



Minutes

Traffic Advisory Local Committee
Thursday 9 May 2013
2 pm

Lithgow Traffic Authority Local Committee (TALC)	
Item Number	Agenda
1	Welcome/present/ apologies
2	Confirmation of minutes
3	Business Arising from the previous Minutes
4	Ongoing issues from the last meeting
5	New Business
6	General Business
7	Next meeting

TRAFFIC ADVISORY LOCAL COMMITTEE MEETING



MINUTES – 9 MAY 2013

ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Prue Britt (RMS), Iain Stewart (LCC), Cllr Peter Pilbeam, Maddison Bailey (LCC), Francesca Allchurch (LCC), Robbie Parks (LCC), Kym Snow (LCC), Macgregor Ross and Bill Neubeck (Ironfest).

Apologies: Senior Constable Col Shiels (Police), Joe Elbourne (State Members Representative) and Bob Willison (LCC).

Officers:

Declaration of Interests: Nil

ITEM: 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were endorsed by two members of the Committee being:

Prue Britt

Cllr Pilbeam

The minutes were then presented to the Council on 6 May 2013.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of 4 April 2013 be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED:

SECONDED:

ITEM: 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM: 4 ONGOING ISSUES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL

A) Crossing of the Blue Mountains Bicentennial Blue Wave route and schedule 2013**SUMMARY**

Lithgow City Council has received documentation for the Blue Mountains Blue Wave event which is to be held in 2013 celebrating the bicentennial of the crossing of the Blue Mountains.

It is a re-enactment of the first European crossing of the Blue Mountains from South Creek St Mary's to Hartley, over a 21 day period by the explorers Wentworth, Blaxland and Lawson. There will be a walking party consisting of 7 people, 4 pack horses and 5 dogs.

Participants escorted by escort vehicles and personnel who have RMS traffic controller accreditation and the horses led by trained men and women who own the animals.

COMMENTARY

Further information has been received on the event which has been forwarded to TALC members of 19 April for their information.

The main stakeholders for the event are the Police and the RMS, council roads are being used in the event and council has noted this and will take appropriate action when required.

ACTION- That Council hold the Blue Mountains Blue Wave Bicentennial event in abeyance until further information is received from the event organizer.

MOVED: Clr Pilbeam

SECONDED: Prue Britt

B) Main Street laneway- Centrelink/Mort Street car park request for traffic mirror/traffic issues**SUMMARY**

An action request has been received by Council (CR/00585/12) in regard to the Main Street laneway specifically in the vicinity of 31 Main Street and the Mort Street Centrelink car park. Several issues have been brought up in regard to the lane way behind Main Street from the rear of the Grand Central Hotel through to the rear of the Courthouse Hotel also. The issues are:

1. Speeding vehicles
2. Limited site distance when trying to exit car parks
3. Delivery vehicles blocking access for vehicles entering/exiting car parks
4. Vehicles parking in the lane
5. Limited site distance when exiting the lane onto Eskbank Street

COMMENTARY

At the last TALC it was recommended that Council prepare a plan of the one way street proposal for the Main Street laneway from the rear of the Grand Central Hotel to the rear of the Courthouse Hotel and this plan be placed on public exhibition for a period of twenty one days for public comment.

It was noted that Council cannot provide the plans at this stage and that the traffic and speed count data could not be used due to a fault in the counters. A one way direction in this lane way would address the issues that have been raised.

ACTION- That Council hold this item in abeyance until one way traffic plans are developed for the lane way located behind Main Street Lithgow commencing at the rear of the Grand Central Hotel through to the rear of the Courthouse Hotel.

MOVED: Prue Britt

SECONDED: Clr Pilbeam

C) Camp Quality- Tractor Trek- 19th to 21st September 2013

SUMMARY

The Orange Camp Quality Support group is proposing to stage a Tractor Trek to raise money for Camp Quality during the 19-21 of September 2013. The route includes areas in the Lithgow City Council LGA; as such Camp Quality is seeking approval to hold the trek in our area.

COMMENTARY

RMS contacted council and advised that the TMP for this event is adequate. As previously discussed this matter has been referred to RMS.

The organizers have requested to use Kremer Park in Portland to park the tractors whilst they are at Portland Central School. This was discussed with TALC members via email who noted that this was an appropriate area for the tractors to park.

The request for parking will go to the Sports Advisory Committee for their information and action. A temporary booking has been placed in the calendar.

The event organizer provided further information noting that Road and Maritime Services (RMS) Traffic Operations Manager has no objections to the route as described in the current TCP and that the event organiser shall provide an updated copy of their insurance with Lithgow City Council, the Police and RMS noted as interested parties.

The committee noted that the event coordinator will need to submit updated insurance documents as the current certificate of insurance expires in May 2013. It was noted that the event has been referred to the RMS and Police for their information and action and that the Event Coordinator should liaise with these parties.

ACTION- That Council have no objections to the Camp Quality Tractor Trek event in the Lithgow local government area providing the event organiser adhere to any conditions stipulated for the event.

MOVED: Prue Britt

SECONDED: Clr Pilbeam

D) Ironfest Traffic Management 2013 event- Request for Debrief

SUMMARY

Council has written to the Ironfest organiser inviting them to attend TALC to conduct a debrief in regard to the Ironfest event 2013, specifically the traffic management plan and traffic control plans.

COMMENTS

Mr. Macgregor Ross and Mr. Bill Neubeck attended the meeting to discuss the traffic management of the event. It was noted that the event was a success and the committee broke even financially. Cllr Pilbeam congratulated the Ironfest committee on the event.

There was no comment received by the Police on traffic issues during the event. Council conducted on site inspections during the three days of the event to review the traffic control put in place and signage.

It was noted that the traffic management plan provided to the committee was from 2012 and did not have the correct event dates. The traffic control at the event was not the same as outlined in the traffic control plans. The traffic control plans provided were not updated as required before the event although a list of changes was given to the company providing the traffic management.

The Ironfest committee representatives indicated that they not have the training to prepare traffic management plans and are not always aware of issues that have arisen with the contractor they have used for traffic management.

It was noted that the idea of a debrief session is to discuss any concerns that arose during the event and to make the Ironfest committee aware of the problems and how they can be addressed for the next event.

For this year a 9am road closure was requested and TALC recommended that the 12pm road closure remain to allow minimal disruption to residents. Ironfest Committee was not happy with this decision and proceeded to activate road closure prior to 12 noon. It was noted that TALC makes recommendations to council and council approves or rejects the recommendations. Ironfest requested that the road be closed at 9am next year to provide time for the event to be set up safely.

Mr. Ross noted that he attended the January TALC meeting and there were no issues raised in regard to the information provided or last year's event. RMS noted that this wasn't the case; the Police raised issues with a traffic controller not being at his barricade during the event and barricades incorrectly placed. The RMS provided notes on the TMP and information provided to the committee at that meeting.

RMS noted that the traffic control plans (TCP) need to be updated as per any requirements because if a problem arises with traffic during the event and the TCP is incorrect problems can arise with insurance. Also if incorrect this can create issues for emergency services.

The documents need to be provided to the committee at least three months before the event date to allow adequate time for any requested changes or problems to be addressed.

Mr. Ross asked if it is possible for council to take control of traffic management for the event and if Ironfest are responsible for traffic outside of the showground. Cllr Pilbeam noted that council requires a traffic management plan for events as traffic is affected in the area of the event. Mr. Neubeck asked if council approves the traffic

management plan who is responsible if something happens. The event organiser is responsible as they hire a certified company to prepare the plans on their behalf.

Council negotiated with the Ironfest Committee and the Road and Rail data in regard to the issues with the TMP and TCP's during the lead up to the event.

RMS noted that the event organisers should have a copy of the Guide to Traffic and Transport Management for Special Events. Council will email Mr. Ross and Mr. Neubeck a copy.

In regard to Ironfest plans for the future Mr. Ross noted that the committee can implement more complex plans than previous ones. A plan for Ironfest 2020 will be provided to council which may become next year's event plan.

A gold coin donation was provided to the Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) for their assistance with parking, but this was not satisfactory. Perhaps Ironfest can provide the VRA with a payment rather than the VRA asking drivers for a donation as traffic was backed up.

Areas available for extra parking need to be stated in the TCP for the next year's event. No parking available in Showground, extra parking will need to be arranged.

The Ironfest Committee will send a request to council to have a special meeting to discuss Ironfest next year.

ACTION- That Council note the information discussed during the Ironfest 2013 debriefing session.

MOVED: Clr Pilbeam

SECONDED: Prue Britt

E) Fun Run/Walk in Portland April 2013

SUMMARY

Council has written to the event organiser requesting that the following information is provided as a matter of urgency;

1. Public liability for the event
2. A traffic control plan for the entire event, including each intersection by a certified traffic management person
3. A map of the entire route
4. A copy of instructions provided to participants on the route

COMMENTARY

The committee requested further information from the event organiser which was not received. The event date has passed.

The committee has noted that there is no public liability for the event only the event organisers business. Further information needs to be provided including a traffic control plan for the entire event including each intersection, a map of the entire route and a copy of any instructions provided to participants in regard to the event.

ACTION- That Council note that the timeline for the Fun Run /Walk in Portland has expired and the event was not held.

MOVED: Prue Britt

SECONDED: Clr Pilbeam

F) 2013 Cox's Road Heritage Trail

SUMMARY

Council has received documentation for the Cox's Road Heritage Trail horse ride. The ride shall follow the line of Cox's original road through to Bathurst. Some riders shall be on roads, others in paddocks.

There will be approximately 60 horses and rider participating over four days on 18, 19 May and 15, 16 June.

COMMENTARY

A letter was sent to the event organisers noting that the committee would like an alternative route prepared for the event so the Great Western Highway is not required to be crossed at anytime.

It was noted that there are issues with the event and the current route. In regard to crossing the Great Western Highway this is an 80km/h zone and it there is a crash history in the vicinity of this location.

Having traffic controllers on the Great Western Highway to stop traffic for the horses to cross the highway is not appropriate. The RMS is not in favour of this due to danger for the riders, horse's and traffic controllers even on Browns Gap Road as this road has large amounts of traffic. The event would not be endorsed in its current form.

TALC was informed that the event has been cancelled.

ACTION- That Council note the 2013 Cox's Road Heritage Trail event has been cancelled.

MOVED: Clr Pilbeam

SECONDED: Prue Britt

G) Request for establishment of a School drop off zone- St Joseph's School Portland

SUMMARY

Sergeant Mark McCulkin of the Portland sector has written to TALC requesting that a school drop off zone be established in the laneway that runs to the south east of the school, parallel to Portland Road.

- This laneway is not used by through traffic
- This provides a safe drop off zone on the same side of the road as the school

COMMENTARY

A copy of the report prepared by Grant Sharkey Safety around Schools Liaison Officer at the RMS and sent to TALC members for their review.

A site inspection was conducted on April 4 by committee members. It was noted by following RMS procedure for a 'Drop-off and Pick-up initiative' that the laneway is not suitable for the drop off pick up zone, neither is the current bus zone in front of the school.

Grant Sharkey from RMS who is the Safety Around Schools Officer has investigated the request and is not in favour of the proposal as the laneway is not wide enough and access back onto the main road is problematic.

ACTION- That Council accept the report provided by Grant Sharkey, Safety Around Schools Project Officer, RMS advising the laneway is not suitable for a school drop-off zone.

MOVED: Prue Britt

SECONDED: Clr Pilbeam

H) Naomi Street Lithgow

SUMMARY

A request has been received for the direction of traffic in Naomi Street Lithgow to be reversed to provide a second exit from the car park behind the police station as the exit onto Mort Street becomes very congested at times.

COMMENTARY

This is a complex issue, with traffic counts and analysis on pedestrian movements and visibility issues required. In addition retailers in the area should be consulted.

No right turn would be allowed if the Naomi Street traffic direction was approved.

The Police agree with access to Main Street, noting that the Mort Street access is an issue at times. The Police have suggested allowing access to Main Street, moving the pedestrian traffic lights to the intersection and changing Sandford Avenue from Main Street to a two way traffic flow.

Other concerns raised by council;

1. Concern over pedestrian visibility Naomi/Main Streets
2. Traffic counts need to be done– Council will need to separate the numbers coming out of Woolworths and the car park located behind the Police station.
3. Deliveries to businesses – how the proposed changes will affect deliveries.

ACTION- That Council conduct a three month traffic and pedestrian study into the request for the traffic direction in Naomi Street Lithgow to be reversed.

MOVED: Prue Britt

SECONDED: Clr Pilbeam

ITEM 5: NEW BUSINESS

A) Requests from Local Emergency Management Committee

SUMMARY

At the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting held in March 2013, the Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) raised the issue of limited parking spaces in the vicinity of the VRA premises. The VRA has requested a minimum of six car spaces to be established for volunteers in emergencies.

COMMENTARY

A parking review of the area is required.

The Police noted that they cannot enforce a sign that states “emergency personnel private vehicles only”.

ACTION- That Council conduct a parking study of the area adjacent to the Volunteer Rescue Association building in Mort Street Lithgow.

MOVED: Prue Britt

SECONDED: Clr Pilbeam

B) Rural Fire Services-site distance issues Bent and Lithgow Streets Lithgow

SUMMARY

At the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) held in March the Rural Fire Services (RFS) raised the issue of site distance at the intersection of Lithgow and Bent Street Lithgow, specifically when exiting Bent Street onto Lithgow Street.

COMMENTARY

Currently there is a No Stopping sign installed to the right of the intersection when exiting Bent and Lithgow Streets. This sign shall be checked to determine if it is 10 metres from the intersection.

ACTION- That Council assess the current distance of the existing No Stopping sign to the right of the intersection of Bent and Lithgow Streets and if necessary move the No Stopping sign to meet the statutory 10 metre warrant if required.

MOVED: Clr Pilbeam

SECONDED: Prue Britt

C) Complaint -speeding vehicles Barton Street Lithgow

SUMMARY

A resident has written to council expressing concern over vehicles speeding in Barton Street Lithgow, specifically in the vicinity of the Barton Street units. The resident has suggested speed humps be installed and/or elderly resident signage.

COMMENTARY

This matter has been referred to the Police for their information and action via email on 3 April 2013. The Police noted that Highway Patrol Officers have spoken with the complainant.

It has been noted in the email that speed and traffic counters shall be laid when the new counters are received by council to determine if there is a speeding issue and the times etc.

ACTION- That Council note that this matter has been referred to the Police and traffic and speed counts shall be conducted in Barton Street Lithgow.

MOVED: Prue Britt

SECONDED: Clr Pilbeam

D) Issues with site distance- Hutchinson Street Lithgow

SUMMARY

A resident has written to Council noting issues with site distance when turning right into Hutchinson Street from Mort Street Lithgow.

COMMENTARY

Councils Operations Department should review this request.

ACTION- That Council shall conduct an investigation into the request for site distance issues to be addressed when turning right into Hutchinson Street at the intersection of Mort and Lithgow Streets and report back to a future meeting.

MOVED: Clr Pilbeam

SECONDED: Prue Britt

ITEM 6: GENERAL BUSINESS

A) Lithgow and Mort Street intersection- traffic

SUMMARY

Iain asked what the point of the red arrow is at the intersection of Lithgow and Mort Streets Lithgow. Pedestrians do not activate the red arrow, but the red arrow still appears and then disappears. Why is this so?

COMMENTARY

The Police noted that they do not know why the red arrow is there when no other traffic lights have this and no one is crossing. The Police suggest that a green traffic arrow for the left turn into Mort Street from Lithgow Street when Mort Street has the green light.

RMS general number should be called and council to speak to Alan Dixon in regard to why the red arrow comes up when it is not pedestrian activated.

ACTION- That Council contact the RMS requesting information on why the red arrow at the traffic lights at the intersection of Lithgow and Mort Streets appears when no pedestrians are crossing the road.

MOVED: Prue Britt

SECONDED: Clr Pilbeam

Meeting Closed: With no further business the meeting was closed at 4.10pm.

ITEM 7: NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: 2pm on Thursday 6 June 2013
Council Committee meeting room
Lithgow City Council
180 Mort Street Lithgow
