



# NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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### HARMONY DAY

**21<sup>st</sup> March** is the national day when people focus on the identity that Australians share and celebrate the benefits our cultural diversity. 2009 is the 10th anniversary of Harmony Day. Many community groups, businesses and Councils will use it as an opportunity to welcome new immigrants, increase awareness of their diversity programs and services and celebrate the mix of languages and cultures in their communities. For Harmony Day events go to <https://www.ecom.immi.gov.au/harmonyday/eventListing.do;jsessionid=E371E545E5F116C801A3C6E9AAC28D3F.tomcat4-jdk14-4423-worker> and key in 'South Australia'.



### PARKING FINES BY MOBILE PHONE?

About 60 French councils have installed smart parking meters that send you a text message on your mobile phone telling you that you have been given a fine. The system detects the presence of vehicles and alerts parking inspectors if drivers stay over their allotted time. The meters create magnetic fields capable of registering the metal mass of vehicles. They have a direct computer link to the Council.

Under the mechanism adopted by towns such as **Issy-les-Moulineaux**, on the outskirts of Paris, cars are allowed 20 minutes for free parking. Councils say the main intention behind using a 20-minute limit is to encourage a quick turnover of vehicles and generate increased custom for shops. In France, where only one in five drivers bothers to pay for a parking fine - partly because of very low fines - the new meters signal something of a social upheaval. **I wonder what would happen if Adelaide City Council were to adopt a similar system? Parking Rage?**

### Q AND A ON OUR PRECIOUS TREES

At Council on 23 February I asked 4 **Questions on Notice** about the conditions of trees in the Park Lands. In essence I was told that we are doing all we can such as mulching, the use of water-filled road barriers, the installation of more drip irrigation and the operation of 2 water tankers full-time. With completion of our new 275k/litre backwash tank at the Aquatic Centre we will have the opportunity to hire 2 extra water trucks at an extra cost of \$80k for the period October to March. However truck watering can have detrimental effects on root systems.

The Lord Mayor's approach to Minister Maywald and discussions with SA Water has so far not been successful. The consistent line is that ACC has an allocation of 340ML for this year and it is up to Council how we choose to use that water. Our dilemma is to prioritise the water between events spaces and the public areas versus the trees. **In my opinion, the preservation of 100+ year old trees is a higher priority than events spaces. Events organisers should be required to buy recycled water to maintain and remediate the sites that they use.**

### WORDS OF WISDOM

In her Annual Report to the Adelaide Day Centre Sister Janet points out that:

*'We are facing a world that more and more difficult for the poor. The collapse of the present financial system globally is an opportunity for us to examine honestly its destructive shortcomings; namely, that:*

- *Our society is debt-driven on both personal and business levels.*
- *Deregulation has allowed greed to go unbridled*
- *Our tax system allows the rich to pay less tax instead of their fair share.*
- *Free trade and globalization have resulted in poverty for most people around the world.'*

She then goes on to assert that at an SA level the global financial crisis is being used as an excuse by the State Treasury to instruct, not the business sector but the welfare departments to cut their budgets – and she lists many examples of program and service cuts which are having a serious impact on the most vulnerable in our community.

**You may ask 'what has this to do with the Adelaide City Council?'** The answer is simple – every loss of a welfare program or service puts pressure on other city-based services and the volunteer-supported welfare groups in particular. It is a clear case of cost-shifting which impacts on the many people who congregate in the city. Council is under increasing pressure to support these deserving causes, to be their advocate and their champion.

## DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL

### Meeting held 2 March 2009 (next meeting 16 March 2009 at 5.30pm)

The meeting was preceded by a Training Workshop on the role of heritage listing in planning assessments for the ACC

#### Non-complying applications:

- The Panel decided to **NOT PROCEED** with an application to use **102-120 Wakefield Street** (opposite the Fire Station) as an open-lot car park for a period of 12 months, pending the start of an already approved development on the site.
- It was agreed to **PROCEED** with an application to construct a 4-storey apartment building at **333 Wakefield Street**.
- An application (resubmitted) for a residential flat building operating as an affordable housing development at **1-9 Evans Place** was again **deferred** to allow further consideration of Panel concerns re Plot Ratio, Private open space, Landscaped open space, Size, scale and bulk of the building and the issue of ventilation to the bedrooms with borrowed light.

#### Applications to be considered on Merit

- An application by the **Newmarket Hotel and HQ Night Club (1 – 8 North Terrace)** to construct a new deck and balcony on the east side was **deferred** pending more explicit drawings and further examination of the possible acoustic impacts.
- The Panel again **deferred** an application to refurbish the night club contained within the former synagogue at **5-9 Synagogue Place** which is a State heritage place. The Panel is to make an inspection of the premises with Heritage SA.
- Approval was granted to construct an in-ground swimming pool at **206 Childers St North Adelaide**.
- Approval was granted to construct retaining walls and fences to the boundary of **133-135 Barnard Street, Nth Adelaide**.
- **The Adelaide Women's Soccer Club** gained **planning consent** to construct a new club room to replace the one lost in a fire some years ago. The site of the building is in **Park 18 Wita Wirra** on the west side of Hutt Road.

#### Other Application

- Conditional support was recommended to the Development Assessment Commission for the construction of a new ETSA Substation on the site of the future **Tower 4 at 2-10 Franklin Street**, just west of the GPO. The support was subject to the resolution of some design details including further articulation and/or the provision of public art on the western façade.

## COUNCIL AND KEY COMMITTEES

### Meeting held 10 March 2009. (next ordinary meeting 23 March 2009 at 5.30pm)

- **Motions on Notice** were moved by Deputy Lord Mayor **Cllr Stephen Yarwood** calling for reports on how Council can help members to move towards a paper less operation and on posting Council proceedings on the internet via webcam.
- The Lord Mayor reported that Council's request for Federal funding for the **South Tce pedestrian crossing** had been rejected. Council adopted an alternative to upgrade **medians in Grenfell St** and to allocate other funds to South Tce.
- **On my motion**, Council deferred a proposal to revoke the licence held by the **Charities Tennis Club** for grass courts on Mills Tce to allow time for the club to present its side of the case. The key issue here is to provide some public access.
- Council decided to support Mayor Lewis of Marion for the position of President of the Local Government Association.
- Approval was given for the use of Wellington Square for the **O'Connell St Food and Wine Fair** on Sunday 5 April.
- **Bonython Park** is to be used for **Music in the Park** from 4 to 11pm on Friday 17 April. Council understands that many Nth Adelaide residents are distressed by the excessive and prolonged noise from such events; strict noise controls will be enforced and residents will be letter-boxed in a wider area than in the past. **It is worth noting that this event will cater for 5000 patrons paying over \$90 each. The organiser will walk away with over \$400,000 and pay Council a paltry \$2500 fee! Such an event in my opinion is of little or no value to the city so why should our residents have to put up with it? This is the 5<sup>th</sup> all-day musical event inflicted on Bonython Park this season. Some say this is at least 3 too many. I will vote against any future events that run for more than 4 hours in Bonython Park and I will move to have sound monitoring done by a professional engineer employed by the Council and at the organisers expense (To be fair I must say that the Garden of Unearthly Delights and the Fringe activities have so far been well-conducted.)**
- Council considered a report on the leasing of **Grote St retail tenancy** at the bus station and a matter relating to **Flags and Banners in the City** in confidence. A report recommending appointment of External Auditors was taken out of confidence on my motion and Council appointed PKF Chartered Accountants for a further 12-month term.

#### City Strategy Committee

- My calls for **increased right turns** when travelling south up KW Road and KW St have resulted in 1 win and 1 loss! Right turns will be reinstated at **War Memorial Dr but not at North Tce** – another downside to the running of the tram. I hope that this will result in less traffic going through the city when its destination is to City West or the western suburbs.
- Council has given approval to proceed with the documentation of a new bicycle/foot bridge across the Torrens at the rear of the zoo which is a critical part of the Park Lands Trail. The bridge which is estimated to cost \$1.18m will sit lightly on the landscape and will also provide access from parking north of the river for zoo patrons. The construction of the Park Lands Trail is being assisted by funding from the State Government ►►►
- The committee approved the installation of a memorial plaque in the Naval Memorial Gardens in Park 23 (Karrawirra) North Adelaide in memory of those women who have served and lost their lives whilst serving in the Royal Australian Navy since 1986.

#### City Services and Facilities Committee

- The Committee received quarterly reports on **Corporate Property and Fee-based Facilities** for the period to 3 January which showed that most are 'on target' except for the **Golf Links and the Town Hall** which are down on budget.
- A proposal to demolish the termite-infested **Prince Alfred College boat shed** was deferred pending a comprehensive report on Council's obligations and alternative solutions to refurbishing the heritage building. ►►►
- A request from Adelaide University for assistance with upgrading of their Boat Shed was deferred pending completion of the same report referred to in the PAC item above.

*This item was listed as Confidential but was held in open meeting at the decision of the Committee.*



**Briefings** were held on **24 Feb** (Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy, Park Lands Trail Bridge options and Community Safety Strategy); **3 March** (Wingfield Land disposal report – confidential and Training and Development for Lord Mayor and Councillors – 2009 options); **5 March** (Late Night Licensing DPA and Affordable Housing Policy workshop – all Confidential).

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