



Boroondara City Council

Survey conducted by Boroondara BUG, responses have been shared with Bicycle Network.

Bellevue Ward

Candidate – Bellevue Ward, Greg Ball

1. Do you own a bike?

I do not own a bike. I have owned bikes in the past. One bike I rode to commute to graduate school and another bike I rode for recreation. Now, I rent a bicycle when needed. Most recently, I rented an e-bike.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

I rent a bike occasionally on holidays for recreation. Although not my intention at the outset, I often ride long distances.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

I see this as an opportunity to encourage a shift to more recreational cycling, especially if cyclists have discovered some of the nicer paths through our parks, along rail trails and along the Yarra River. I expect commuter cycling will become more dangerous and less enjoyable as more cars return to the road.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

This seems like a good idea, but my support would depend on review of a detailed construction plan.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

This seems like a good idea to develop. My support would be stronger if the path is suitable and safe for both hikers and cyclists.



6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

This might be appropriate at some crossings, but I expect each candidate crossing should be evaluated on its own merits.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

I see cycling as offering an excellent recreational opportunity, especially as new shared paths are developed. Recreational cycling should become even more attractive if we can reduce the noise and air pollution generated by cars, buses and trucks. I see commuting by bicycle as challenged because traffic congestion and the present level of vehicle emissions makes it less safe and unhealthful.



Candidate – Bellevue Ward, Astrid Judge

1. Do you own a bike?

Yes, a hybrid and an e-bike.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

I mostly ride my e-bike now – it has got me riding much more frequently. I do most short trips in my area on it – e.g. to the local shops, to see friends. I also try to do longer trips by bike where there is a safe route, off busy main roads. Before Covid, I rode once a week to a volunteer job in Heidelberg West by bike – pedalling on the Darebin Trail is always a joy. On weekends I often ride with my husband, family and friends on the off-road trails around Melbourne. I have done several multi-day cycling trips outside of Melbourne, mostly on rail trails.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Yes. Cycling is obviously a good way for people to commute and remain socially distanced right now. It is especially important as people will avoid public transport until the virus is under control. We do not want to further exacerbate traffic congestion, but, no doubt, people will choose to drive their car if they are worried about public transport being crowded (which it is in our area at peak times).

We should progress bike projects as a matter of urgency to deal with the pandemic. I note that City of Melbourne and Yarra have already created temporary protected bike lanes and are fast-tracking the expansion of the bike network.

We can't forget our other major issue at the present time – global heating. Active transport, such as cycling and walking, is important for reducing carbon emissions. Cycling keeps people healthy, happy and connected to nature – it is especially good for us in this difficult time when we are all re-evaluating our priorities. But cycling must be safe for everyone, including children. We need protected, well-maintained paths to encourage even the most reluctant to ride.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes, state funding is required, but council can do more to advocate for this project.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes. The path has been shortlisted by the RACV as one of the 17 major bike trails needed to connect major activity centres in Melbourne with the CBD. Boroondara Council has been allocated \$370 000 to plan for the trail, but little progress has been made thus far. To get the section of the



trail through Boroondara built we need council to advocate for it with the state government and to commit to supporting its construction.

Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Yes. Car drivers must learn to share the road so that cyclists are safe, just as a few cyclists need to learn to share the paths with children, slow riders and the elderly. Our cities will be better for people if car drivers learn to share the road. People feel more inclined to get on a bike if they know they are going to be safe from speeding cars. This is especially important for making cycling safe for school students.

Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

In my ward of Bellevue

Balwyn and East Kew do not have any separated onroad bike paths – but there seem to be many cyclists in this area. It may be that in our area off-road paths are more cost-effective to develop right now. However, from my perspective the hilly section of Willsmere Road, coming down from Chandler Road roundabout is dangerous for bikes. And Kilby Road and Doncaster Road (especially between Bulleen and Burke Roads) all seem like great stretches for temporary protected bike lanes. As BBUG points out, the bike paths that do exist in our area are not sensibly connected, and cyclists who want to avoid major roads, such as Doncaster Road and High Street, are still forced to cross them, often without pedestrian crossings. It often requires getting off your bike because there are no pram ramps.

The off-road Grass Creek Link and Jacka Trail, as proposed by BBUG, look like great proposals for Bellevue, and cost-effective, especially if they are done without the pedestrian crossings. They would link the Koonung Trail to Hays Paddock, through Kew East to Kew High, to Deepdene, Balwyn High and Balwyn. These paths would make it safer for students to ride to school – there are several primary schools near these routes too. The pedestrian crossing on Burke Road at the north end of Stradbroke Park seems like a good idea – I understand funding would need to come from the state government for this and it would need to be prioritised against the need for crossings elsewhere in Boroondara.

I would also like to explore the possibilities for establishing safe routes for school students riding from the Darebin Trail to Kew High or to the private schools on Glenferrie Road. The pram ramps at the pedestrian crossing on High Street, near Kew High, need to be widened. Council should advocate for this with the Dept of Transport, which it says manages the crossing.

- I support creation of a mountain bike skills/jumps park in a suitable, environmentally sustainable location, possibly east of Chandler Bridge.
- I oppose plans for new freeways, such as North-East Link. Traffic problems are more effectively solved by spending money on active and public transport.



In Boroondara generally

- Many paths need attention – e.g. the path on Glenferrie Road needs to be repaired and repainted green. Some roads also need attention in terms of holes and cracks (these are especially problematic for e-bikes, which are heavier than other bikes – it's hard on the wrists to go over a pothole). Council needs to lobby State Government for solutions to these public risks.
- We need more separated paths on main roads, painted green or Copenhagen-style and more safe shimmy routes along back streets.
- We should create separate bike and pedestrian paths where possible on busy shared paths.
- Council should establish a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, made up of community members, as it used to have.



Candidate – Bellevue Ward, Austin King

1. Do you own a bike? Yes

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

I have a Giant mountain bike but haven't used it much lately. Personally, I would use a bike for leisure. My partner rides to work every day (weather permitting) and enjoys the health benefits as well as the cost savings of using a bike!

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

It is a good opportunity as it lowers emissions as well as encourages a healthy lifestyle.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes. But I would need to see plans for this proposal. Note. this area is not in my ward and the Councillor for this area would have more of a say.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes, depending if it is feasible. Better linkages are important.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Crossing priority makes sense. I am not sure of the impacts this would have on the road network in the area and need more information. Raised crossings would make sense in some areas.

Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

I see bike riding as a good way to encourage healthy living, lower emissions and potentially a way to save on individual transport costs. Boroondara provides some interesting leisure bike paths and many families and residents enjoy these. I also agree where possible bikes and motorists should be separated for the safety and peace of mind for everyone involved.



Candidate – Bellevue Ward, Alexander Sawyer

1. Do you own a bike? 2

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

Less than I should

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Yes

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

No

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Primarily as a safe family leisure activity



Candidate – Bellevue Ward, Sienna Watson

1. Do you own a bike? Yes.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

I ride once or twice a week. I ride recreationally, predominantly along the Yarra trail, Koonung trail and Capital City trail.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Covid-19 has provided a significant opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to cycling as a means of transport. This increasing shift must be harnessed and maximised, for it is crucial to the sustainability and preservation of our environment. Covid-19 has illuminated the risks associated with heavy congestion within our public transport system and on our roads. I am sure that many appreciate the significant decrease in traffic. This progress cannot be left unattended as we ease out of restrictions, it is vital for our community to maintain its cycling usage. Bike commuting is expected to increase by 55% in Melbourne, as reliance on public transport decreases by 20%. Cycling infrastructure and facilities must be increased to reflect and accommodate this transfer.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes, the misaligned crossing needs to be addressed. The overpass would provide a safer passage for cyclists. Funding should be prioritised for this project.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

I have signed the petition and continue to support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn. This would provide greater integration for Boroondara into the cycling network, increasing liveability and would provide great incentive for an increase in cycling as a mode of transport. It also provides an opportunity for exercise and family interaction through walking. This project is key to a sustainable and safe future.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Safety of our community must be prioritised. I share the sentiment of concern as I have experienced the obliviousness drivers can possess towards cyclists. This is not acceptable conduct, it is certainly not one that can be tolerated for our community, children and students who ride. Cycling is a habit that should be encouraged, those who choose to play their part in environmental sustainability and the enhancement of one's own health, should not be deterred nor put at risk for their efforts. Shared paths priority at local road crossings would improve the visibility of cyclists to drivers, improving



safety. I also support the construction of raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage.

Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Cycling is not only prioritised within members of the community, it also plays a fundamental role in addressing climate change and establishing a new norm post Covid-19. Cycling provides a vast array of benefits, including both physical and mental health, a means of transport, and caters for bonding amongst the community. VicHealth has found that 76% of Victorians desire local and state governments to be responsive to the increased usage and adapt infrastructure accordingly. My vision for Boroondara includes a society where cycling is promoted as a dominant means of transport. Subsequently, improving and increasing cycling facilities is required. In order for this vision to come to light, safe routes must be accessible for all abilities and ages. Boroondara is fortunate to have vast green spaces and holds the potential to promote a sustainable way of living. We must be active in our preservation of our environment, reducing Co2 emissions is crucial. This shift starts with cycling.



Cotham Ward

Candidate – Cotham Ward, Cr Felicity Sinfield

1. Do you own a bike?

Yes

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

Family riding with kids - not as often as I would like (my youngest is not yet confident!)

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Possibly - but with people working from home, I'm not sure the increase has been the commuters who would be the ideal target.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

If this is the safest option for cyclists, then yes.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Each site needs to be assessed on its merits - I am not comfortable giving a sweeping statement about all crossings. While I am prohibited by my employer from articulating my profession, I have spent nearly 20 years working in community safety and emergency management. As such, safety is usually a key driver of my decision making.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Cyclists in Boroondara are from various cohorts - commuters, recreational cyclists, fitness/exercise, social and family oriented. Being geographically located where we are - immediately east of the CBD, we are a 'corridor' municipality, as our 56km of on-road routes and 32km of shared paths are utilised by a large number of commuters from further east, travelling in/out of the CBD. As such, we see a higher number of commuters whose trip commences outside of our municipality, but who travel through it. Despite this, we are so lucky to have paths that suit novice cyclists, and I love to see them enjoyed by both children learning, and our older retirees cycling socially.



Candidate – Cotham Ward, Bill Young

1. Do you own a bike? Yes, I certainly do.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

I love cycling. Right at present I am not doing as much as I want but hope that will change soon. I am a strong advocate for bicycles. I think they are a fabulous form of transport. I have done a number of extended bike trips overseas and in Australia. I have completed the Great Victorian Bike Ride quite a number of times and the Great Tasmanian Bike Ride twice.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Bikes are not just an age old and important mode of transport but are a healthy way to travel, so long as the infrastructure and protections are in place to keep people safe.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

I don't know this project specifically, but I am generally keen on any infrastructure that protects and keeps people safe.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

The more bike paths we can facilitate in our community the better.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

I am all for making it easier and safer for people to ride. The more people on bikes the less cars on the roads.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Having a community where cycling is promoted and protected will bring all manner of benefits. It is more sociable, healthy, and environmental in a whole range of different ways. It provides for a safer community if managed carefully.

Gardiner Ward

Candidate – Gardiner Ward, Simon Denton

1. Do you own a bike? Yes I enjoy cycling and own a road bike, 2 mountain bikes and a stationary bike. My kids have bikes too.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

I cycle 2 to 4 times / week for exercise and enjoyment/ relaxation.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Hopefully though I think things will return to the pre COVID situation as restrictions ease unless there is investment in safer roads / tracks etc.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes, good from what I know. The big problem at present is where you dismount to cross the Freeway over the bridge if you want to end up on the south side of the river. It's potentially dangerous as is.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Sounds good.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Sounds good in principle. I would want to know more about this if elected.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Safe access to a greater range of commuter and leisure trails. Safe options for far greater numbers of kids to be able to get to local primary and secondary schools. It would lead to longer term development of riding. To finish, I am convinced that cycling is great for exercise, the environment and can be cost effective. I am very much in favour of supporting cycling.

Keep safe... Simon Denton

Candidate – Gardiner Ward, Catherine Diggins



1. Do you own a bike?

Yes, I own a hybrid bike and it is one of my most cherished and used possessions

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

I ride almost every day, though during lockdown I have been unable to travel to many of the places I usually ride.

Prior to COVID I was studying a Diploma in Pilates Instruction in Richmond, so was riding there often to attend the workshops and clinical study hours.

The four types of bike riding I do are;

1. Transport in to Richmond and the city
2. A utility bike with saddle bags on the rack for my grocery shopping
3. Cardio exercise on the Gardiners Creek trail and Hawthorn velodrome (and other places)
4. Leisure and sightseeing along the Warburton Rail Trail etc.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?



Most definitely ! It would be my goal to keep as many people on bikes and to continue their increased enjoyment and use of them long after we come out of COVID.

I've not seen statistics of cycling increase during COVID but I have noticed a significant boost of interest on the Gardiners Creek Trail in general, as well as more bikes which is wonderful.

I would love to see more people use bicycles as a form of transport, and whilst cardio cycling is one aspect of bicycles, there is so much more to making bike riding a part of every day life.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

My understanding is that Council has already made a decision to proceed with the overpass proposal, and advocate for the funding of the construction.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

I am not familiar with the cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra as this is some distance from where I live and ride, but I am encouraged by any ability to extend the bicycle commuting networks and increase riding participation and safety.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Where practicable, and in theory I support any ability to make cycling safer and easier and it would be on a case by case basis as every location is unique.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Bike riding and cycling have overwhelming support and engagement with a high number of Boroondara residents.

We are blessed with some of the most picturesque trails in Melbourne, and great access to the city and shopping precincts. There is no reason that community engagement in cycling should not continue grow. I believe the key to increased cycling engagement is by incentivising all people by providing the safest bike riding options and routes possible.

I am a good example of a Boroondara multi purpose cyler. As a person who uses a bike to commute, shop and exercise I see great hope for the increase in people like me.

COVID-19 has shown people an alternative lifestyle, one that is based locally and less stressful. We have been more engaged with nature and our immediate environment. Not only do we have an



ageing population to whom cycling is a great alternative and a social connector, we also have families realising how important it is to get out and exercise as a family.

The challenge as we navigate our way out of COVID-19 restrictions, is to carry the lessons we have learned into life as normal, supported by Council and State Government.

Yes I enjoy cycling and own a road bike, 2 mountain bikes and a stationary bike. My kids have bikes too.

Candidate – Gardiner Ward, Victor Franco

1. Do you own a bike?

I am a member of Bicycle Network and Rail Trails Australia. I restore vintage bicycles for a hobby and I'm the resident bike mechanic in my household. I currently have three bicycles, a tourer and two vintage British three speeds. My wife has two and our kids two. I also have various parts and frames in the shed.



Teaching my kids how to build wheels restored



Anderson Park with a couple of bicycles I

I was Director of Transport and Major Projects at the City of Sydney, where I led the development and early implementation of the Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017 which Council unanimously adopted, despite widespread opposition from naysayers. The key feature of the strategy was providing safe separated two-way on-road cycleways. See examples below



King St, Sydney



Bourke St, Sydney

I went on to head the Transport and Traffic department at Brisbane City Council, where I implemented the CityCycle public bicycle hire scheme and expanded shared paths along the Brisbane River, providing separate cycling and walking paths where possible.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

I ride regularly for local transport and recreation. What I most enjoy are day tours with my kids along the trails: Gardiners Creek, Scotchman’s Creek, Anniversary, Main Yarra and Mullum Mullum. We also take occasional family touring trips with overnight stays along along the rail trails. Our favourites being Murray to Mountains and Lilydale to Warburton.



Riding with my family



3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Yes. Covid-19 has led to unprecedented growth in cycling and of our shared paths. To seize the opportunity to make this permanent, we need Councillors who are actively committed to taking action. The key is providing safe separated on-road cycleways for commuters. Making it safe to ride to work and school. This will ease the burden on the shared paths for pedestrians and recreational cyclists. At the same time, Council must improve and expand the shared paths and green corridors, as noted below. I will advocate for this to be included in the new Boroondara Cycling Strategy, which is two years overdue.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes, and I will push for this to be included in the anticipated Boroondara Cycling Strategy, which is now two years overdue. This section of the Anniversary currently includes a dangerous crossing of the railway tracks, a very steep hill, and the requirement to dismount when crossing Toorak Road and walking past shops. A shared path overpass would provide much needed safe passage and priority for cyclists and pedestrians. Funding is required for this project and Boroondara Council should make a contribution.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes. There is currently no safe family-friendly bike and pedestrian path connecting Hawthorn to Box Hill. It’s been debated and discussed for years. Let’s make it happen. It will be an iconic path and open up safe access for Boroondara residents all the way through to Box Hill and onto Belgrave.



This needs to be included in the forthcoming Boroondara Cycling Strategy which is two years overdue.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Yes. This is extremely important. Providing priority road crossings for shared paths will greatly increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities. There are some excellent examples of these along the Anniversary Trail. More priority road crossings on shared paths will make encourage more people to ride and make it safer those that already cycle along them. I will advocate for this to be a key feature of the forthcoming Boroondara Cycling Strategy, which is two years overdue.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Boroondara Council's lack of meaningful action can and must be redressed. The new Boroondara Cycling Strategy is long overdue and there is currently no indication of when the draft will be released for consultation. I will advocate for

- completing and publicly releasing the draft Cycling Strategy as a matter of urgency.
- including safe on-road cycle paths and much needed improvements to the shared recreational paths in the Cycling Strategy.
- re-establishing the Cycling Advisory Committee, with external representatives from the community and elected councillors, which Council disbanded. I will personally participate in such a committee. The committee can play important role in developing the Cycling Strategy and in overseeing its implementation through the next 4-year Council term.

If you have any questions or want to discuss, please get in contact.

Victor Franco

Candidate for Gardiner Ward, Boroondara City Council

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Candidate – Gardiner Ward, Greg Selkirk

Email response to questions from a Bicycle Network member which has been shared with us.

I have a policy of inviting any lobby group to meet with me after the election, provided I am elected, whilst declining to respond to set questions. The reason is that as a new candidate there is a fair degree of information 'asymmetry' between them and me in that they know a lot about their topic and Boroondara's actions to date whereas I know very little. Bicycle strategy is one of these topics. I am happy to listen intently and make my own enquiries once I have full access to Council resources.

Answers to your questions are as follows:

1. I will support resolutions supported by Council officers, provided they are supported by relevant stakeholders and are good for Boroondara. So if Council thinks walking and riding are good - and who wouldn't? - then I would expect to support them.
2. You assume I have a bike - which I do, refer to the attached photo (from Studds in Swan Street Richmond). Recreational purposes only! I live, so you should know this one. Down Park Road to Howard Dawson Reserve, along Gardiners Creek, up the Anniversary Trail and back via the Ferndale Trail and Nettleton Park. Back up Park Road is a killer.....
3. I have no position on Council's progress, happy to make the time to understand it better if I am elected.

If you have your own views on these questions then I'd be pleased to hear them.

Thanks - Greg.

(PS I am a member but I don't remember getting a rider number and although I can logon to see my payment details I can't use the same email to retrieve my rider number. It's a little strange).

Greg Selkirk email responses to questions from Boroondara BUG

1. Do you own a bike?



2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

Purely recreational paths, mainly the Gardiner's Creek Trail with my son. Once a month at best. I have on my 'bucket list' to complete the Victorian Rail Trail network –which I am a better chance of doing if I am not elected!

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

The opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to cycling and walking as a permanent transport option has existed for some time. A number of years back I worked in public transport and was a big supporter of the TravelSmart initiative focussing on behaviour change.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Absolutely, subject to the project being funded by the State Government. There is a scope to achieve an outcome which is not too expensive and which would be supported by the local community.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Absolutely, subject to the project being funded by the State Government. That said, it would be expensive and logistically challenging and not supported by some in the local community, as such it is unlikely to be a high priority for local Councils and State Government.



6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

I support Council putting such options forward for consideration on a case-by-case basis. Also, I would appreciate an organisation like Boroondara BUG coming to Council with proposals which are supported across a range of stakeholders. I would not support proposals which are not supported by the local community.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

I see cycling within Boroondara as essentially a recreational activity, with limited opportunities for modal shift away from cars (local commuting, school runs). I am interested to better understand and support projects which make it easier and safer for cyclists to go about their passion. Some examples might include (but are not limited to):

- Crossing Toorak Road at Hartwell (a bridge is great but expensive, even a dedicated crossing below the bridge would be good).
- Moving the crossing High Street at Ashburton.
- Missing links in the Outer Circle trail at Riversdale and Kew.
- Widening paths where conflicts exist with pedestrians.
- Encouraging complementary businesses to operate around bicycle trails, as they do around Rail Trails.

Such proposals must have **local community support** – not just cyclist support.



Glenferrie Ward

Candidate – Glenferrie Ward, Luke Balasingam

Boroondara BUG received the following response from Mr. Balasingam:

Hi

Thanks for the email. I am a supporter of sustainable transport and public transport usage in the Boroondara area. My main message is two fold:

- 1) Enact a Post Covid Recovery Plan to revitalise the local area to ensure a holistic plan is enacted that brings together business owners and local ratepayers, to create a sustainable and meaningful recovery plan that can not only bring life back to the area but also improve services for the community. This would involve improving safety and usability of bicycle paths and public transport in the local area!
- 2) Manage the council to ensure good outcomes - I have previous public sector experience with over 10 years working for the Commonwealth Government managing projects on time and budget, this would mean I can ensure the council is managed well and ensure they manage local ratepayers money properly and meet the needs of the community.

Regards
Luke



Candidate – Glenferrie Ward, Wes Gault

1. Do you own a bike?

Yes, I have a lovely road / trail bike in Melbourne and both Jane and I keep more rugged bikes at Blairgowrie where some of the tracks are more challenging.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

Since selling our company, I have no need to commute as I have a home office. My cycling is recreational, fantastic for relaxation. Being located on the edge of the Anniversary Trail, I cycle north, often to my son's house in Thornbury and south to visit relatives in Malvern. At the coast, a favorite trip is Blairgowrie to Point Nepean and back, a combination of road and track riding. I am currently having a break from cycling due to a shoulder injury. I hadn't realized how much reliance one has on one's shoulders when cycling. Both of our children cycle regularly to work. My son from Thornbury to Burnley and my daughter to her medical practice in Fitzroy (although both a bit limited by the current lockdowns).

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

I believe that there was a shift happening anyway and this pandemic is giving rise to so many long term changes which I am sure will increase bicycle usage. I have been part of the team developing policy for the local Branch. This includes the promotion of various forms of alternative transport and naturally includes increased bicycle use. To accommodate such growth however, greatly improved infrastructure will be required. Filling in the missing bits of trails, widening trails where required, making proper and safe provision for cyclists using our roads, adequate bicycle parking areas etc.etc. Boroondara is a long way behind suburbs north of the Yarra in accommodating bicycle use and we are all a very long way behind parts of Europe (despite our much better weather).

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes, a constant irritation. I wonder if use could be made of the rail bridge over, for at least partial support of a shared trail (rail bridges are generally well and truly over designed). And what about a direct link between Riversdale Park and Prospect Hill Road (although it does look like this is finally going in).

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes, this would create a great commuter link into the city. Looking north, I would also like to see a link between the beautiful Yarra Flats trail and Heide, without having to negotiate Banksia Street, a relatively simple link.



6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Yes. I would also like to see much safer arrangements for cyclists where shared use of roads is required. Provisions for cyclists on our streets and main roads is nothing short of makeshift in most areas. In years past I have had a couple of our staff very seriously injured whilst cycling to work.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

To seriously start to tackle climate change, we must start to wind back the use of cars and buses (as well as other fossil fuel driven forms of transport). Melbourne is relatively flat (and where it isn't it provides great exercise) making cycling an excellent and inexpensive alternative form of transport. But councils, including Boroondara, need to take cycling much more seriously and to provide properly (not just in a token, virtue signaling way) to the provision of adequate infrastructure (trails, road lanes parking areas etc).

Futher, if our pandemic lockdowns have taught us nothing else, they have certainly shown us the great value to families of time spent together, walking and cycling on our great trail networks.

For your entertainment, below is a cycle park in Copenhagen....what may be coming but we need to it better than this.



And a wonderful bamboo framed bicycle...very environmentally sensitive.





Candidate – Glenferrie Ward, Steve Hurd

1. Do you own a bike? Yes

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

As I am legally blind and have a tandem bike, I am reliant on others and due to COVID-19 I have a lack of partners at the moment. I have done all kinds of riding eg. around Tasmania, country rides and well as utilizing suburban bike paths.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

This is one of many opportunities which are encouraging for cycle enthusiasts. One of the things that COVID-19 has done is not just to encourage people to ride bikes but to build the confidence of part-time cyclist, so they become full-time bike uses.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes, but I hope there would be room for pedestrian traffic as well.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes, 100%.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Generally speaking I do as it can also help pedestrians and the raised crossings can be useful for people who are blind, however I would have to look at the specific locations in order to fully answer this question.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

I have been a tandem cyclist for over 40 years and much of my early riding was in and around the area which is now known as Boroondara. I used to ride the outer circle trail before it was even a proper bike path, so I am thrilled to see how much has changed in Boroondara for cyclist, but the job isn't done. There is still too much danger on roads and although we have made some changes as councillors we need to do more to ensure the safety of cyclists. I'm certainly happy to commit to you and your members that I will undertake and support more action in this vital area. Cycling is one of the major keys to making my ward, Glenferrie, a smarter, sustainable and vibrant place to live. The next step is to ensure that it is safe enough for families to feel confident when they are using their



bikes. As members of BBUG have pointed out to me there are not enough places in the Glenferrie ward for people to park their bikes in shopping precincts, I promise to make this one of my first priorities should I be elected for another term.



Candidate - Glenferrie Ward, Henry Kerr

1. Do you own a bike?

I have owned a bike, however I got rid of it after living at College and had nowhere to store it. I have not since purchased another one primarily due to COVID limiting my need to go anywhere frequently.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

I do not ride frequently; however, I have considered buying one post-COVID for fitness purposes more so than practicality.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

That is very interesting to see that cycling has increased during COVID. Logically that would tell me that as people have more time on their hands, they are more willing to cycle for enjoyment/fitness reasons than transportation (as there realistically is not anywhere to go). Regarding using this as an opportunity to encourage cycling, I would suggest that any opportunity to promote healthier and more sustainable methods of transportation and recreation is a sensible path to take. I would assume, the more people who are encouraged to ride recreationally during COVID will then be more likely to transition to bike riding as a more permanent transportation method.

Moreover, it is apparent to me that in the wake of COVID-19 people will inevitably be travelling back into work. How they do that is something to consider, especially as it is predictable that workers will be less inclined to take public transport due to the obvious health risks. This leaves an opportunity open for cycling to grow in its scale and in its role as a transportation method. In summary, COVID is absolutely an opportunity to encourage cycling.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Having been down to the crossing myself to view the current situation it seems to me like not only a reasonable proposal but a necessary one. The existing level crossing for cyclists and pedestrians is both unsafe and impractical. Any negatives to this project are somewhat irrelevant due to the already constructed railway lines e.g. sound and privacy for surrounding residents. In short, this proposal has my support depending on how much it will cost and response from the State Government in taking on this project.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

The proposed bike path is quite a large-scale project stretching quite a distance. Having been down the existing path quite frequently I can say that the status quo is both unsightly and somewhat impractical (the current path is small and ill kept). I would be in support of this within the relevant



Council boundaries and areas. However, given the size of the project it would be dependent upon costings. This being said, the proposal is a reasonable one and something that would greatly encourage cycling in the area.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Where there is no strong reason not to do so, I cannot see why not, however, it would be dependent upon the factors of each case. What might be appropriate for some areas might not be appropriate for others. I would like to add, that whilst cycling is a positive factor in Boroondara and the more people out of cars and on bikes the better, this is a balancing act.

Frankly the more we can get bikes off roads and onto bike paths the better. This will allow for a scenario where residents who wish to use their cars are not unfairly hindered and cyclists are not exposed to unnecessary risks on the road. This might mean a scenario where projects such as the Toorak Rd overpass crossing and the Railway adjacent bike path are given priority over changes to existing shared local roads.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Cycling is an excellent source of recreation, fitness and transportation. As our city changes and grows Boroondara will have to find its place within that evolution. It is my firm belief that cycling will play an ever more important role in this change. As a Councilor it would be in both mine and the communities' interest to make sure the cycling community is a part of the dialogue as to how best grow our community.

Moreover, cycling is an environmentally friendly, cost effective and enjoyable method of transport. Climate change has been listed within my ward as a reasonably large factor in resident's minds right now, and the promotion of cycling seems to me like an intelligent way of combating this problem.

P.s. If there is any way I can assist the cycling community further please let me know. In addition, if you would like me to support the cycling community publicly during the election campaign underway, I would be happy to help.



Candidate - Glenferrie Ward, Lindon Parbery

1. Do you own a bike? Yes.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

Rarely. Generally, I go on ride of between 10-30km for fitness.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

I do. I see it as a great demonstration of the health and climate benefits cycling has to offer.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

I lack the requisite information to make an informed decision but on the face of it I would be supportive of the idea.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Absolutely.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Subject to information regarding traffic delays, I am in support of this idea.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

I see cycling as a wonderful opportunity to encourage fitness and reduce emissions with would contribute greatly to a healthier and more environmentally conscious community within Boroondara.



Junction Ward

Candidate – Junction Ward, Greg Deakin

1. Do you own a bike?

Not currently

2. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Certainly. From a COVID perspective, cycling has many health and safety advantages.

3. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Not sure. There are a number of major road crossings on this trail. Why Toorak Rd in particular? Is this where the longest traffic delays occur? If there is a clear case for this location I would support it.

4. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

It's a great idea, but would need a proper feasibility study to identify the best route and do a proper costing.

5. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

A means of slowing traffic at local road crossings is important – perhaps raised crossings in some cases, perhaps other means like speed humps. I would support as trial project to give shared paths priority at some sensitive local road crossings. (I suspect this is not something that would work at all local road crossings.)

6. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

I support a better deal for cyclists generally, although this is not an issue I have looked at specifically for Boroondara. Facilitating cycle movements around Boroondara is an important issue. The Council could also build more cycling tracks in local parks directed towards younger kids.



Candidate – Junction Ward, Di Gilles

Whilst I no longer own a bike (donated it to a charity providing bikes to Cambodia), I am very supportive bike riders. My 28yo son is a keen rider and his bikes are his primary mode of transport.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided an opportunity to rethink many home, work and leisure practices and how we move about is one of them. The increased interest in riding has been growing for some time and is particularly evident now. I sincerely hope we can explore many more ways to improve shared paths, bike lanes, a less car-centric culture and safety for all users. Any proposals should include safety assessments and good design.

As a genuinely independent candidate, I believe Councillors should look carefully at all proposals with an open mind. I consider it a priority to ensure a positive context for community engagement is maintained with any project proposal suggested.

Candidate – Junction Ward, Ralph Krein

Thank you for your email and survey.

I do own a bike and cycle every second day on the Anniversary Trail, including at Toorak Road, between Hartwell and Burwood Train Stations, as it is within the 5km allowance allocated by the Andrews Labor Government.

I do agree with your comments, and support cycling and related infrastructure, but I would not want to disqualify myself from any discussion on any of the specific issues you have raised due to the Winky Pop ruling.

Kind regards,

Ralph Krein
Candidate for Junction Ward
City of Boroondara



Maling Ward

Candidate – Maling Ward, Cr Jane Addis

1. Do you own a bike?

No

2. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Yes, I believe it is an excellent opportunity.

3. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

I certainly support some form of traffic management to make it safer – but do not have a fixed idea about what this should be.

4. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

I think this makes good sense, but would want to be guided by Council's Traffic Engineers.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

The role of cycling is increasingly important, probably worldwide. It makes good sense for so many reasons. I am not comfortable with some shared paths as I do not believe the separation of walkers and cyclists is well managed. But equally, cyclist are at significant risk on our roads. With the likely constraints on public transport we urgently need to find solutions that allow cyclists to travel safely. I am hopeful that there will be a significant shift to commuter cycling – but in a safe way. This will require intervention for all levels of government.



Candidate – Maling Ward, Peter Barclay

1. Do you own a bike?

Yes – 4 push bikes, 1 classic old racing bike.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

Every weekend & sometimes mid-week to get to Maling Road

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Absolutely. It has been fabulous how the streets are safer, and more families are riding. The trails are active more than ever.

Miss going on the Yarra Trail – but will again when allowed post COVID

Should have more bike parking area's as well – I have some idea's where from personal experience

3. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes – provides a safer route and will enable more people to move freely.

4. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Absolutely – as part of Canterbury Community Action Group, we actively promoted the Petition – “A Bridge Over Canterbury Road. As a committee we in absolute terms support this and put up many benefits.

5. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Seriously this is needed, benefits to locals, safety for all cyclists and even cars – as this creates a safer situation. We need to get momentum on this as it directly improves the livability of our area. Let's not forget the carbon emissions benefits and if we get this right, more people will cycle, not just social, fitness but for work – what we call the last mile (or two!).

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Integrated as key component of the community – Council focus should take a broad community perspective, acknowledging the mass benefits of cycling and facilitating activity and safety measure



Candidate – Maling Ward, Peter Campbell

1. Do you own a bike?

Yes, I own several, including road, cyclocross and mountain bikes.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

I ride several times a week. I ride along the Gardiners Creek Trail, Anniversary Trail, Yarra Trail and Koonung trails and along back streets. I also do some road rides in the hills around Melbourne and some mountain biking on trail networks. I have commuted by bicycle from Boroondara when working in the city since 1984.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for shared paths and open spaces. We need more safe, family-friendly shared bike and pedestrian paths such as the Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail.

More people walking and riding bikes will reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions and provide safe and healthy travel for local communities. More people cycling will also reduce crowding on public transport. Projects to provide safe cycling infrastructure will also create jobs to help drive Victoria's economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes, this section of the Anniversary currently includes a dangerous crossing of the railway tracks, a very steep hill, and the requirement to dismount when crossing Toorak Road and walking through the shopping centre. A shared path overpass would provide a safer passage for cyclists and pedestrians. Funding is required for this project – Boroondara Council should make a contribution.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

I have been advocating for the Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail along the Belgrave/Lilydale rail corridor since 2005. There is currently no safe family-friendly bike and pedestrian path connecting Hawthorn to Box Hill.

The Hawthorn to Box Hill trail will encourage many people to cycle and walk who currently don't and greatly improve safety for those who already do. This path will provide safe local travel between Hawthorn, Camberwell, Glenferrie Road, Maling Road, Surrey Hills, Mont Albert and Box Hill along with connections to the Main Yarra, Anniversary and Box Hill to Ringwood Trails.



I was involved in creating the petition to Victorian State Parliament for the trail in 2019 and the more recent petition to Boroondara and Whitehorse Councils asking them to support the project that over 1200 people have now signed.

I am one of the Boroondara Bicycle Users Group community representatives on the Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail Coalition team providing input to the Department of Transport project team working on a feasibility study for the Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail that is due to be completed in October 2020.

The Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Level Crossing Removal Project provides an excellent opportunity to build the section of the trail connecting Box Hill to Camberwell with a connection to the Anniversary Trail. The Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail will provide a safe path free from vehicles where children can learn to ride and families can go for recreational bike and walking trips. People will also be able to cycle safely from Box Hill through to the Yarra then on to the centre of Melbourne.

If elected, I will encourage Boroondara Council to provide full support for this very important shared path that is now well overdue.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Yes. Providing priority road crossings for shared paths greatly increases safety for cyclists and pedestrians of all ages. There are some excellent examples of these along the Anniversary Trail.

More priority road crossings on shared paths will make encourage more people to ride and make it safer those that already cycle along them.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Boroondara Council's revised Bicycle Strategy will help promote, build and sustain a cultural shift in thinking towards alternative sustainable transport options in Boroondara, which will enhance our links between neighbouring councils and the greater Melbourne metropolitan area.

More people cycling in Boroondara for recreation and transport will provide benefits including healthy exercise, reduced traffic congestion and reduced carbon emissions.

Every person on a bike is one less person in a car.

Providing safe shared paths separated from traffic will encourage many more people of all ages and abilities to ride bikes. If elected, I will advocate strongly for the Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee to be reinstated by Council.



Candidate – Maling Ward, James Damches

1. Do you own a bike?

Yes

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

Unfortunately, I am more of a walker these days, but I walk on the Anniversary trail daily.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Absolutely, and I intend to support any infrastructure upgrades to make it safer and easier.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Absolutely.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Yes absolutely.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

I see the role of cycling in Boroondara to be enhanced via our gem that is the anniversary trail, it is an attraction to the area. Furthermore, greater infrastructure on busy main roads such as Whitehorse would be of great benefit to both cyclists and pedestrians alike...



Maranoa Ward

Candidate – Maranoa Ward, Helen Tsoutsouvas

1. Do you own a bike? Yes

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

Weekly, recreational

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Yes

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Yes

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Cycling should have a much bigger role and support widening of shared pedestrian lanes instead of widening of freeways



Riversdale Ward

Candidate – Riversdale Ward, Robert Ballieu

1. Do you own a bike? - Yes I own a 2014 Giant Propel Advanced 2

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

- Mostly exercise along Beach Road, the Anniversary Trail, and along the Yarra Boulevard (Richmond and Kew primarily). I try to ride every day and will definitely be riding to and from work as the councilor for Riversdale.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

- Absolutely, this is a great opportunity for council to encourage more cycling. Cycling is good for your health and for fighting climate change. Council should be doing much more to promote accessibility and safety for cyclists.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

- Yes, but only so long as it provides a cost effective, beneficial, and safe environment for cyclists.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

- Yes, but only so long as it provides a cost effective, beneficial, and safe environment for cyclists. We should always be looking to expand and improve upon cycling routes throughout Boroondara.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

- I will always support measures that promote both greater accessibility and safety for cyclists. Raised crossings will help provide this for cyclists, disabled residents, and other vulnerable pedestrians.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

- Cycling is a great way to reduce congestion, promote health, and do our part in the fight against climate change. I've been an avid cyclist for over 6 years now and I strongly support Council acting to improve both safety and accessibility for cyclists in Boroondara.



Candidate – Riversdale Ward, Susan Biggar

1. Do you own a bike?

Yes, I have owned a bike my entire adult life. I currently own a mountain bike and a tandem (hybrid).

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

I mostly ride for fun and fitness. I ride on the weekend, mostly with my family on the local cycle trails. We have taken our bikes further afield at times, to ride the rail trails at Warburton, Gippsland (Great Southern Rail Trail), North-East VIC (Murray-to-the-Mountains Rail Trail), Arthurs Seat and Lysterfield Park. With a couple of friends and my husband I completed the Grand Ridge Ride (120 km over two days) in Gippsland last year. I have also cycled to my work in the CBD on a few occasions, including riding with my husband on our tandem (he also works in the CBD). We have often made cycling part of our vacations, including cycling in Cornwall a few years back, cycling in Paris last year, and a cycle trip through the Netherlands while I was working in Germany in the 1980s, which opened my eyes to what a cycle-friendly city environment can look like!

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Yes, absolutely. The COVID crisis has shifted the focus of our lives to the local area, for work, shopping, and recreation. It has also highlighted the health risks of public transport. Bikes are ideal for local transportation. Cycling is inherently a healthier and more sustainable option than motor vehicles. We should lock in the gains of this period by making it easier and safer for residents to use a bicycle as their normal go-to mode of transport, whether for shopping, leisure or commuting. This will require a serious look at local bike lanes within Boroondara. Women riders especially need to feel safe and confident riding.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes, the off-road cycle paths of Melbourne, including the Anniversary Trail are one of the great assets of the eastern suburbs. They have always been well-utilised and now, in this time of lockdown, are busier than ever. It is clear that residents love these off-road linear trails.

Back in 2008 Boroondara's Bicycle Strategy identified the completion of the Anniversary Trail as one of its priority recommendations. I am very pleased to see that the missing section of the Anniversary Trail alongside Camberwell High School is being completed, but the same document noted that "The Toorak Rd crossing of the Anniversary Trail is considered to be dangerous". Already 12 years ago it was foreseen that it would be desirable to construct a bridge over Toorak Rd at this point.

In my view, experience shows that where these off-road trails are safe and convenient, cyclists will use them. I would like to see a plan developed for a safe and effective crossing of Toorak Rd.



5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes. The off-road cycling trail that extends along the Belgrave/Lilydale line is fabulous. I have often wondered why it doesn't extend closer to the city – ideally through Boroondara (and all the way to the CBD). I would like to see a viable plan developed and costed. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to build in this cycle route as the level crossings in Mont Albert and Surrey Hills are removed.

The Gardiner's Creek Trail is excellent and well-utilised, but commuters and recreational cycles lack an east-west link through Boroondara. This is also a safety issue, as Boroondara has a number of highly-trafficked streets and roads which pose a risk to cyclists. It is well past time to establish an effective east-west off-road cycle path through Boroondara.

This east-west link was identified as a priority twelve years ago in the Boroondara' Cycle strategy released in 2008 and is only now having a feasibility study being progressed by the State Government. The consultation document released by AECOM in July 2020 has highlighted the challenges facing the construction of the off-road option of the path. This means the full support of the Council is needed to provide the best outcome possible for cyclists and to ensure that most of the path isn't on existing roads.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Yes. Already 12 years ago there was a proposal to improve the crossings on the Anniversary trail through raised zebra crossings, zebra crossings, centre of the road refuges, and pedestrian signals at crossing locations. I think some progress has been made, but I think much more can be done. I would like to see this developed into a set of specific proposals with costings.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Boroondara is a great city with many beautiful trees, heritage houses, and many local amenities. The existing off-road cycle paths (Anniversary Trail/Outer-Circle Trail/Gardiners Creek Trail/Koonung Trail) are world class. But much more could be done. Boroondara Council has not made cycling a priority. In the current budget Boroondara Council plans to spend more on Christmas decorations than they do on cycle paths!

The current crisis is an opportunity to re-imagine our local community. If elected I would make the following a priority:

- Immediate completion and implementation of the new ten-year Boroondara Bicycle Strategy (the last strategy, formulated in 2008 is now well out-of-date).
- Re-establishment of the Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee to establish a forum for on-going development of cycling in the city of Boroondara.



- Widening of the Gardiner's Creek Trail. There are now around 2500 cyclists using the Gardiner's Creek Trail every day. With increasing pedestrian use it has become increasingly hazardous.
- Addressing cycle safety issues in Boroondara. In recent years there has been around 50 bicycle casualty accidents in Boroondara per year. Historically this has been higher than any of the other municipalities in Melbourne south east metropolitan area. This must be addressed.
- Prioritisation of an off-road east-west link through Boroondara, together with removing gaps and linking up the existing off-road cycle trail network.
- Taking action to make cycling a key part of local living, including cycle parking near shops, railway stations, and activity centres. Encouraging schools to make cycling part of the normal transport to school. Improving lighting and signage.

Solway Ward

Candidate – Solway Ward, Sam Fitchett

1. Do you own a bike?

Two of them in fact, a lovely Merida workhorse and an old carbon.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

My main mode of transport is cycling. So (pre-covid) every single day I would ride at least 10km. During lockdown, it's about 3 times weekly.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Whilst I want to remain optimistic, and will certainly continue to push a pro-cycling message; the recent uptick in cycling is not a sign that bikes have suddenly been adopted by all the lovely people of Boroondara. In-fact I believe that thanks to primary school education's "Bike-ed" and other programs, the community as a whole already has the means and the will to ride bikes. The reason for the increase is not adoption, but rather the restriction of car-based activities. Citizens cannot go places during the covid lockdown. After restrictions ease, I think we will again see families travel to day-trip spots, especially the beach. Unless we can make a cycle to these spots as safe and easy as a cycle to the local park, the number of bike-users on the frequent will likely decrease.

Now is the perfect time to encourage these day-trip spots to launch pro-cycling campaigns. Family locations which can be easily accessed by bicycle should be encouraged to promote that fact. As a councilor, I will support the expansion of bicycle infrastructure to better connect these key areas to greater suburbia. Hopefully ensuring this uptick in bicycle usage retains some permanency.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

I would very much like to see an overpass there. No more "dismount your bike!" stickers needed. Given the tricky layout of the surrounding infrastructure we would need to be quite clever about it. My engineering experience tells me we will need to block off Toorak road for at least a portion of the construction phase. Certain vocal anti-bike groups might use that as slander-bait, so a multi-purpose overpass, with a very clear message on traffic easing and local business support will probably be necessary.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

I'm a little bit confused by the question. If you mean that whole segment from Box Hill to the Yarra River via Hawthorn, that would be quite a feat. As an avid bike-user I would absolutely love that. It



would require some serious cross-council coordination, and probably a local government grant. If there is clear evidence it can be done in a clever way, I will certainly promote it. If you have any mock-up drawings I would love to look over the details.

If you mean the segment from Hawthorn to the Yarra River which passes near Strathcona, that is far more achievable in the short term. For the rail bridge modification, we can even take the design for the cycle overbridge from the crossing in Brunswick East. I will definitely support that.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

This is a contentious one. According to my RACV traffic control friend, there are quite a few reasons cyclist do not get right of way at most intersections where a bike-path crosses the road. The main one being that drivers do not pay enough attention, and in a car collides bike scenario, bike loses every time.

If the BCC considers that raised crossings can change the intersection dynamics enough that cyclists are not routinely squashed, then I will definitely try to launch an evaluation. If the results of the evaluation show clear benefits, I will act on them.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Cycling is in a transitional phase in Boroondara; a metamorphosis which has already been completed in a number of the more youthful councils. From sporty activity by the lycra clad speed demons, to a quick, cheap, environmentally friendly way to travel. As a council we can either ignore this soon-to-be-vital element of our economy, or encourage its growth. New bike paths, safer places to lock up, better marked bike lanes, and more connected network. Not only will these measures be a boon to existing cyclists, but also expand our family of bike-users, support adjacent businesses, reduce road-traffic, reduce noise pollution, and most importantly; support the environment.

Authorised by Sam Fitchett



Candidate – Solway Ward, Cr Garry Thompson

1. Do you own a bike?

My wife says too many [N-1]! As a former member of the St Kilda Cycling Club, I currently own five bicycles, down from six not long ago. 1 x Criterium, 1 x Timetrial, 1 x Road Bike, 2 x Hardtail Mountain Bikes, and the bicycle I sold last year was an indoor velodrome track bike. As you can see, I am slowly reducing the number. But you can clearly see that I don't own a commuter bike, so something to work on [N+1].

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

Now here is the problem with being elected to become a Councillor in 2016. 2017 was my last year of competition cycling as there was just not enough time to juggle a family life, a business life, a council life and for me cycling training. So, for those mad keen cyclists out there, beware of the commitment you are seeking to make. I have reduced my riding from about four times a week including competition to about once a week, and invariable only on Zwift. This is the downside of being a Councillor.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

Yes, and I believe there will be a cultural shift towards a greater uptake in cycling as a permanent form of transport in our community. This will create challenges for Councils and other Authorities to address road safety and bicycle network safety, but these are good challenges none the less.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes, I moved fully support this and did so in the Chamber. Council worked with all key stakeholders [Metro/Vic Track, DoT, Yarra Trams and PTV] who have conveyed their support for the Toorak Road pedestrian/cyclist overpass. I will continue to advocate for this overpass and Council will continue to apply for State and Federal Funding as grant opportunities present themselves. I hope that this is considered by the State and Federal governments as a COVID-19 Stimulus response and just get it delivered for our community.

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

See Answer 7.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

I support creating safer shared transport networks. With the increase in participation with walkers, dog walkers, joggers, cyclists on our off-road networks, we do need to look toward other options, including on-road networks. I am encouraged that there is a far greater uptake in non-vehicular transport, and I look forward to delivering some practical and safe solutions to continue to encourage this welcomed behaviour.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

I feel that cycling in Boroondara, particularly network cycling will continue to grow and expand. The community is expecting this, and I believe there is a natural progression towards this because of this pandemic. Council needs to be responsive in this regard, and I look forward to consulting with the community to create a more cycling friendly Boroondara.

Am I an advocate for cycling and road safety in Boroondara? That is a resounding yes. Do I miss competition cycling? Well that is a resounding yes too! The challenge is we cannot have it all, however I trust that where I have set aside my cycling commitment to become a Councillor, the Boroondara cycling community is the beneficiary. Should I be unsuccessful in my re-election, well that just means more time for cycling!

#RideOn



photo credit: Carnegie Caulfield Cycling Club



Shameless plug for SKCC

Studley Ward

Candidate – Studley Ward, Qiqi Chen

1. Do you own a bike?

Yes I do- it's a road bike and it remains to be one my best purchases.

2. If yes, how often do you ride it and what sort of riding do you do?

According to Strava, every week I average about 4 rides totaling 3 hours 17 minutes of activity over 82 kms. Currently I ride mostly for recreational purposes and short trips to the local cafe but I usually ride to university at least 3 to 4 times a week.

3. There has been a very significant increase in cycling during COVID. Do you see this as an opportunity to encourage a permanent shift to bikes as a form of transport?

I see our current situation as an excellent catalyst for change, despite other negative consequences of the pandemic. Initially, I would like to see an increase in pop-up lanes in Studley Ward. Then progress towards making permanent dedicated cycling paths by use of small concrete barriers, similar to recent dedicated on-road cycling path upgrade on Wellington St in Collingwood. Other cycling infrastructure upgrade would include widening of trails and advocating for bringing forward timeline of bike and pedestrian infrastructure spending (eg., Walmer Bridge upgrade). This is in conjunction with an increase in secure bicycle parking around shopping centers, public spaces and public transport.

4. Do you support the construction of an overpass for the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail at Toorak Rd?

Yes, it may be integrated with a rail bridge (if planned for construction).

5. Do you support the construction of an off-road cycle path from Box Hill to the Yarra River at Hawthorn alongside the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line?

Yes, I think it's an excellent idea to make the most of public real estate for the common good. I would like to see more commuter links established and improved on in the East.

6. Do you support a project to give shared paths priority at local road crossings where there is no strong reason not to do so, and to construct raised crossings to slow cars and allow cyclists smoother passage?

Yes, our roads have been constructed to prioritise motor vehicles. Drivers, unless they are cyclists themselves, are not aware of privileges they hold as road users. Moreover, a study found that cyclists are perceived as 'less than fully human' by around half of non-cyclist road users (Delbosc, 2019) which may leave room for negligence and put cyclists at risk. Therefore, we need



infrastructure in place to ensure safety of cyclists and encourage a permanent shift in bike users we've seen during COVID-19.

7. Please finish with a brief statement about what you see as the role of cycling in Boroondara.

Cycling is increasingly playing a larger role in cities across Melbourne including Boroondara. Local council needs to acknowledge this in order to keep up with the needs of the community. We need councilors who will facilitate change by investing in cycling infrastructure and cultivate a cultural change, to change the common narrative and perspective of who cyclists are. This is all in support of more eco-friendly transport as well a scientifically substantiated and viable means of supporting psychological and physical wellbeing.

It's a change lead by the people at grassroots community level, as seen by families on weekend outings and children on bikes on the Boulevard. This change in behaviour needs to be consolidated and supported by local council by means of adequate infrastructure.