

Minutes of the meeting of HBVA CCB
held on 6th October 2018 at Erowal Bay Hall

Attendance: 47 members plus Councillors White and Watson. Apologies were received from 26 including Councillors Gash, Gartner and Levett.

Morgan Sant opened the meeting at 3.03pm.

1 **Minutes of Previous meeting** July 21st were approved

2 **Matters Arising**

- a. The requested Friday am parking restrictions on Moonah Rd for the access of the garbage truck have been rejected by the Traffic Committee
- b. The full set of traffic data for the Easter week had now been supplied by Council allowing full analyses

3 **Treasurers report** presented by Vicki Fortescue

The cash in the Bank is now \$2 597.20 after receiving the CCB grant of \$500 and paying \$102 for the hire of the Hall twice. The IMB term deposit is now \$10 862.28 after receiving \$55.96 interest.

Total assets \$13 459.48

Report approved, moved Vicki Fortescue
seconded Linda Rose

4. **Hyams Beach Planning**

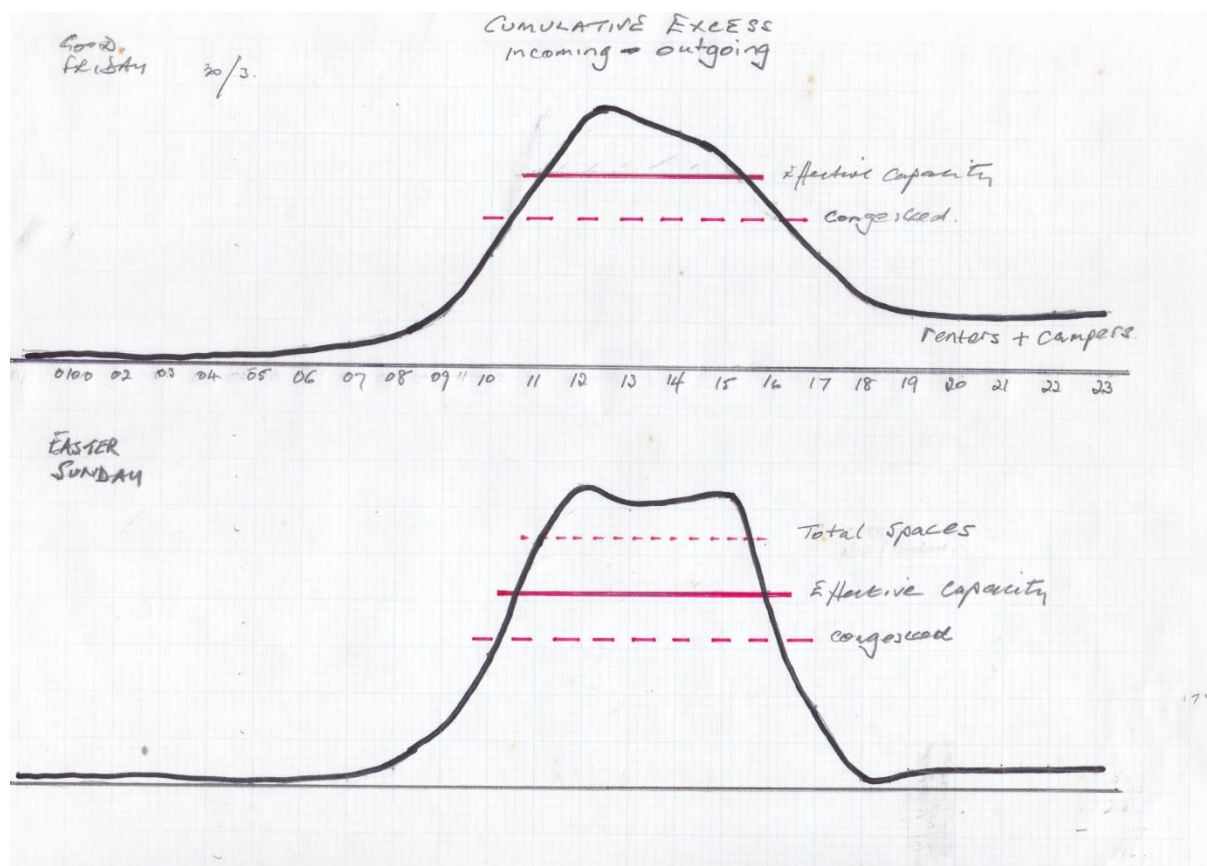
- a. Shoalhaven Council Strategy and Assets Committee on 12th June 2018 approved a resolution that set out a program of action including:
 - i. set up a 4 step planning process to finding a solution to Hyams Beach parking issues in the short, medium and long terms;
 - ii. agreeing to undertake a community engagement process with the whole Hyams Beach community on the proposed short term options and that these be provided to the community as a proposed package of projects. This package of projects to be shown as a concept plan (with maps) and include details such as traffic management, amenity upgrades, indicative timing and proposed budget allocations.
 - iii. continuing to hold stakeholder discussion groups
 - iv. appointment of a project officer to work on Hyams Beach and other tourist hotspots. Sharon Neradil has now been appointed and is working constructively with the HB community.
- b. Kate Friis reported on the HBVA representatives meeting with Paul Green, Member of NSW Legislative Council.

Kate reported that she and Mark Crowther, at the instigation of Patricia White, had met with Paul Green as NSW tourism had money available for tourism projects. He stressed the urgency for the Council to get their grant applications in as he only held the balance of power until March 2019. They had a conference call which included Council.

In addition to encouraging Council to apply for grants for funding tourist infrastructure he also fast tracked the availability of the full set of statistics for the Easter traffic count.

c. Easter 2018 Traffic Statistics

Morgan Sant illustrated the Easter traffic congestion with the following graph. Using the full traffic count data he was able to show the cumulative build-up of traffic in the village. By 11.00am on Easter Sunday the cumulative flow of incoming cars *minus* outgoing cars exceeded the **525 car parking spaces in the village**. The excess cars continued in the village until nearly 4.0pm. During this period the surplus cars were cruising around or parking illegally. In reality, the cruising situation starts happening when the effective capacity (defined as 85% of parking spaces, i.e. 447) is reached, as it becomes increasingly difficult to find the remaining parking places and each car spends more time looking. Hot Spot congestion, defined when the total number of cars reaches 75% of capacity (394 spaces) was reached on every day of the Easter holidays except Monday.



Kate Friis had observed the Easter Sunday chaos from her vantage point at the intersection of Hyam Road and Cyrus St. Despite traffic controllers being present all day, frustrated drivers ignored them. In one hour she counted 25 cars driving the wrong way on Hyam Rd. She said a permanent one-way system without traffic controllers would be extremely

dangerous as it would be ignored by so many residents and visitors. The only solution is to stop the excess cars before they enter the village.

5. October Long Weekend.

Lois Sparkes tabled some questions for Council to answer, requesting that the new committee forward them to Council: viz.,

1. *Ms Bell (SCC Tourism Manager) indicated in the WIN4 interview that the cost of the traffic management and other measures over the October long weekend was \$120,000. Please provide a full and complete breakdown of costs as the figure seems way to high given the money allocated for Easter which was a longer period with more measures put in place (eg traffic counters).*
2. *I understand that a submission has been lodged with the NSW State Government for a grant in the Tourism area.*
 - i. *Can that submission be shared with the community?*
 - ii. *What is included in that submission in relation to Hyams Beach? Please provide details on actions and dollars sought.*
 - iii. *Why did the Council fail to consult the community on what might be included in the submission?*

Chris Allison asked whether Council had thought to use the fairly reliable Weatherzone app which provides forecasts for the next week, before committing such huge expenditure when the weather clearly did not justify it.

Lesley Sanders indicated that there was no parking pressure on Tulip Street.

Bridget Sant commented that the yellow lines had enabled rangers to issue far more fines.

Lois Sparkes said she witnessed 60%-70% of cars ignoring the one way signs as soon as the traffic controllers left at 2.0pm, creating a very dangerous situation, particularly as many were also travelling at great speed.

6 Community Engagement process

Lois Sparkes made the following comments on the process

- a. The President of the HBVA was notified at around 330pm on 5 October that the consultation document had gone live on the Council website. This is disappointing as Council members and staff were advised three weeks ago of the HBVA meeting on 6 October.
- b. The consultation document is unprofessional. This is regrettable given that the Hyams Beach community has worked positively and collaboratively with Council over the last nine months to identify possible solutions.
- c. HBVA had no input to the consultation document. The consultation documentation was not cleared or endorsed by the HBVA.
- d. HBVA acknowledges that we requested Council run the consultation process but consider that it should abide by decisions made by its own Strategy and Assets Committee. That Committee agreed to: *“Undertake a community engagement process with the whole of Hyams Beach community on the proposed short term options and that these be provided to the community as a proposed package of projects. This package of projects to be shown as a*

concept plan (with maps) and include details such as traffic management, amenity upgrades, indicative timing and proposed budget allocations.” (Recommendation 2 of SA18.131 of 12 June 2018).

- e. The consultation document invites input from persons outside the Hyams Beach community and indeed the Shoalhaven area. It also fails to include a number of the details requested by the Strategy and Assets Committee.
- f. The HBVA Executive has significant concerns about the validity of the consultation process and its ability to inform future decisions by Council. In summary, the HBVA Executive considers that the consultation document:
 - i. is skewed to the tourist experience and ignores issues around sustainable tourism;
 - ii. does not differentiate between the costs and benefits of day trippers and high end tourists (those that rent and stay in the village for long stays);
 - iii. ignores residential amenity;
 - iv. it is not targeted to key stakeholders ;
 - v. fails to include all options that were raised during stakeholder discussions and other feedback provided by the community over the past year;
 - vi. is ambiguous and lacks detail;
 - vii. includes a flawed and blunt survey instrument; and
 - viii. does not facilitate informed responses.

Motion

The HBVA Executive seeks the endorsement of the meeting to:

- a. *forward these concerns to Council members and the General Manager of Council;*
- b. *for the Executive to write to all HBVA members encouraging them to participate in the community engagement process, but noting a preference for members to submit detailed written responses; and*

This was moved by Lois Sparkes and seconded by Bridget Sant

Lesley Sanders moved an amendment to the motion to add in questions on how the engagement process would be analysed, so the meeting added the following questions already prepared by the HBVA executive to the motion,

- a. *What relative weightings will be applied to the views provided by Hyams Beach ratepayers vis a vis Shoalhaven ratepayers vis a vis other stakeholders, vis a vis tourists or other undefined interested observers?*
- b. *How will the responses be tallied and evaluated (note the process needs to be transparent and have a degree of oversight and independence)?*
- c. *What will be considered a valid and representative response rate? and how will this be determined?*
- d. *Who will undertake the analysis of responses?*
- e. *Will there be an independent evaluation committee? If so HB ratepayers should be invited to nominate an independent external person with relevant skills to this committee (the nominee should be independent from the HB community).*
- f. *When will a final report on the outcome of the consultations be produced?*

- g. *Who will author that report?*
- h. *Will the HBVA be invited to review and comment on the draft report prior to finalisation?*
- i. *Will the final report be forwarded to the Strategies and Assets Committee and then full Council?*
- j. *Has Council allocated any budget notional or otherwise to implement the actions that might be proposed in the Consultation document?*
- k. *What might be a timeframe for the implementation of any or all of the proposed actions that might come out of the consultation process?*
- l. *What does Council propose to do to manage the situation in Hyams Beach prior to the finalisation of the consultation process and finalisation by Council (i.e. how are peak and chaotic days to be managed between now and Easter 2019)?*

This amended motion was passed without further discussion.

Vicki Fortescue commented that the map provided for consultation did not indicate what the impacts of the proposals would be and generally lacked specific information.

Martin Fortescue questioned whether the survey had anything to do with consultation.

Lesley Sanders asked whether the Community Engagement policy which was produced in 2012 was still valid. **Councillor Watson** assured her it was still relevant.

She then proposed the following **motion**

The HBVA CCB write to Council and ask if the Community Engagement Policy (2012) is being used in the consultation process with the Hyams Beach Community and, if it is, how?

Moved Lesley Sanders, seconded by Tom Fawcett, passed.

Kate Friis, asked why only a permanent one way system was included in the consultation process and sought leave to read a letter from **Pam Stanley** who could not be present but asked for her letter to be read out and included in the minutes.

Dear Fellow Villagers.

At this point, I have not seen the proposal from council that should be out imminently. What I have seen was an earlier edition that proposed a permanent one way system at the northern end of Hyams Beach. I repeat the word "permanent" as many do not seem to realize that if enough people do not vote against this one way proposal, then permanent concrete barriers, permanent signage and the possibility of fines not only from rangers but also Police if we do not obey, will occur 24 hours each and every day throughout the year. When it is busy for traffic and pedestrians particularly when the roadway is partially converted to pedestrian use, short term one way traffic control solves a safety problem but apparently is too expensive to keep putting signage and barriers up each time so to be cost effective it will be permanent. Is this what we want for our village which is quiet for the majority of the year?

I also point out that we should give some consideration to those who have driveways on the side streets of Anemone and Bamboo. At this stage I am not sure which way the one way

roads will go along these side streets but remember 2-3 driveways on each street. This means some will have to drive past their front door and round the block either to leave or to reach their home.

The big thing we should be asking council to do is to solve the problem at the top. Once the village is full, no more cars should be allowed to enter the village. This solves the traffic problem in the village in busy periods and does not spoil the ambience of our mostly quiet village nor have a huge, unsightly impact.

I ask the villagers to help in this matter. Kind regards Pam Stanley

There was some discussion of whether the one-way system even made the village safer when there was so much blatant disregard for obeying the signs, an estimate of 60% of cars ignored the unmanned barriers, after the traffic controllers left at 2.30pm on the Saturday of the Long Week end.

Morgan Sant invited Councillors White and Watson to make their comments

Councillor White This was an issue that had been ongoing for some time. She had been in the village over the long week end and asked the traffic controllers what the solution was. They had said that the traffic has to be stopped 'at the top' from entering the village. She commented on the enormous success the VMS boards had been in deterring illegal campers at Bendalong.

She said all Councillors should notified of our detailed concerns with the survey

Councillor Watson outlined his proposal to use electronics to stop people at the top with a ticketing machine which indicates when the village is full and no one can get in without a ticket. Anyone parking without a ticket would be fined. This could be linked to VMS boards. Hyams Beach could be a stand alone paid parking area.

Tom Fawcett indicated the huge revenue potential of a smart parking metre at the top of Booderee in a pull off facility.

Chris Allison said he thought it would lead to more hold ups on Naval College Road.

David Campbell stated that their appeared to be wide support for Councillor Watson's idea and it must be investigated by those with the expertise to develop practical arrangements. Issues raised about queuing and resident passes etc could be solved.

Paul Renwick Suggested that VMS boards should also be placed on the Princes Highway so that cars did not turn onto JB road when the sign indicated no more parking, alleviating queuing on NCR.

Peter Rose questioned Council policy on the number of toilet facilities required for functions yet had nowhere near this number in Hyams Beach for the thousands of beach goers who consequently routinely relieved themselves wherever they felt like it.

7 Environment report Vicki Fortescue

Following development of the strategic plan, the environmental group had continued to meet and undertake a range of very successful initiatives, some with the help of Bushcare and SCC.

- A new fence with planting along Cyrus St
- Hyams Beach weed identification
- Purchase and use of Mynah Bird traps
- Distribution of phone numbers for infringements on beaches and in the marine park.
- Still plenty to do to prevent incursions into dunes including illegal camping.
- There is a lack of recycling from day trippers and residential tourists who do not necessarily understand Shoalhaven recycling policy.
- It is hoped that the road to little Hyams will be closed both for safety and to prevent camping. Rabbits are a continued menace and there are various tree issues.

She also thanked those who have helped during the year, particularly the plant waterers and she suggested we should all share surplus plants and produce at the next GM

David Schlosser questioned the closing of the road to Little Hyams, as it was one place wheel chairs could access the Beach – while not opposing the stopping of general traffic

Lois Sparkes alerted the meeting to Council's decision to disband two very important environmental committees, Sustainable Futures and the Natural Resources and Flood Plain management Committee.

Motion That the new committee write to Council asking that these committees be reinstated, **moved Lois Sparkes**

Seconded Lesley Hoskins Passed

John Harris commented on the difficulty of reading the fire maps online, as resolution was so poor. Mark Crowther has the originals

8. New project Risk Analysis

Morgan proposed leaving this topic to the new Committee, but thought that a project identifying risks within the village for tourists and residents a good idea.

9 General Business

- a. **Di Moeller** asked what the options were for garbage collection on Moonah Rd and Patricia White assured her there would be further investigation.
- b. **Morgan Sant** alerted the meeting to a major meeting at St Georges Basin Country Club on November 7th at 7.00pm to discuss the solutions to the problem of lengthy delays at the intersection of Jervis Bay Road and the Princes Highway. He encouraged as many to attend as possible. It was instigated by Vincentia Matters but supported by other CCBs, including a small financial contribution to costs from HBVA.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm