

19 February 2016

Mr Adrian Robb
Chief Executive Officer
Bayside City Council
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Comments on Bayside City Council draft Footpath Policy

Dear Mr Robb,

Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. has examined Bayside City Council's draft Footpath Policy. At www.bcs.asn.au/2016-02-16_draft_policy_footpath.pdf a version is shown with BCS Inc's annotations in **red type**.

Those annotations indicate two basic suggested improvements in the draft, which presently reveals a marked predisposition to build footpaths. One of those improvements is the need to state in the policy that many people prefer to walk, or run, on natural surfaces - rather than hard paved surfaces - for the greater pleasure of the ambience, and for the physical and psychological health benefits of interacting with such surfaces, and their complementary surroundings.

There is little doubt that the more varied aspects of such surfaces are far less deadly boring than the unending flat, straight, hard concrete surfaces that have largely replaced them in the vast Melbourne metropolitan area. The increasing disappearance locally of pleasant natural surfaces to walk on perversely encourages more driving of vehicles, and more time spent in such vehicles, to get walkers to places where they can find natural surfaces.

The Society asks that the Council give more consideration in the above policy to the points of view that BCS Inc. has set out at www.bcs.asn.au/campaign_2014a_nature_strips.html That campaign page makes good points that should be included in the Council policy. It also lists, and gives links to, photographs of the 31 Beaumaris streets that have until now, in whole or part, been spared the gratuitous imposition of a paved footpath.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew McDougall
Secretary
Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.

cc. All Bayside City Councillors