

MINUTES

Meeting of the Doncaster Hill Issues Forum No 5.

Meeting Details

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 10 June 2009

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Council Chambers

Chairperson: Councillor Charles Pick, Mayor



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

1. Present:

Forum members

Cr Charles Pick, Mayor (Chair); Cr Fred Chuah, JP, Deputy Mayor; Cr Graeme MacMillan; Miralde Bartlett; Fay Erwin; Alison Fincher; Cecilia Henderson; Cornelius Hickey; Javad Macsood; Rosa Miot; Bryan Saunders; Anna Molé; Kay Perkins; Pam Meddings; Mervyn Hayman-Danker; Carolyn Vimpani.

Council Officers

Paul Molan, Director Planning and Environment; Teresa Dominik, Manager Economic and Environmental Planning; Lydia Winstanley, Acting Doncaster Hill Place Manager; Elizabeth Lambropoulos, Strategic Planning Engineer; Sam Ryan, Communications Officer.

2. Apologies:

Cr Grace La Vella; Cr Geoff Gough; Cr Meg Downie; Lydia Wilson, Chief Executive; Robert Anson; Maree McDonald; Alphonse Benoit; Elizabeth Guiver, JP; Judith Conway; Pearl Lubansky; John Delpratt; Lynn Heath.

3. Welcome by Chair, Cr Charles Pick, Mayor

Cr Pick welcomed attendees to the second Doncaster Hill Issues Forum meeting for the year and advised of activity since the April 2009 Forum meeting, in particular, the recent announcements of funding for the Civic Precinct development from the State and Federal Governments, totalling more than \$8 million.

4. Recap on 22 October meeting and introduction to workshop

Cr Pick gave a brief recap on the 1 April 2009 meeting of the Issues Forum, which provided feedback on Draft Doncaster Hill Precinct 1 Masterplan, noting that 43 submissions had so far been received and reminded the group that the deadline for submissions was Monday 15 June 2009.

Cr Pick then outlined the purpose of the night's workshop, which was to obtain ideas and input on the Draft Doncaster Hill Pedestrian and Cycling Plan through a workshop-style format.

Notes from the meeting would be collated and used in preparation of the Plan.

5. Presentation of Doncaster Hill Pedestrian and Cycling Plan

Council's Acting Doncaster Hill Place Manager, Lydia Winstanley, outlined the background of and need for the Doncaster Hill Pedestrian and Cycling Plan and presented to the group the current format of the Plan, addressing the three key areas of:

- Pedestrians
- Cycling
- Public Transport

Refer Attachment 1 – Doncaster Hill Pedestrian and Cycling Plan presentation (available at www.doncasterhill.com/ProjectOverview_Consultation.htm).

6. Discussion and clarification

Comments and questions were invited following the presentation. Issues raised were:

- Question as to whether the Manningham Bicycle Users Group (BUG) have had input. Council Officers confirmed that they have attended meetings in the preparation of the Plan and had input.
- Was there a study of the grades in Doncaster Hill? Liz confirmed that grades were part of the criteria, along with connections, for routes and that extra street furniture and drinking fountains were included in the plan where the gradient was more difficult.
- Concern about the safety of shared paths. This concern was noted and options to maximise safety have been and will continue to be explored.
- Clarification was sought regarding the target of 20 per cent of all trips to be by alternative transport. The breakdown of this figure is 15 per cent by public transport, 2.5 per cent by cycling and 2.5 per cent by walking.
- The importance of continued monitoring of these modes of travel was raised and noted by Council Officers.

7. Group activity

Attendees were divided into three groups looking at the themes of 'Pedestrians', 'Cycling' and 'Public Transport'.

They were then asked to examine the Plan through their particular theme and pick up on anything they thought may be missing and, additionally, contribute their ideas and opportunities.

Each group nominated a scribe/spokesperson.

8. Report back by each group on round table discussion

Cr Pick invited the nominated spokesperson from each group to report back to the Forum

Group 1 - Pedestrians

- Ruffey Lake Park as a destination from Council Offices.'Refuge' required at George Street as high priority
- Education required to address issues on shared paths

- Preference for cyclists to use roads
- Signage requirement
- Synchronisation of traffic lights
- Westfield not 'friendly' - people choosing alternative shopping centres
- Shelter requirement
- Monitoring needs to be ongoing
- Ongoing social research
- Locating drop-off points opportunity points at appropriate locations (within 300m from school)
- Some solutions require behavioural change in conjunction with physical facility
- Support equipment to make walking and cycling easier (e.g. trolleys for library books)
- Generating a 'Sense of place' and link to history - soundscape
- Pedestrian path / pavers / names / bollards
- Way-finding bollards / artist in residence / child participation (linked with safety aspects - integrated art and public spaces program)

Group 2 - Cycling

- Investigate separate pedestrian and cycling paths through Lawford Reserve
- Synchronised traffic lights
- Better cycling options to divert / identify cycling route to George Street
- Appropriate way-finding signage at regular intervals
- Bike racks at Council building for visitors
- Redirecting cycling around Doncaster Road to avoid steep hill
- **2.7:** Bikes on public transport
 - Not viable on buses

Group 3 - Public Transport

- **1.11:** Weather protection at intersections
 - Need to provide cover over seating as well
 - Needs to be effective, if only roofed wind can reduce usefulness
 - Issues at intersections with obstructing visibility
 - Maybe strategically covered areas more useful
- **1.20:** Initiatives to encourage walking
 - Walking school bus all year round
 - Pelican signals at intersections
 - Good pedestrian refuges in traffic islands
 - Wider footpaths
 - Surface of footpaths (no bluestone as at McDoncalds)
 - Ensure access to signals is wheelchair-friendly - slope / paving
 - Need bike path to Doncaster Secondary College
 - Need to encourage secondary students to wear helmets
 - Free trial times (free Wednesdays)
 - Need to get some baseline information for schools
 - Provide information in different languages regarding public transport options
- **1.21 & 1.25:** Green travel

- Difficult because of meetings to encourage use of public transport
 - Offer incentives (free helmets)
 - How green are green vehicles?
 - Need to encourage car pooling
 - Consider 'virtual meetings' - video link
- **1.25:** Local businesses
 - Accreditation of green businesses
 - Showers / change facilities / bike storage at Westfield
- Parking in Westfield Drive is insufficient for Church
- **2.1:** Reduction of speed limits
 - Strong support for reduction in speed (40km/h too low? Maybe 50km/h)
 - Make use of illuminated variable speed signs at entry to Doncaster Hill
 - Would need reminders within Doncaster Hill regarding reduced speed
 - Consider putting limits on roads
 - Turning arrows should be marked further back from intersection
 - Need to have good communication plan
- **2.7:** Bikes on public transport
 - Bike storage at Park and Ride
 - Stow-able bikes (fold up)
- **3.7:** High profile bus stop
 - Need safe drop-off for parents dropping off children at bus stops
 - Think about parking for people with disabilities. A system other than stickers to overcome misuse.

9. Where to from here?

Mayor, Cr Charles Pick, reiterated that comments from the meeting would be considered as part of the final plan and reminded attendees that the Plan is on exhibition until 5 August and that the feedback forms handed out at the meeting must be returned by that date.

10. Closing remarks

Cr Pick thanked Issues Forum members for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting shortly after 9.00pm. The next meeting of the Doncaster Hill Issues Forum is scheduled for Wednesday 9 September.