepayers and Residents Association.

Subject: FW: Whitehorse Budget 2018 19

26 May 2018

Dear Councillors

Whitehorse 2018 19 Budget Submission – Chris White - WRARA

In my written budget submission, the issues that I draw Councillor's attention to are:

1. **Transparency and Accountability.**
2. **Relevance**

Proper appraisal of Council's 2018 2019 budget is not possible when the only budget figures that Council makes available relate to Capital Expenditures and no Operating budget for the period is provided. Basic Transparency would surely require all budget figures to be provided – not just a selected area of the budget.

Areas in which financial information is lacking include: Sustainability, Waste and Recycling, Home and Community Services, Leisure Facilities, Health & Family Services, Parkswide, City Works, Planning & Building Services, Recycling and Waste Centre, Arts and Cultural Services, Compliance, Libraries, Engineering.

Given that a large part of Whitehorse Council's Operating budget is wages and salaries, this lack of information means that legitimate areas of ratepayer interest, such as total staff numbers by category or department to determine appropriate staffing levels is not possible.

This situation is made worse when initiatives flagged in the budget such as an expenditure of \$200000 for a book on the Whitehorse sister city relationship are not clearly shown anywhere in the documents provided and are actually in the Operating Budget – details of which are not provided by council.

3. **Value for Money**

There are a number of expenditure lines in the capital budget on which I would question whether ratepayers are in fact getting value for money. One of which is the \$2.66 million that has been allocated for Whitehorse Digital Strategy. This strategy a revamp of the council web page and associated social media. Given that Glen Eira Council has just budgeted as a one-off charge \$700,000 for a revamp of their web page, it would seem that Whitehorse Ratepayers are seeing their funds wasted on a project that delivers poor value for ratepayer funds.

\$450,000 is budgeted to be spent on Station Street & Irving Avenue entrances to Box Hill Gardens. However, ratepayers state that there is nothing at all that is wrong with these garden entrance areas and that there is no issue with access by disabled people.

Again, this appears to be a complete waste of ratepayer money on an unnecessary project.

\$210,000 listed as budgeted for a planned amendment – with no information on what this is or will achieve.

The budgeted cost of \$320,000 to prepare for a potential introduction of a waste service charge is curious given that council has not yet decided whether it wants to go ahead with this and is also unable to determine how many bins it actually has.

This does seem like a way of circumventing the rates cap by bringing selected areas being bought outside of the general rates charge.

\$1,600,000 is budgeted to be spent on a change of passenger vehicles – no information is provided on what kind of vehicles are to be replaced. If these are regular light passenger vehicles, then this would appear to be an expenditure that is far higher than would ordinarily required by a local council.

The streetscape renewal works at the Box Hill Activities Area budgeted at \$255,000 and Mitcham Shopping Centre of \$375,000 have not been described or justified

All of this expenditure is coming at a time when basic items such as Footpath Maintenance is being neglected and there are many areas where footpaths need to be repaired or replaced.

In addition, a growing number of ratepayers are reporting to WRARA that stretches of perfectly good footpaths are being ripped up and replaced – but problem areas are not being touched. An example of this may be found on the Eastern side of Gladys Street just down from Charles Street – which was perfectly usable footpath which was replaces, while extremely dangerous areas, such the Eastern side of Menk Street near Luckie Street are patched up but left as they stand. This is only one of a number of examples.

4. How Whitehorse can really be Green as well as save Ratepayer funds :

Finally, WRARA believes that the \$3,000,000 committed for a new Whitehorse Centre in the Budget should be deferred and instead used for a contribution to either an expansion of the recycling industry in association with contributions from other councils, thus obviating the need for a recycling charge, or in the establishment

of a CHP / biogas plant which would utilise food waste to offset domestic piped gas as well as the extremely efficient CHP unit which many other Municipalities in locations such as North Sydney, Launceston and Fitzroy are currently using to save ratepayers funds in running costs of their Municipal Pools.

I would like to make you aware that CHP (Combined Heat and Power) plant (which are able to utilise Biogas as a fuel source on site) are commercially available from Australian Companies.

I understand that one of these is in use to heat the **North Sydney Olympic Pool** where a 100kW Co-Generation project has been - using waste materials. So if we have other councils using these units to save ratepayer funds – why has Whitehorse never examined this possibility, given that pool heating costs for Aqualink are large and have been rising?

This is a website for one of the commercial suppliers of these units:

<https://www.evoet.com.au>

<https://www.evoet.com.au/products/2g-biogas-chp/>

<https://www.evoet.com.au/products/2g-biogas-chp/2g-biogas-treatment-systems/>

<https://evoheat.com.au/why-drill-for-gas-when-you-can-just-make-it/>

You will note that this supplier is based in Australia and is an Australian Company (very important).

They Say:

Biogas CHP

2G Biogas Cogeneration systems are 40% more efficient compared to ultra low efficient micro turbines. **There is NO better biogas CHP system available on the market today than 2G.** This game-changing CHP plant features specially calibrated biogas engines, components and materials that are designed to be highly reliable, powerful and efficient. Our fully-customisable configurations range between 50kWe to 3,000 kWe and larger sizes available on request. These have the following industrial applications.

AG Biogas: Agricultural and dairy farm Biogas applications

W2E Biogas: Waste management and municipal Biogas projects

WWTP Biogas: Waste water treatment plant Biogas applications

LFG Biogas: Landfill gas to energy projects

WHY DRILL FOR GAS WHEN YOU CAN JUST MAKE IT?

**FIONA WATERHOUSE OF UTILITAS (EVO ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES' PARTNER PROVIDER)
SPOKE WITH THE [NORTHERN STAR](#) ABOUT WHY AUSTRALIA IS LONG OVERDUE FOR A
BIOGAS REVOLUTION.**

<https://evoheat.com.au/why-drill-for-gas-when-you-can-just-make-it/>

Imagine a future where instead of drilling for gas, we could “create” gas from existing waste products such as sewage and food scraps. That future is already commonplace in Europe, according to biogas expert and entrepreneur Fiona Waterhouse, and the Northern Rivers has the capacity to become a biogas powerhouse.

Yesterday Ms Waterhouse's [Brisbane-based company Utilitas](#) pledged \$1 million worth of expertise to create plans for five investment-ready biogas plants for our region. Biogas is a form of energy production which takes industrial and agricultural waste products and transforms them into gas for localised heating and electricity.

The energy stored in biomass is called bioenergy – e.g. food waste, sewage – essentially a mix of carbs, proteins and fats.

Can be used to create heating, cooling and electricity – even transport fuel. A biogas plant creates a “[closed-loop process](#)” to power the plants which produce the waste then reusing the waste – less waste, lower power costs. The major technologies are mature, proven and widely deployed in other parts of the world. It's used extensively in Germany where there are 8000 such plants, and even created a competitive “spot market” for waste products.

In Sweden, one municipal council in a town of 150,000 people uses a biogas plant to run their car fleet. “If you were to go into a primary school in Germany and ask them how their local swimming pool is heated, there'd be hands up everywhere saying ‘[biogas plant](#)’,” Ms Waterhouse said.

“There's biogas plants on every farm... it's a mainstream energy source.” Yet Australia has only 30 such plants and the regulatory framework is still in its infancy, despite having ready access to proven technology from Europe.

Chris White

WRARA

26 May 2018