



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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LET'S HYPE IT UP or DON'T LET THE FACTS GET IN THE WAY OF A GOOD STORY

As a Councillor I make it my business to spend a fair bit of my time monitoring the media. Looking for news in the daily papers, reading the Letters to the Editor (and occasionally writing one) checking the online media sources, scanning the Messengers (yes Messengers 'plural'. Thanks to Messenger enlightenment, the city is split into two) and of course keeping an ear on the inexorable torrent of so-called infotainment that emanates from local radio stations.

The latter is probably the most obtrusive – a whole morning, afternoon or evening can be dominated by one subject initiated by the all-knowing radio host and fuelled by a succession of callers who manage to get further and further away from the point and with ever decreasing regard to the facts – more heat, less light.

Radio hosts – whether of the 'shock-jock' breed or the more benign Ian Henschke breed – surely have a responsibility to ensure that their material is factual and above all balanced. If you're going to attack the Government or the Council over some contentious issue surely good reporting would expect that the relevant Minister or the Lord Mayor should be given the chance to respond to the criticism and present their side of the case.

Let me quote some recent examples: **The proposed footbridge over the Torrens** got a run in the Advertiser and was quickly hyped up on the morning airwaves; we very quickly had bridges of astronomical width spiraling in all directions and with multiple destinations on the south bank of the river. Various 'stakeholders' were interviewed, callers with all kinds of way-out ideas had their say, but at no time were official views sought; certainly not from the Lord Mayor on behalf of the Council who, as custodians of the Park Lands in which the bulk of this structure will be sited, are, with the relevant Minister of the State Government, the principal stakeholders.

Then we had the story about proposed Energy Audits - an eminently sensible proposition in my opinion – which was properly explained by Minister O'Brien on one radio station whilst the opposition station (in more ways than one!) ran the story without any facts, just downright biased coverage against the idea. It only took two or three calls for a perfectly reasonable proposition to become a monster with jack-booted public servants barging into peoples' homes, prying into our affairs and with costs escalating from the most likely \$150 per audit to figures in excess of \$1000 – and not one attempt by the host to rein it in; but then why spoil a good story with a few facts or a balanced argument?

Another story that got its regular run in the Advertiser and a follow-up on our radio stations last week is the Clipsal build time in Victoria Park. **The facts are indisputable, it is taking longer every year**, it is becoming more obtrusive and it could be shortened by employing more labour. **But it will not be substantially shortened by having a permanent structure** built for the 4-day frenzy of the corporate petrol-heads. Victoria Park is the construction base-camp for the total build including all the track-side stands and the myriad of structures that cover ever-increasing parts of the Park Lands. (Admittedly this one was fuelled by a Councillor who jumped in with private views contrary to those of the Council)

The reality is that the media have a valid and important role to play in informing the public, casting light into dark corners, canvassing public opinion and conversely giving public bodies a chance to promote and defend their policies and decisions. But we are all entitled to expect that media reporting is factual and fairly balanced.

CARBON PRICING AND YOUR RATES

The decision by Canberra to introduce carbon pricing from 1 July 2012 will have flow on effects for local government. The starting price of \$23 per tonne of carbon will rise annually for three years until 1 July 2015, when the carbon price mechanism will then transition to a market-priced carbon trading scheme. (ETS) *Inkerman Landfill* ►►►

Local Government supports the concept of a market-based approach to carbon pricing but further negotiations with the Federal Government will have to take place before we can determine the full impact of the carbon price mechanism on councils, **and ultimately ratepayers. Waste to landfill is covered by the scheme** but 'legacy waste', that is, waste deposited BEFORE 30 June 2011, is excluded. Councils operating large landfill sites may well be amongst the top 500 polluters so the smart ones will be installing methane extraction schemes and working very hard to further reduce waste to landfill by more intensive efforts to increase our participation in recycling schemes.

On a more positive note, Adelaide City ratepayers are benefitting from decisions taken 3 years ago to move to **carbon neutrality by 2020**. We have made major investments in **energy reduction** and the use of solar power in many installations. Council's street lighting expenditure alone has **dropped from \$852k in 2010-2011 to \$731k in 2011-2012**.



Quotable Quote: "Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far they can go." - T.S. Eliot

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

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL – Meeting held 4 July (next meeting 4 July)

3. Applications for consideration on Merit

- 3.1 28 Archer Street NA- DPC was **granted** for alterations and additions to existing dwelling. (DA/793/2010)
- 3.2 23-29 Market St -DPC for construction of a 6-level mixed use bldg with 32 apartments was **deferred** (DA/192/2011)
- 3.3 31-35 Finnis St NA - DPC was **granted** to construct a 2 storey detached dwelling on vacant land (DA/47/2011)
- 3.4 40 Tynte St NA – DPC was **refused** for the removal of a significant tree (Golden Elm) (DA/884/2010)
- 3.5 153 Barnard St NA – DPC was **granted** for a 2 storey dwelling with pool and basement car park (DA/314/2011)

4. Schedule 10 Matters There were no Schedule 10 Matters to be considered.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL – Meeting held 18 July (next meeting 1 August (tentative))

3. Applications for consideration on Merit

- 3.1 233-239 Stanley St NA-DPC was **refused** for variations to earlier approval for 2, 2 storey dwellings (DA/287/2008/B)
- 3.2 La Trattoria, 346A King William St -DPC **refused** to construct verandah over outdoor dining area (DA/446/2011)
- 3.3 100 Stanley St NA – DPC was **granted** for removal of a significant tree (English Elm) (DA/387/2011)
- 3.4 23-29 Market St -DPC was **granted** for construction of a 6-level mixed use bldg with 32 apartments (DA/192/2011)

4. Schedule 10 Matters (Panel advice to Development Assessment Commission)

- 4.1 The Panel **supported** construction of a 9 level mixed use (retail/office) develop^t at **34-48 Wright St** (DA/733/2010)
- 4.2 The Panel **supported** demolition of **Pilgrim Centre** and building of 27 level MU bldg at **Flinders St** (DA/342/2011)
- 4.3 The Panel did **not support** a 15 level student accommodation building at **399 King William St** (DA/1011/2010)
- 4.4 The Panel did **not support** a 12 level student accommodation building at **260 Pulteney St** (F/DA/33/2011)

The Panel is to be applauded for its continued stand against student accommodation which fails to meet the standards set in the Development Plan and which clearly fails to meet Council and community expectations.

ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY - Meeting held on 14 July (next meeting 11 August at 5.00 pm)

The outcomes of this meeting are recorded at **item 20** in the report of the Council Meeting below.

COUNCIL MEETING - Meeting held 26 July (Next Ordinary Meeting 23 August –Committees 2 & 9 August at 5.30)

Members' Reports I tabled a written report on my recent attendance at the **National LG Conference** in Canberra.

Question on Notice was asked by Cllr Hender regarding details of the State's Planning and Development Fund

Motions on Notice were moved by ▪ **Cllr Llewellyn-Smith** calling for a report on **Rundle St East Streetscape** and by myself on ▪ Possible sponsorship of **Velocity** in 2014 and ▪ **Slow Combustion Heaters** and by **Cllr Hamilton** on the **Draft Liquor Licensing Bill** asking Council to widely promote its position especially for 'break in trade' from 3 to 7am.

Motions/Questions without Notice were put by ▪ **Cllr Hender** on city activation ▪ **Cllr Hamilton** on the status of the Riverbank Project as Crown develop^t & ▪ **Cllr Clearihan** on setting up a community garden at the NA Community Centre.

Items referred by Committees to Council (NB Not all items are reported)

■ **15 Recommendations of the City Design and Character Committee – 5 July** (Chair: Cllr Llewellyn-Smith)

- 1. Council noted Australian Government **Urban Policy** update and that its directions are guiding Council's **IDS** process.
- 3. Council endorsed proposed **Heritage Promotions Initiatives** as amended and associated budget allocations. It was also agreed at the request of **Cllr Wilkinson** to investigate feasibility of digitizing archived drawings as a **175th Project**.
- 4. Council supported recommendations to not change existing **10 hour parking controls on South Tce** west of Hutt Rd.
- 5. Council in future will only police **non-commercial private car parks** under the Private Parking Areas Act.
- 6. A report was called for on a Private Member Bill to re-open **Barton Road** & Council's policy **against this proposition**.
- 7. A report is to be prepared for the Committee on use of chequerplate **drain covers** on footpaths, esp in heritage areas.
- 8. Council supports the proposed **Torrens footbridge** on the basis it links the **Oval directly to the Railway Station**.

■ **16. Recommendations of the City Development and Sustainability Committee – 5 July** (Chair: DLM Plumridge)

- 1. Council endorsed the Draft **Economically Prosperous City Strategy** for the purposes of wider public engagement.

■ **17. Recommendations of the Community Services, Events and Facilities Committee – 12 July** (Chair: Cllr Clearihan)

- 1. Council is to immediately implement a 12 month trial of 50% fee reductions to promote **smoke-free Outdoor Dining**.

■ **18. Recommendations of the Corporate Planning, Governance and Finance Committee – 12 July** (Chair: Cllr Hamilton)

- 1. Terms of reference were adopted for the **Council Governance Review** which will look at the way the Council conducts its business, the roles and functions of each committee and how effectively Council relates to its community.
- 3. Council agreed to conduct an urgent review of fees for **lease of Public Realm areas to the State Government**.

■ **19. Recommendations of the Adelaide City Council Audit Committee – 15 July** (Deputy Chair: Mr Ross Haslam)

- Mr Haslam presented the Presiding Member's **Annual Report** and an information report; both were adopted by Council.

■ **20. Advice of the Adelaide Park Lands Authority – 14 July** (Chair: The Lord Mayor)

- Council noted APLA advices on the **Riverbank Project** and matters of concern in relation to **Clipsal** build processes.

Items for Council

■ 21. Council heard one representation pursuant to the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act and then **resolved to defer** consideration of the matter of closing and transferring **Fenn Place** to the University of SA, pending further legal advice.

■ 22. Council agreed to discounted parking arrangements for the **SANFL match** to be played at the Oval on 4 September.

■ 23. Council delegated to the CEO, authority to extend the **Hindmarsh Square Market** interim licence to continue until Council's Outdoor markets Policy has been approved by Council.

■ 25. Council received a report prepared by the **CEO and Cllr Abiad** on their visit to the **Chengdu Sister Cities Week**.

Key outcomes of the week, attended by 200 delegates, were education issues and ways of better international marketing.

■ 26. Council appointed **Cllr Llewellyn-Smith** to be its delegate at the **LG Finance Authority Meeting** on 28 October.

■ 27. Council appointed **Cllr Llewellyn-Smith** to also be its voting delegate at the **LGA Annual General Meeting**.

■ 28. It was resolved to support **Cllr Williamson's** request to attend the 12th International **Cities, Town Centres & Communities Society Conference**. The theme of the conference, to be held in Hobart, is "Cities with people in Mind"

Confidential Items covered ▪ **Rundle Mall Precinct Masterplan** ▪ a Motion on Notice by **Cllr Hamilton** on a **Development Proposal** ▪ **Balfours Bus Station** – Progress Report and ▪ **Presiding Member's Report re CEO Contract**.

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