



Brimbank City Council

Candidate statements collected by Brimbank BUG.

Candidates were asked the following questions:

- 1. If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Brimbank?*
- 2. When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?*
- 3. Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?*

Grasslands Ward

Candidate, Grasslands Ward – Natalie Eddy

Thank you for your email and taking the time to introduce yourself and BrimBug to me. If elected I will support making it easier for people making it easier for people to walk and ride in Brimbank by promoting the benefits of getting out in the open spaces; from physical well-being to mental health wellbeing.

Some people can be scared to get on a bike due to their own safety issues. If they see that they can safely ride on the bike paths then it will motivate them to give it a go.

If elected I would love to work with BrimBUG and be your advocate. Your members are the people who use these paths regularly. Knowing hot spots for regular maintenance and areas of concern. We need to keep everyone safe whilst out cycling and walking.

Before children I used to love riding my bike along the path of the ring road to Brimbank Park. Once there I would ride my bike all the way down the park. Coming up was never an easy ride but once I made it back up it was always a great achievement.

Now with children I take them along the bike path of Kororoit Creek into Deer Park. We stop at the playground for a break and a play. Then we head back along the same path to home. The kids love being on the bike. It gives them a certain amount of freedom.

I actually would love to see some improvements of the bike paths. Where I live in Cairnlea the path needs to be widened to allow for both pedestrians and bikes to enjoy safely.

There is a big gap of this path at Kimberly Rd to Glenbrook Drive. This would be one of my agendas to have the path continue instead of the need to cross roads twice to get back on the path. This is definitely a major safety concern as cars fly by on that road. Also, the paths need signage of bike and pedestrians share this path.



I am glad that Brimbank has a bike strategy in place. I believe more people would love to ride their bikes to work, shop locally, visit friends or just to keep fit if they felt safe to do so.

I hope this answers your questions. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,
Natalie



Harvester Ward

Candidate, Harvester Ward – Ian Douglas

Thanks for your email,

Firstly I am a cyclist. I do ride the trails of Brimbank. I am a former Councillor for the City of Brimbank, then called McKay ward, when I was a councillor I worked to have the network improved. No I don't think that the network of pathways is being done quick enough.

Should I be elected back to Brimbank City Council. I will lobby to get further improvements to the network.

I trust that this answers your question

Ian Douglas



Candidate, Harvester Ward – Andrew Chang

Thanks for reaching out.

It has always been a philosophy of mine that local government should be about community, and this ties in greater connections community-wide including walking and cycling. Walkability index is an important feature of a bustling community.

You will find my answer to your questions attached below.

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Brimbank?

If elected, I will work with special interest groups like yours to map out and provision areas to improve accessibility via walking and cycling. As Brimbank is a big area, there needs to be a continuous pipeline of projects to continue improving walkability and cyclability. I also believe that there should be continuous education for all road users to be respectful of each other since it may not be possible for separated road use to occur throughout the Brimbank. One of the easier things to do is to use road paint to mark out road use as a start, and then line it up for road use separation based on road-use priority.

When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?

If I do ride out, I will prefer to ride on designated bike paths in nature reserves. It is safer to ride that way. The closest bike path to me is the Kororoit Creek bike paths.

Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?

I have seen some progress in regards to bike paths and biking strategy within Brimbank. It will be the dream of all council areas to be able to fund fully all bike improvements, so that residents have access to transportation that is safe, emissions-free, and also saves council designated parking spots when visiting the CBDs of their respective suburb. The strategy needs to move in line with gentrification, as well as de-industrialisation of the LGA. Bike riding will only be taken up and used as a means of transport once there is a decrease in huge trucks usage.

Regards,
Andrew Chang



Candidate, Harvester Ward – Katharine Nikolic

Thank you kindly for reaching out and bringing this to the candidate's attention! I absolutely love your community engagement with organised rides, I hope they can resume very shortly once the COVID-19 situation subsides.

Please find my responses below:

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Brimbank?

If elected I will support better cycling and walking connections. We have many great existing bike paths however there is a big opportunity to improve our walkability score and advocate for a safe, family friendly and integrated cycle network. My first step would be to conduct research and collaborate with yourselves and bicycle networks to understand the key areas in which bike paths / on road – cycle lanes are needed or require improvement. I will also advocate for increased funding both for footpath maintenance and track establishment. Community engagement will be essential in my approach in order to achieve greater connectivity within our suburbs.

When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?

What a wonderful question! Bike riding has been essential during lockdown for my mental health. I enjoy my local path along Kororoit Creek close to "More Park" and when I have some more time, I love the ambiance of the Maribyrnong River trail at "Cranwell Park".

Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?

Given that bicycling planning in Melbourne is an area that is rapidly changing and adapting I believe it's quite shocking how long it has taken Brimbank to join in. However, I am an optimist and believe that the progressive made at Hampshire Road for on-road separated bike lanes has set a precedent. It will enable the benefits of safety and connectivity but also as a starter for addressing an array of existing issues such as traffic congestion, narrow roads and environmental considerations. A big space of opportunity in which we can get Brimbank "on track".

I have tried to keep my answers concise which was difficult as this is an area which I deem as exciting in terms of prospective outcomes and one that is essential. Please let me know if I can clarify on anything and I would love to hear your opinion also!

Have a happy and safe weekend,
Katharine Nikolic



Candidate, Harvester Ward – Steven Tabban

As a cyclist myself I understand the ongoing dangers faced when improper service is available to travel. I would like to see our transport and municipality move into a model similar Darebin City council.

First and foremost I would like to see the current bike path extended from central sunshine to the north and then to Keilor.

Prior I lived in Cairnlea where I would cycle every day along the western ring road path into Altona. Up until recently where my bike was stolen from my garage i would frequently ride with makes around cherry lake in Altona. (Red Avanti Giro) if you come across it. They don't make them anymore extremely disappointed.

Kind Regards,

Steven Tabban



Candidate, Harvester Ward – Thomas O'Reilly

Thanks for your email and for your kind words. Here are my responses:

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Brimbank?

We need quality infrastructure. I will push for quality road and footpath upgrades so they are safe and can last a lifetime. I will also advocate for more bins, dumping patrols and lighting across our parks and trails - I've seen far too many people throw their trash onto the ground. It's unpleasant to look at, and is also a growing concern. Let's be proactive and not reactive so we can have a more beautiful, safer and resourced Brimbank. Especially with the upcoming Sunshine Super Hub and Melbourne Airport Rail Link, these sorts of issues really need to be addressed.

When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?

I love a good walk down to the Kororoit Creek Trail. I've grown up visiting the creek, so for me it holds a special place in my heart. I love all the nature that resides there also... especially Stuart, our resident/celebrity duck. He's in my top three.

Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?

I've read the strategy, and it sounds good. We need these new services as we become more populated. However it's just a matter of moving it forward. Hopefully our new council can get it sorted within it's first year... That's what I'd like to see!

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns!

Kind regards,
Thomas



Horseshoe Bend Ward

Candidate, Horseshoe Bend Ward – Jenny Isa

Thanks for your email Graeme, I strongly support the bicycle network community in and around Brimbank.

As an independent, I have strong views in putting the community first without any political bias. I have long advocated for the StAlbans Leisure Centre, in fact I wrote to Council in 2015, asking why we have such a dilapidated centre for our community. Exercise and activity is so important to our community, and with these new facilities will bring such positivity to our community.

I think Council has a lot to do when it comes to expanding the bicycle network, as to encourage people to be more active. I'd love to see more active bike groups in and around StAlbans for example, where the bike network is lacking, also physical activity is poor in StAlbans.

While I'm not an avid rider, residents in my area are asking for more bike networks and connections, in particular I'd love to see a track from StAlbans (East) to Brimbank Park. My favourite place to walk is Brimbank Park, but lots of people say that there are not enough connections from StAlbans to Brimbank Park itself.

Bike networks are important to my Ward in particular, and I think we also may need a program to provide bikes to disadvantaged children in this area, I fully support the Bike Training Facility in Green Gully, as to educate the importance of safety to our children.

Thanks again to your bike community group, and the important work it does for the Brimbank Community.

Regards, Jenny.



Candidate, Horseshoe Bend Ward – Hannah Robertson Andrianopoulos

Thank you for contacting me about this issue. Cycling has always been an important, and I think under-utilised, means of active transport and it has become all the more so in this extraordinary year. Although nothing can ever compensate for the losses our communities have experienced this year, I very much hope improved cycling networks and a much stronger focus on cycling infrastructure will be a positive that can come out of it all.

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Brimbank?

I am a very strong supporter of cycling and walking. As is true for most Councils, Brimbank has limited funds available for discretionary spending as the vast bulk of revenue is committed to ongoing costs. I will look for every opportunity to strengthen active transport infrastructure through those limited funds, as well as opportunities to apply for funding from other levels of government. There may be opportunities to redirect funding for road infrastructure intended to support vehicle traffic, at least in the short term, as commuting patterns are likely to be very different for the next year or more.

When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?

I don't have a specific favourite place to ride. I like to discover new streets and paths, and a lot of my cycling at the moment is dictated by my children, who are prone to ducking down arbitrary roads for no apparent reason. This turns out to be a lot of fun, and I have discovered interesting houses and beautiful gardens I never would have known existed otherwise. Of course I love Brimbank Park, and would like to see improved access to this important community asset for all Brimbank residents through footpaths and cycle ways connecting their suburbs as directly as possible to the park.

Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?

I feel strongly that our recovery from the current crisis should involve a strong investment cycling infrastructure, and was excited to see the state government's support for significant changes to our roadways to support cycling and outdoor dining. COVID-19 has led to an explosion in cycling and I hope this is something we will retain long after the virus is no longer a threat.

Feel free to get in touch if you would like to discuss this or any other matters with me,

Regards,
Hannah



Candidate, Horseshoe Bend Ward - Virginia Tachos

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Brimbank?

One of my policies is to improve Bike and Path connectivity across Brimbank by ensuring i work closely with Brimbug , the Brimbank Bicycle Education centre , and other Bicycle groups to map out what they believe to be their priorities in improving connectivity . I use walking / shared paths and believe there is lots of room for improvement along the river and creek trails , better signagage and interchange and also improvement of the quality of some paths along Brimbank that may require Council and Parks vic to work together to ensure better outcomes Also greater Bicycle Education outreach to cald community and schools to ensure people have access to learn how to ride a bike safely and campaigns run by council that encourage this

When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?

My favourite place to ride is along the river trail from Taylors creek to Maribrnong via Brimbank Park

Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?

I think greater work on partnering with the state Govt to do some obvious path connectivity from Organ pipes through to Sydenham Park Brimbank Park which has been in the pipeline needs commitment

Underpass at Greengully road to allow connectivity with Brimbank Park

Flooding mitigation to allow greater access to parks for bikes/ by foot around Brimbank Park
Solomons Ford working with Developers to ensure they improve connectivity



Candidate, Horseshoe Bend Ward - George Makary

As a cyclist myself, I support cycling for health and environmental reasons, If elected, I would do my best to promote cycling in my community including developing programs and policies, grants, men's sheds etc

Also, I love to ride in Brimbank park and any surrounding parks in sunny Brimbank and Ofcourse do my shopping and errands on my bike when it's suitable.

Regards,
George Makary



Candidate, Horseshoe Bend Ward - Emma Langoulan

Thank you for reaching out. I appreciate you taking the time to email me.

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Brimbank?

I know there are a lot of gaps in our cycling infrastructure and walking trails, particularly around the river's edge and the top half of Brimbank. I support the investment of new pathways and connectors - but I would also like to see an increased investment in the maintenance of existing footpaths and roads. I feel there is a lot of work to be done mending current infrastructure to ensure safety for bike users.

When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?

We have hit an exciting milestone within our family as we have recently bought my eldest son his first bike! It is obviously very early days but we look forward to taking him riding particularly within Brimbank Park.

Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?

No. I understand there has been work done but progress appears slow.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Regards,
Emma Langoulan



Taylor's Ward

Candidate, Taylor's Ward – Bruce Lancashire

I have been a significant supporter of the Bicycle Education Centre, as an executive member of the Melbourne Transport Forum I have advocated for bicycle paths and as a Brimbank Councillor I have sponsored a Notice of Motion to investigate pop-up bicycle paths in Brimbank during the COVID pandemic. In regard to your questions can I say (1) my how to vote flyer which is about to be mailed out I refer to the establishment of shared pathways in Sydenham Park, creating better streets program with improved safety, tree planting and bicycle paths (2) support the construction of a Sydenham Rail Corridor Bicycle Track and a Castle to the Pipes bicycle track which is gathering some excitement (3) I would like to see more done and as such have supported a major 2 year street study in our next term which will closely look at walking, road use, safety and bicycle paths.

Can I say my views are generally supported by our Mayor Cr Georgina Papafotiou who I have CC'd into my response to you.

All the best and I hope you will support us for re-election regards Bruce.

Councillor Georgina Papafotiou

I fully agree and support Bruce's response.

Council is currently looking at possible grants available for more bicycle /shared pathways in Brimbank.

Thank you for your email

Keep well and safe...

Regards

Cr Georgina Papafotiou



Candidate, Taylors Ward – Josef Zybert

As a child I used to ride my bike all over what is now Brimbank. There was only one law, keep off the footpath for the safety of pedestrians. I miss riding a bike and I'm not familiar with what BCC is doing about bike strategy. Sounds like BCC is stopping people from riding bikes, I want to see the opposite. Sure Brimbank is over-populated and vehicular traffic is congested but to prevent people from the joys of bike riding must be prevented. I do walk around occasionally and not just to the shops but in paddocks and to the local pond recently. I didn't have any problems so I'd have to find out what problems people are having walking around in Brimbank. Although one problem comes to mind, and that's crime.

Joe



Candidate, Taylors Ward – Margaret Giudice

Please accept my apologies for the late reply. I don't usually take that long to respond; in fact I came across your email by looking in the spam!

I have been a long time supporter not only of your organization but of the cycling and walking network. I will continue with that support if elected.

Unfortunately I don't ride, but admire those that do.

The Council Walking and Cycling strategy is a good one, but could be supplemented with more funding, but we also need more negotiations with private landowners to fill the gaps. I would be happy to revisit the Strategy, as I'm sure the new council will want to.

Please give my regards to all the members. If elected I look forward to working and consulting with you.

Regards
MARGARET GIUDICE