



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

ISSUE NO14

SEPTEMBER 23 2008

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R.I.P. PLANNING IN SA

With the stroke of a Ministerial pen last week, two things happened - approval was given to a grossly inappropriate development in North Adelaide and orderly planning as we know it in SA died. If there has been one thing that has set the Labour Party apart from the rest of the pack since the end of the Playford era it has (had) been their dedication to the principles of orderly and visionary town planning, inspired as it was by Don Dunstan. From the time that the word 'planning' was replaced with the word 'development' we have seen the gradual loss of vision, the increasing exclusion of public interest from the equation and the emasculation of Local Government in the process.

There was a time when there was a strict hierarchy of centres in the metropolitan area ranging from Regional through District to Neighbourhood and Local. We may not always have liked it but above all it gave certainty not only to local communities but more importantly to investors and property developers. The Le Cornu approval shows complete disregard to these principles and must cause concern to many.

The other cause for concern is the deafening silence from the design professionals in this city. The professional planners apparently acquiesce with the decision and the way it was arrived at and the architects, we must assume, think that the design from the 'land of the long white cloud' is just right for little old North Adelaide – or is it that the Adelaide professional institutions are too parochial to be prepared to make critical judgements any more?

Those of us who, over the years, have put our faith in Labour Governments to deliver sound town planning are left to mourn the passing of planning in SA and to ponder where to from here as we brace ourselves for the new Residential Codes and a return to 'laissez-faire' community planning in SA?

MISSING IN ACTION THE TRUTH ABOUT Le Cornu.....

The Adelaide City Council has been maligned and misrepresented throughout the Le Cornu saga. It is worth noting that the **present** Council was never given the chance to pass judgement on the Le Cornu development and in spite of what Mr Makris continues to assert the previous Council approved five applications and upzoned the site to allow more intensive development.

In commenting on the decision Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Clearihan said Council had supported the 5 previous proposals because they were broadly in accordance with Council's vision for N. Adelaide.



"Since 1989, five development applications that were lodged with the Adelaide City Council were approved by us or the former City of Adelaide Planning Commission," Cllr Clearihan said. "The applications were in 1989, 1991 (2), 1993 and 1997 and although all were approved, none of them eventuated," she said.

"The Adelaide City Council has long had a vision for North Adelaide as a cohesive historic residential neighbourhood, served by vibrant local shops and dining along O'Connell and Melbourne Streets. And for more than 20 years, the planning rules for the suburb have reflected this vision."

"In January 2006, the Minister for Urban Development and Planning approved Council's proposed changes to the planning rules which upzoned the Le Cornu site by allowing an additional 5,250m² of residential floor space on the site. "And Council has consistently upheld its plan and has never opposed any development application lodged for the Le Cornu site," Cllr Clearihan said.

And a final word from Mr Makris....."after all, you can't have people on council with two cats and a tomato plant with the power to control \$300 million developments in the city" (Advertiser Sept 20, 2008)



RYMILL PARK SPRINGS BACK INTO LIFE. Following draining of the Rymill Park lake some months ago due to serious leakage of the water Council has invested \$300,000 in installing a HD plastic liner and reinstating the surrounding areas. It is good to see the return of human and feathered species, both with their young, enjoying the lake. Congratulations too to Arnis for his kiosk which makes the whole Rymill Park area a good place to take the family and enjoy one of the more pleasant areas of the Park Lands.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Prime Minister and Minister Albanese jointly announced that the Federal Government would convene the first meeting of the new **Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG)** in November in Canberra and would also invite all mayors and shire presidents to attend. The one-day meeting would address a number of issues including local infrastructure, the challenges facing **major cities** and the **constitutional recognition** of local government.

ALGA President Cllr Paul Bell said "Being in local government, we know that local councils have long deserved a better deal. We know that local government is integral to the health and prosperity of local and regional communities in so many different fields of endeavour: fostering social inclusion, promoting healthy built environments, welcoming enterprise, adopting new technologies to make life easier, helping communities learn and understand the challenges that confront them (like climate change), providing home and community care, supporting those in need, more programs to our aged, supporting the disabled and hosting community events etc"

This initiative has been strongly supported by **Capital Cities Lord Mayors** who have joined forces with major cities to fight for a better deal for our urban communities which the previous Federal Government failed to support.

Some recent meeting decisions.....

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL Meeting held 15 Sept (next meeting Tuesday 7 October at 5.30)

- The Panel deferred consideration of a Non-Complying development at 201-205 Childers St North Adelaide. Further information was sought on a number of design issues for this 2-storey detached dwelling and garage.
- Approval (subject to DAC concurrence) was given to a Non-Complying development involving internal alterations to 77 Regent Street South.
- The Panel approved the removal of a significant tree (*ailanthus altissima*) at 36-40 Childers St N. Adelaide.

ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY Meeting held 18 Sept (next meeting 16 October at 5.00pm)

- The Authority endorsed the draft first annual report covering the activities of APLA. As well as providing advice on various CLMPs the major work has been the appointment of consultants for the new Management Strategy.
- Park Lands building design guidelines were endorsed. The guidelines will be applied to all new buildings for recreational and sporting groups and will, over some years, lead to the replacement of the many second-rate buildings that have detracted from the visual enjoyment of the Park Lands.
- The Authority considered in confidence the latest information available on the process of Heritage Listing of the City of Adelaide Plan and the Park Lands. The matter was considered in confidence at the express wish of the Federal minister's office but I think it can be said that there is some room for hope of a positive outcome .

COUNCIL MEETING held on 22 September (next meeting 13 October at 5.30pm)

Motions on Notice were moved by

- Cllr Francis Wong on **Sister Cities and International Relations** - passed
 - Cllr Stephen Yarwood asking Council to sponsor an international conference on **Cities and Towns** to be staged in 2010 at a cost of \$20k – passed.
 - Myself calling for greater transparency in dealing with supply of **non-tendered goods and services** – passed.
 - Cllr Michael Henningsen (w/out notice) calling for a policy on **community gardens**.
 - The Public Forum was used by Council's depot workforce to express concern at delays in finalising their EBA.
- Council agreed to road closures for the launch of the **Rundle lantern** on 24 October.
- Approvals were given for the use of Victoria Square and other areas for the **Classic Adelaide** Car Rally from 14 to 25 November including the Gouger St Party on 21 November and the East Tce parade on Sunday 23 November. The issue of fees for Central market parking was deferred.
- The Tour Down Under** will make Victoria Sq its base in January 2009 and will include the use of Rundle Park and Elder Park/Creswell Gdns. Council has given \$200k by way of sponsorship support to this international event.
- A decision was made to modify parking in Melbourne St to help with parking for the **Majestic Minima Hotel**.
- Three major **tenders** were considered by Council in confidence.
- A tender for Town Hall catering was extended.
 - Tenders for the collection of domestic waste including putrescibles, recycling and green waste was accepted. The new system which will be a major improvement on the existing service will commence in early December.
 - A tender for the collection and banking of cash collected from Council's business operations such as car parking and the Aquatic Centre following the financial collapse of our previous contractor, Cash Logistics.

City Strategy Committee

- The committee endorsed the Draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles for the regeneration of **Victoria Square**. The report also includes a procurement model for engaging consultants and a timeline which aims to call for Registration of Interest from consultant teams on 14 Oct and progressive stakeholder and public consultation running up to June of 2009. Council has \$150k on this year's budget for design work and we are now in the process of seeking the support of State and Federal governments in the funding of this iconic project for Adelaide.
- The committee, assisted by advice from its Reconciliation Committee, has endorsed the **Reconciliation Action Plan for 2008/2009**. The three main action areas are **Relationships, Respect and Opportunities**. Particular activities will include Aboriginal employment, Tourism, Art, a website and our enhanced grants programs.
- Plans for the **upgrading of North Tce** in front of Government House were referred back to another Briefing.
- The committee decided to take no further action to set up an **International Trade** and Export Showcase which could have cost Council over \$2 million with very little support from the government or exporters in Adelaide.

STOP PRESS COUNCIL APPOINTED ITS NEW CEO AT TONIGHT'S MEETING. The successful candidate was chosen from a strong field of worthy applicants; details of the appointee will be made public on Wednesday.

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

