



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

ISSUE No 110

23 APRIL 2014

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DOES ADELAIDE WELCOME REFUGEES?

By declaring Adelaide a **Refugee Welcome Zone** the Adelaide City Council would make a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into our community, upholding their human rights and demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in the city community.

Such a public commitment would acknowledge the great contributions refugees have made to Australian society in the fields of medicine, science, engineering, sport, education and the arts and our commitment to support the men, women and children who continue to make the difficult journey to Australia to seek our protection.

The Refugee Welcome Zone initiative began in June 2002 as part of Refugee Week celebrations. At the time, 15 Councils and Shires in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia were declared Refugee Welcome Zones. Today, almost 90 Local Government Areas have declared themselves Refugee Welcome Zones.

The majority of Refugee Welcome Zones have been declared after an initial proposal by a community or church-based organisation. If you or an organisation you belong to would like to support a Refugee Welcome Zone for the city please contact me and I will consider raising it in Council.

BUDGET TIME AGAIN

For the last few weeks Council's Administration and Elected Members have been working hard to make the rate dollar go as far as possible in delivering better assets and more effective services to our very diverse city. Last year we committed to major projects including Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga Stage 1 and Rundle Mall Stage 1 as well as extensive bicycle infrastructure, Hindley Street and Park Lands upgrades. This year we plan to complete many of those projects and turn our priorities to provide more funding for essential asset maintenance and an injection of long-overdue funding of the residential streets and precincts of the city, supported by our District Plans and Placemaking projects.

Council began from the presumption that it wanted to maintain the rate income from property owners at the same level as last year in real terms – that means an increase of no more than 3.5% plus a factor of 1.3% for city growth over the past 12 months. We also asked the Administration to deliver an Efficiency Dividend of approximately 1% which amounts to a target saving of \$1.6m.

It must be remembered that approximately 80% of Council's budget is 'locked in' to pay for all the fundamental services and activities that Council has to provide both through Statutory obligations (such as waste collection), street lighting and cleansing and other ongoing contractual commitments. The other 20% is what we argue and debate over, trying to decide where this money should be spent, given that we have to balance new capital (one-off) spending against operational (on-going) spending. Of course all expenditures have regard to the Council's Strategic Plan and the Long Term Financial Plan. **I urge you to peruse the budget documents and tell the Council what you consider to be the priorities for the City.**

BIKEWAYS

Whilst I am reluctant to disagree with such worthy and respected people as Theo Maras and Rex Jory, I find myself duty bound to defend the Council against their stinging attacks against the Council's proposed bike lanes in Frome Street.

Council's overall SmartMove integrated transport strategy is visionary in that it looks ahead to a city that is destined to have a vastly increased working, studying and living population which will want to be able to choose to use the full range of transport modes to access and move around the city of the future.

Cars will certainly be a part of that mix but so also will be an increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and the plan makes provision for the development of all these modes. Currently the motor car dominates the use of the available road space with some 27 lanes travelling in the north/south direction through the city. Council's plan is to establish just one safe path of travel for cyclists with a fully separated bike lane in each direction. (north/south and east/west) Based on traffic counts, the location of public transport routes and the need to retain parking for business and visitor use the most acceptable route for dedicated bike lanes running north/South has to be Frome Road with its links beyond Carrington St to Unley in the south and travelling past the University to North Adelaide and on to Prospect and Walkerville to the north.

If we are to avoid future congestion and motor car gridlock in the CBD then we have to lay the foundations for a city that gives due consideration to the needs of cyclists and pedestrians as well as motor cars. This is what the Frome Road bikeway is about - it is serious city planning for future growth and CERTAINLY NO PRACTICAL JOKE!

Council Meeting- 22 April 2014 (Next Ordinary Mtg 13 May 2014 (6pm) – Gp 1 Céés –Tues 6 May (5.30pm)

Note: There will be a Special Meeting of Council held on 26th May to hear public submissions on the Business Plan and Budget.

NB: Group 1 Committees are the City Planning and Development Committee and the City Culture and Community Facilities Committee

Agenda Items 1 to 3 are standard items which include the Acknowledgment of Country and the other usual formalities.

- 4. **Apologies:** All members were present at this meeting.
- 5. **Confirmation of Minutes** of meetings of Council held on **8 April 2014** were taken as read and confirmed.
- 6 Public **Forum** There were no submissions to the public forum at this meeting.
- 7/8. **Deputation/Petitions** There were no Deputations/Petitions presented to this meeting.
- 9. **Report of the City Infrastructure and Public Works Committee – 15 April (Presented by Chair: Cllr Henningsen)**
 - 9.1 Council will amend the existing **Registers of Community Land** to include lease details that relate to Community Leases, establish a separate **Corporate Lease Register** for leases where the Council is the lessee and establish a separate **Commercial Lease Register** for newly negotiated Commercial Headlease Agreements subject to the explicit consent of the lessee and existing Agreements that consent to details being included in the Register. This is an issue that Cllr Hender and I have been pushing for some time and while there is room for greater transparency of Council lease arrangements **it is a major step forward** in removing the secrecy that surrounds private leases of public land and property.
 - 9.2 Council endorsed for public consultation **Draft Waste and Recycling Policy and Operating Guidelines**.
The committee confirmed the Minutes of its March meeting and received a progress report on Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga Stage 1 Redevelopment Works and the Monthly Update. It also dealt with motions on notice, calling for reports to the Committee, from the Lord Mayor re 1) Barton Tce West Gardens and 2) Helipad and from Cllr Hender re safe entry and exit from the northeastern corner of Whitmore Square.
- 10. **Report of Finance and Corporate Governance Committee – 15 April. (Presented by Chair: Cllr Abiad)**
 - 10.1 Council endorsed for public consultation the **2014-2015 Business Plan and Budget** noting the Long Term Financial Plan and the proposed list of **Asset Maintenance** totaling **\$30m**, **New Asset Projects** totaling **\$12m**, **Operating Project Priorities** totaling **\$11.6m** and **Operating Expenditure Budget** which provides for **\$22.6m** of **Public Realm maintenance**, **\$70.7m** of **General Operations Expenditure**. The total income from **Rates will be \$90.1m** and Revenue from Fees and Charges will be **\$43.2m**. The rate rise will be **CPI-based at 3.5%** and **new development has been predicted to be 1.3%**.
 - 10.2 Council approved the **Rundle Mall Management Authority Strategic Plan 2014-2015**
 - 10.3 Council resolved to **amend governance procedures** dealing with urgent substantive business, Out of Session papers to be formally noted at the next ordinary meeting and to **change Standing Orders** to not provide the option for members to not be on all Core Committees. The changes are to come into effect from 1 July 2014.
 - 10.4 Council endorsed the initial response prepared by Administration to the **LGA 'Council of the Future' Report**.
 - 10.5 Council endorsed the submission on Local Government **elected member allowances** to be made to the Remuneration Tribunal. After considerable debate it was decided to not set an actual fee but to recommend comparisons with other Australian capital cities. The CEO has requested an opportunity to address the Tribunal in support of our case.
The committee confirmed its March Minutes, noted a workshop on Enterprise Adelaide, deferred discussion of Central Market Authority Governance models, noted a report on The Committee of Adelaide and received the Monthly Update.
- 11. **Reports from the Lord Mayor** the Lord Mayor advised that he would present his report at a later date.
- 12. **Reports from Council Members** were presented by **Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Malani** who attended four official functions. **Cllr Clearihan** 1 function, **Cllr Llewellyn-Smith AM** four functions, (including LGA) and **myself** 1 function. **Cllr Llewellyn-Smith AM** presented a Certificate of Appreciation from Red Cross at the time of their 100th Anniversary.

Reports for Council (Chief Executive Officer's Reports)

- 13. Council noted the LGA invitation for expressions of interest for the position of Chairperson of the **Dog and Cat Management Board** and nominated **Cllr Moran** for the position which pays an allowance of \$221 per 4-hour session.

Questions on Notice:

- 14. **Cllr Abiad** called for an update re progressing and funding the next stage of **Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga**
- 15. **Cllr Abiad** called for an update on **West End Strategic Planning** processes and **Placemaking projects**.
- 16. **Cllr Llewellyn-Smith AM** re Council's powers to allocate street numbers to buildings on the north side of North Tce.
- 17. **Cllr Plumridge AM** on which bodies are beneficiaries of **Discretionary Rate** rebates under the Council Policy.
- 18. **Questions Without Notice: Cllr Plumridge AM** asked for a further report listing recipients of **Discretionary Rates**.
- 19 **Motion on Notice** moved by **Cllr Abiad** re availability of Voters' Rolls in electronic format
- 20. **Other Business.**
Cllr Llewellyn-Smith moved that the street numbering policy be upgraded to allow on the **north side of North Tce**.

- 21/25 **Confidential Items** • 22.1-Adelaide Aquatic Centre Works • 23.1- Adelaide Central Market Authority – Employment of ACMA CEO • 23.2-Capital City Committee Update • 23.3-2014-2015 Business Plan and Budget Sub-Committee – Operating Revenue • 24- Lease Agreement for a Stall in the Adelaide Central Market • 25- Expression of Interest: Consultant to support CEO Performance review Process.

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