



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

ISSUE No 63

23 March 2011

**COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE AM
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR - CITY OF ADELAIDE**

32 Dukes Lane Adelaide SA 5000
Email dplumrid@bigpond.net.au

Tel 8232 0515 Mob 0417 088 992
Website www.davidplumridge.com

HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE

Twenty minutes a day spent growing fruit and vegetables, collecting rainwater and making fertilizer by recycling 'waste' would make for a more sustainable society. By providing both exercise and fresh organic food, these activities might help us to stay healthy; by saving money that would have been spent on food, they might help us to be wealthier; in terms of sustainability, they might very well be wise. *Extract from "Time to eat the Dog? – the real guide to Sustainable Living" by Robert & Brenda Vale*



On March 26, hundreds of millions of global citizens, from one hundred different countries, will unite in the action of lights out. Will you be one of them? **Earth Hour** is a call to action to every individual, every business and every community. It starts with a flick of the switch at **8:30pm Saturday March 26**, in a collective display of commitment to protect the one thing that unites us all - the planet.

The Adelaide City Council recognises that sustainability is a key issue for us all. Sustainable development is not just about the physical environment, but about every aspect of our culture and our society. Council's special allocation of rates funds our **Climate Change Initiatives Action Plan** and is working towards Council being Carbon Neutral by 2020. Earth Hour is all about reducing our energy use by greater efficiency and reducing our individual carbon footprints [Sign up to show your support](#).

ENGAGEMENT – THE NEW JARGON

There's an old saying along the lines **"be careful what you wish for as you may actually get it"** and that may very well be true of the consultation processes wished for by the public. For years people complained that Councils took decisions which had a major impact on their way of life and their services, without a word of consultation. So Councils were required to adopt Consultation Policies and actions which mandated consultation on many aspects of their decision-making.

Decisions that used to be routinely made by Councils as an elected government are now subjected to long-winded and often tokenistic processes of public scrutiny; business slows down and bold decision-making often suffers.

Council is currently involved in public consultation on ▪ Adelaide Central Market Review ▪ New Royal Adelaide Hospital Park Lands Lease Agreement ▪ Bonython Park Activity Hub ▪ Proposed Changes to By-Laws ▪ Building Inspection Policy Review and we have just completed consultations on ▪ 10 Year Activity Plan ▪ Rundle Mall By-Law ▪ Adelaide Outdoor Markets Review and ▪ Park Lands Landscape Master Plan. Altogether in 2010 some 29 consultations were undertaken.

The cost to the Council of all this consultation is enormous but the cost to the community is immeasurable. I have spoken to a number of representative community organisations over recent months all of whom say that they are suffering extreme strain on their voluntary resources, almost to the point of burn-out, in trying to respond to all these consultations in an informed and meaningful way; and soon we will be calling for responses on the Business Plan and Budget together with other strategic plans which need to be taken as an integrated whole having regard to the State's 30 Year Plan.

I am sure that the private sector, which often accuses Councils of moving too slowly, wouldn't tolerate this level of intervention in its decision-making processes nor be prepared to subject itself to the same levels of transparency.



Of course many of the subjects of these consultations are very important and quite properly open to full stakeholder scrutiny **but perhaps we have got more than we wished for**, perhaps it is time to revisit the whole process of public consultation to ensure that we use our limited resources to the best effect. Council is revamping its **Consultation Policy** and the first step is to adopt some new jargon. Recognising that the word 'consultation' implies that a two-way exchange of ideas is going to occur - which very seldom actually occurs - the experts have dreamt up a more nebulous term for the process which is now to be called 'Engagement' which actually is a quite meaningless term, unless of course you're in the business of engaging!

LATE NEWS – CONGRATULATIONS to the State Government for its bold move to review licensing hours and other matters affecting the sale of liquor. Whilst it is not all that the Council was asking for, what is proposed should go a long way to restoring a balance between reasonable entertainment opportunities and responsible drinking behaviour. In particular it will give the people of the West End a chance to build an economy which is balanced between day time and night time activities.

Some recent meeting decisions (full details are available on the Council's website 5 days after the meeting)

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL – Special Meeting held 28 February

1. Application for consideration on Merit

■ 1.1 Recommended that the Council be advised that the DAP **SUPPORTS** the Construction of the **New Royal Adelaide Hospital** proposal with allied services, car parking and landscaping, subject to matters identified in section 9 of the report.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL – Meeting held 7 March

2. Non-Complying Application

- 2.1 It was agreed to **Proceed with Assessment** of a proposed variation to approval of **95-99 Gilles Street**.

3. Applications for consideration on Merit

- 3.1 DP Consent was **granted** to construct 2-storey additions to rear of property at **45 Strangways Tce N.A.**

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL – Meeting held 21 March (next meeting 4 April at 5.30 pm)

3. Applications for consideration on Merit

- 3.1 DP Consent was **refused** to construct a 6-level office with retail on the ground floor at **8-10 Union Street**.
- 3.2 DP Consent was granted to a variation to an earlier approval for a car showroom at **164-174 West Tce** (extra floor)

4. Schedule 10 Matter

- 4.1 The Panel will advise the DAC **does not support** proposals for upgrading of a sub-station at **Barton Tce E in Park 4**.

5. Other Applications

- 5.1 The Panel **rejected** an ERD Court Compromise proposal for **238-240 Angas St**

ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY – Meeting held on 10 March (next meeting 14 April at 5.00 pm)

- The Authority deferred consideration of the **Draft Landscape Master Plan** and recommended to Council adoption of the Park Lands Projects priorities including the regeneration of **Victoria Square** and completion of Stage 2 of **Victoria Park**.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS – 7 March (Min. Conlon) 8 March re Oval & 15 March planning report to DAC re New RAH.

COUNCIL MEETING – Meeting held 22 March 2011 (Next Meeting 26 April – Committees 5 and 12 April at 5.30)

7. Public Forum

Council was addressed by •Sam Drummond of **Bike SA** •Damien Kitto of the **Convention Bureau** and •Michael Moore re **rare butterflies** in Victoria Park. Council resolved to investigate possible further protection in Victoria Park

8. Question on Notice

by **myself**, regarding Fees and Charge for recent Musical Events (**Soundwave and Future Music**)

9.&10. Motions on Notice

were moved by **myself** calling for a report on **Odours from the Council Nursery** and by Cllr **Hamilton** (amended by Cllr **Llewellyn-Smith**) on **Restoration of Council's Development Assessment Powers**.

11. Motion without Notice

moved by •Cllr **Malani** re SA Tourism Bureau closure •Cllr **Moran** to thank Minister **Portolesi** for her support on Campers in the Park Lands and to ask Mon. **Cappo** to discuss the issue homeless people. • by Cllr **Abiad** to delegate to the CEO powers to issue temporary licences for 4 weeks to facilitate **Outdoor Market** in Hindmarsh Square.

Items referred to Council by Committees

■ 12. City Design and Character Committee – 1 March (Chair:Cllr Llewellyn-Smith)

1. Council resolved to advise the Minister that the **Better Development Plan** sought by him would be covered by Council's Section 30 Review. 2. Council endorsed an **Integrated Community Engagement Strategy** for public consultation. 3. It was resolved to not agree to the Minister's request to withdraw the City Heritage and Character Residential and Main Street (Hutt) Zones-Part 2 Dev Plan Amendment Report 4. **Park Lands project priorities for 2011-2012** were adopted. 5. It was agreed to adopt a **1-way traffic scheme** for **Prince Court** (Waymouth to Albert) and 6. a review of parking controls in **Beaumont Rd and South Tce** was deferred to allow for a further study of parking patterns and needs in that part of the city.

■ 13. City Development and Sustainability Committee – 1 March (Chair:Cllr Plumridge)

-1. Council noted a report on options for the future operation of the **Precinct Groups** and decided to retain the present model for 2011-2012. A **Main St/Precinct Ref. Group** was set up comprising the **Lord Mayor and Cllrs Williamson & Wilkinson**. 2. Council approved, for public comment, the **Adelaide Central Market** Draft Charter and a Central Market Reference Group was set up on an interim basis. Members appointed were the **Lord Mayor and Cllrs Hender, Abiad and Henningsen**. -3. Council adopted a strategy for **Outdoor Markets** in the City noting that its future role would be primarily as a facilitator. -4. Council adopted the **Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan** for 2011-2013. 6. Council agreed to subsidise on a one-for-one basis one member of each Precinct Group to attend the coming **Main Street Conference** in Adelaide in May.

■ 14. Community Services, Events and Facilities Committee – 8 March (Chair: Cllr Clearihan)

-1. Council noted the outcomes of the **City Presentation Task Force** and appointed members to the expanded Task Force. -2. It was agreed that proposed changes to reduce the **Connector Bus Service**, as proposed by the Administration, would not be implemented until the matter had been considered by the committee at its April meeting.

■ 15. Corporate Planning, Governance and Finance Committee – 8 March (Chair: Cllr Hamilton)

-2. Council adopted the principles for determining a **Tree's Amenity Value**. Operational details are to be brought to Council. -3 The idea of separate rate levies for **East and West End** commercial properties has been referred to the Precinct Review.

■ 16. Corporate Planning, Governance and Finance Committee – 15 March (Chair:Cllr Hamilton)

-1 Council adopted, for the purposes of 'building the budget', major and minor **Strategic Capital Enhancement Projects**.

Items for Council (Note: Some items have been omitted)

- **Strategic Alignment – Outcome 1 – Populous Capital City – Nil**

- **Strategic Alignment – Outcome 2 – Unique Heritage, Park Lands and City Design**

■ 18. A Panel of Councillors was set up to make recommendations on appointments of **independent members to the DAP**.

■ 19. Council resolved to complete the upgrading of the **public toilets in James PI** allocating \$180k to do the men's toilets.

- **Strategic Alignment – Outcome 3 – Accessible and Connected City**

■ 21. Council agreed to vary its Encroachment Policy for canopies as part of **58 - 76 Franklin St** development by Kryen P/L

- **Strategic Alignment – Outcome 4 – Culturally Vibrant City and Outcome 5 - Economically Prosperous City – Nil**

- **Strategic Alignment – Outcome 6 – Environmentally Sustainable City**

■ 22. Council has agreed to amended delivery dates for the **Brown Hill & Keswick Creek** Stormwater Management Plan.

- **Strategic Alignment – Outcome – Creating our Future**

■ 24. Council agreed to support the ALGA campaign for **Recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution**.

■ 26. Council put forward Cllrs **Clearihan, Hender and Abiad** to fill the one position on the **Adelaide Festival Centre Trust**.

■ 27 Cllr **Moran** was appointed to represent Council on the **Adelaide High School** Governing Council.

■ 28 Cllr **Abiad** was chosen to represent the Lord Mayor and the City at the **2011 Chengdu (China).Sister Cities Week** being held in May. He will be joined by Council's CEO and representatives from Education Adelaide and Events SA.

Confidential Items (29 and 30 Procedural)

■ 31. Council land at 116-122 Waymouth St ■ 32. Horticultural Hub in Pk 17 and land at Wingfield Waste & Recycling Centre.

Any views expressed herein are those of Cllr Plumridge and do not purport to be those of the Adelaide City Council.