



# NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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## TROUBLE IN THE PARK LANDS

For many months now the Council has been grappling with the problems of anti-social behaviour in the south Park Lands. It is certainly not a new problem but it has taken on a new visibility and a greater urgency since it became focussed in Veale Gardens. The problem is very complex and involves many different groups who are affected in different ways.

In the first place there are the people who regard the Park Lands as their rightful place to gather and to socialise. The fact is that the majority of these are aboriginal people, many of whom are either homeless or temporarily located in Adelaide for a variety of reasons such as hospital treatment, avoiding the inhospitable conditions of the APY Lands or perhaps escaping the harsh and punitive Intervention policies of the Federal Government. Many are suffering from the effects of alcohol and substance abuse, all are vulnerable and all deserve better care and support services than they are currently able to access. There is no doubt that day-long consumption of alcohol quickly escalates social drinking into violent anti-social behaviour.

Secondly, there are the residents and the workers of the area who now suffer the effects of the anti-social behaviour on a daily basis and the visitors, many of them tourists or people just wanting to enjoy the Gardens but who find themselves as innocent bystanders in a situation of drunken, violent and threatening behaviour totally at odds with a civilised community.

Thirdly, there are the Council workers, agency support staff, the long-suffering Police and the ambulance workers who are all too often called in to mend the broken bodies which are the unwelcome outcome of this senseless violence and unacceptable behaviour. Council staff are to be commended on their tireless efforts to keep the Gardens presentable.

**The Council has worked with government agencies and other concerned groups for many months trying to find constructive solutions. But with limited sympathy for our concerns, we finally came to the view that as the violent behaviour is invariably associated with the excessive consumption of alcohol, we would apply for the city-wide Dry Area to be extended into the South Park Lands on a 6-month trial basis. This received widespread community support. Whilst I support this move I doubt that the Dry Area of itself will be a panacea for all the complex social issues that we are seeing in Veale Gardens but it would surely have to be a positive step in the right direction.**

I am very disappointed by the reported responses of Minister Gail Gago and I sincerely hope that as a result of her meeting with the Lord Mayor this week she will better understand the problems and adopt a more conciliatory approach.

**If the Minister asserts that a Dry Zone is not the answer then my question to her is: Minister, What is the Answer?**

When Dry Zones were first proclaimed it was on the understanding that the State Government would support the restrictions on drinking in the city by the provision of a wide range of support services but these were never fully provided and over the years they have gradually been reduced. We need more Transitional Housing in or close to the city, mental health services in culturally sensitive surroundings and perhaps even an area set aside as a 'wet area' with toilets and basic camp facilities.

**As a member of the Adelaide City Council Reconciliation Committee it distresses me that I cannot do something positive to help solve this problem. I sometimes wonder if there is not a stronger role for the Elders to play in working with us and their people to stop this senseless damage and injury, both physical and mental that is being inflicted on their people. Perhaps we need the Wisdom of the Elders to guide us to a lasting answer to the problem.**

## THE FUTURE OF PLANNING IN ADELAIDE – IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE?

The Expert Panel on Planning Reform, headed Brian Hayes QC, has released its second report, **Our Ideas for Reform**, for feedback which is due by 26 September. In my opinion some interesting – and challenging - ideas have been put forward. I think we would all agree that the system we have now - **a patchwork of band aid treatments based on a 20 year-old planning regime** - is not producing the outcomes we want for the city both in terms of our community and Council input into planning policy and the development assessment processes. Recent DPA's affecting the city have been more the result of dictates of the Minister rather than the clearly expressed wishes of the city community. **Our voices are not being heard!**

**In departing from the Adelaide City Council position, I believe that change is inevitable and indeed is long overdue.**

It makes no sense to leave strategic policy planning in the hands of 19 separate metropolitan Councils and so I give 'in principle' support to setting up a **State Planning Council** and **Regional Planning Boards** provided that they have 50% Council elected members on them. Each Council within a Region should have an elected member of its own choosing on the Board. Regional Boards need to be given unfettered power to consider policy planning submissions from member Councils and to integrate them into regional strategic plans. **Development Assessment** on a regional basis also makes good sense but again it is essential that Panels comprise a balance between expert members and locally elected members. **Whether you agree with me or not, it is essential that you make your views known to the Expert Panel by 26 Sept.**

- ▣ 1. 2 and 3 are routine items including **Kaurna Acknowledgement, Apologies and Minutes of Previous Meeting.**
- ▣ 4. **Public Forum** Glen Woodward made a presentation on the restoration of the old Town Hall Organ at Tanunda.
  
- ▣ 5. **Report of the City Planning and Development Committee – 2 September (Presented by Chair: Cllr Hamilton)**
  - 5.1 Council gave in-principle support to the closure and activation of **Gresham Place**, subject to consultation.
  - 5.2 Council approved allocations under the **Heritage Incentives Scheme** for conservation works at **15 Ralston St** (\$55,500) and the **Adelaide Christadelphian Hall** at 105 Halifax St (\$33,150)
  - 5.3 Council agreed to an interim permit for changed tables at Biga **Café** in Hutt St pending discussions with the owner.
  - 5.4 Council awarded contracts for the **hire of Asphalt Equipment** (Profilers and Haulers) for a period of 5 years.
  - 5.5 Council awarded contracts for the **hire of Plant and Equipment** (Semi-trailers, Tippers and Excavators) for 5 years.
  - 5.6 Council considered and adopted the revised **Infrastructure Asset Management Policy.**
  - 5.7 Council endorsed **contra-flow bike facilities** and pedestrian improvements in **Owen, Russell and Compton** Streets between South Tce and Gouger St and asked the CEO to **seek an exemption** from standard traffic management controls. It was also noted that the design incorporates Green Infrastructure and Street Design as per the Urban Design Framework
  - 5.8 It was noted that the Public Realm Incentive Scheme is now concluded and is to be replaced by a scheme for **Public Realm Enhancement** with Major Developments on a 50/50 voluntary basis and to be considered on a case-by-case basis.
  - 5.9 Council endorsed the draft **Building Interface Guidelines** for a 6-months trial, assessment and inclusion in the **Urban Design Framework.** Copies are to be forwarded to ODASA and to the Chair of the Expert Panel on Planning Reform.
  - 5.10 Option 1 for the **Connector Bus stop in Kingston Tce** - East of Le Fevre Tce - was endorsed on a temporary basis pending a report on the cost and viability of installing a roundabout at the intersection of Stanley St and Brougham Place.
  - 5.11 Council resolved to support in principle **Renewal SA’s** proposals to redevelop the **Park Lands opposite Bowden.** The plans include a community garden, playground, car parking and new clubrooms for the Blues Soccer Club. Council will maintain the new areas subject to an increase in the Annual Park Lands Funding deed from the State Government.
  - 5.12 Council noted opportunities to increase ‘**visual permeability**’ of the **Park Lands** in the new Park Lands Strategy.
  - 5.13 Council endorsed the **Residential Streets Development Programme 14/15** with projects in Claxton, Alfred, Blackburn, Halifax, Childers, Hill, Tynte & North Sts. Details to be discussed with the C’ee and residents before proceeding.
  - 5.14 **After** noting public consultation results Council as Lessor approved, in principle, leases for the space under the Grandstand to Velo Precinct and the Bookmakers League Building to Massimo Pisconeri in **Victoria Square/Pakapakanthi**
  - 5.15 Following presentation of **amended Adelaide Oval Surrounds Landscape Plans**, Council requested detailed plans. The requested details were presented and approved by Council.  
*-The committee confirmed its August Minutes, received the Monthly Update and a Motion from Cllr Moran re Le Cornu site.*
  
- ▣ 6. **Report of the City Culture and Community Services Committee – 2 September (Presented by Chair, Cllr Hender)**
  - 6.1 Council granted a temporary **lease to Soundwave** for the use of Bonython Park/Tulya Wardli on 21/22 February 2015.
  - 6.2 Council approved **Recreation & Sport Grants** to Be Active in the City, Uni SA, Adelaide Hockey and SA Croquet.
  - 6.3 Council endorsed the Development Principles in the Regional Sports Areas Sports Infrastructure Master Plan for the **West and South Park Lands** and specifically endorsed the vision for **Tuthangga (Park 17) and Narnungga (Park 25).**
  - 6.4 Council will participate in tendering for Commonwealth funding for **Aged Care Regional Assessment Services.**
  - 6.5 Council will explore the feasibility of small fruit-producing orchards in **Nantu Wama (Pk 6) and Tidlangga (Pk 9)**
  - 6.6 Subject to consultation, Council endorsed weekday closure of **Reconciliation Plaza** from 11 Feb to 18 March 2015.
  - 6.7 Council endorsed minor changes to the **off-leash dog areas** and **model plane flying** in **Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi**  
*-The committee also confirmed its August Minutes, received a deputation from Dr John Osborn, reviewed Outdoor Dining Guidelines, and received an update on the Application for the Trial Dry Area in the South Park Lands and Monthly Update.*
  
- ▣ 7. **Report of Adelaide Park Lands Authority Meeting held on 28 August 2014 – (Presiding Member the Lord Mayor)**  
Advice was given on 1) Adelaide Oval Landscape Works. 2) Emerging Guiding Principles – Management Strategy. 3) Bowden Park Lands. 4) Sports Infrastructure Master Plan. 5) Visual Permeability. 6) Recreation Activities – Victoria Pk.

#### **Reports for Council (Chief Executive Officer’s Reports)**

- ▣ 8. Council received the **Development Assessment Annual Report for 13/14.** 1128 applications with a value of \$241m were lodged.
- ▣ 9. The Council did not support changes to the **Residential and Main Street DPA** requested by **Minister Rau** because the changes will not achieve the suggested outcomes, are not clear and will lessen protection of listed Heritage places.
  
- ▣ 10. There were no ‘**Out of Session**’ Papers to receive and note at this meeting.
- ▣ 11 **Question on Notice: Cllr Llewellyn-Smith AM** asked for details of Development Approvals >\$10m since April 2012.
- ▣ 12 **Question w/o Notice:** There were no Questions without Notice asked at this meeting.
- ▣ 13. **Motion on Notice: Cllr Hamilton successfully** moved that the Council advise the State Government of its view that the **Present Royal Adelaide Hospital** should facilitate re-use of parts of the site for **private hospital use** on a lease basis.

#### **Other Business**

- ▣ 14 **Motions w/o Notice** were moved by 1) **Cllr Clearihan** requesting Review of Council’s **Property Valuation System.** 2) **Myself** calling for an Opening Ceremony of the **Rundle Mall** Project in October. 3) **Deputy Lord Mayor Malani** calling for regular reports of **performance against key priority areas** as identified in the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2012-2016
- ▣ 15/16. **Confidential Items** • 16.1 Construction of Convention Centre - Works Compound • 16.2 Property Investigation – Dunn St Car Park • 16.3 Award of Contract for kerb-side collected residual waste and kerb-side collected hard waste.

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