



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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PARKLANDS PRESSURES

One of the reasons which encouraged me to stand for Council was my concern for the preservation and enhancement of the Park Lands which are a very special and fundamental feature of Adelaide; they are of interest to town planners, to social historians and of course they are in strong demand for a whole range of recreational and events activities and a great drawcard for tourism. In creating his unique plan for Adelaide, Colonel Light was influenced not only by sound military engineering principles but also by the desire to ensure that his new city would not replicate the many industrial slums with little or no open space that had become a feature of his native England.

In the early days of settlement, Colonel Light set land aside for essential institutional and government uses but the essential purpose of the Park Lands as being freely available open space for the enjoyment of the people did not change. As custodians of the Park Lands it is the responsibility of the City Council to guard those freedoms. The Adelaide Park Lands Authority – a joint State/Local initiative – is responsible for giving policy advice to the Council and has produced a Management Strategy (which is currently awaiting Ministerial sign-off). Over the last 3 years Council has produced Community Land Management Plans (CLMP) for each of the separate Park Lands and is soon to develop an overall Landscape Master Plan.

Plans and strategies are good tools and reflect many hours of public consultation but practical application is quite another. Some of the current pressures which are weighing heavily on the Council include:

- **Climate Change** and the drought has taken its toll on many trees, some perhaps already near the end of their life. I am sure the GAP recycled water will help but it comes at a cost which Council has to bear.
- New projects such as the tram extension and Zoo upgrades have led to **the loss of hundreds of trees.**
- The increasing expectation that Park Lands should be used for the **parking of cars.** This may be acceptable for large sporting and other special events but not for commercial events or commuter parking. Of particular concern to me is the continual demand to use the Park Lands north of the **Adelaide Oval** for parking associated with non-sporting events. The increasing frequency of use in will lead to the degradation of the turf and the death of the trees due to increased compaction in the root zones. (**SACA plans** to expand further and to build a 50000+ sporting facility would have my support provided such plans deal seriously with purpose-built car parking and enhanced public transport access – it might also be courteous if SACA was to discuss its plans with its landlord, the Adelaide City Council!)
- The increasing demand for **events that alienate** Park Lands for many days at a time and which are fenced and ticketed at high prices which are lining the pockets of entrepreneurs at the expense of our parks.
- The loss of freely available open space to dedicated ovals and playing areas is becoming a problem; **The Park Lands should not be seen as cheap open space to be taken over by private interests.** Even sporting clubs should be able to demonstrate some affinity with the City or have a state-wide focus.

The **30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide** envisages a large increase in the number of people living in the city and in the suburbs around the city all of whom will look to the Park Lands for their family and community recreational needs. It is essential that in our rush to cater for the insatiable demands of organised sport and events organisers we don't deny future generations the chance to enjoy the sheer pleasure of freely available open space.

VICTORIA PARK

As I write these Notes many people are enjoying the benefits of a new Victoria Park, finally free of the ugliness and blight that was our legacy of many years of occupation by SAJC. And soon the ugly building used by PAC (and added to by the 3 Day Event 'workshop') will be gone and Council will complete its Stage 1 Works prior to Clipsal!



Yes, Clipsal is on again! 24 weeks of alienation for just 4 days of 'revhead revelry' in March will begin on 1 December. Many parts of the Park were seriously degraded by SAMSB work last year – let's hope for better in 2010.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL Meeting held 2 November 2009 (next meeting Monday 16/11/09)

■ Non-Complying Applications

- Consent was **REFUSED** to construct two 3 level dwellings on vacant land at **15-17 Watson St N.A.** (DA/154/2009) Reasons for refusal were related to non compliance with set-back requirements and plot ratios.
- Consent was **REFUSED** to construct a 3 level building with 2 retail tenancies at ground level and 2 dwellings on levels 2 and 3 at **149-151 Melbourne St N.A.** (DA /876/2008). Reasons included lack of adequate car parking.
- Consent was **GRANTED** (subject to DAC Concurrence) for alts and adds to **157 Jeffcott St N.A.** (DA/449/2009)
- **■ Applications for consideration on Merit**
- Consent to demolish an existing cottage and construct a 5 level mixed use building with ground floor retail, 1st floor office and upper floors residential at **13-15 Hutt St** was **REFUSED** (DA/568/2009). The reasons for refusal were that *"the proposal fails to achieve the intent of the Desired Character of the East End Policy Area as it does not conserve or re-use a distinctive building of historical and commercial character and that it does not retain or protect the remnant cohesive townscape of historic character as required by the Mixed Use Zone Objective 3 and PDC 13."*
- Consent was **GRANTED** for alterations and additions to existing dwelling at **114 Sussex St N.A.** (DA/607/2009).
- An application for extensive alterations and new work including a 3 level dwelling at **217-219 Melbourne St N.A.** was **DEFERRED** to allow the applicant to provide further information for assessment. (DA/387/2009)
- **■ The Panel called for a report on how the 3D City Model can be used to assist in assessing applications.**

ADELAIDE CITY COUNCIL RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE - Meeting held 4 November 2009.

- **■ The Committee endorsed the Action Plan** with Council initiatives for a permanent **Kaurna** presence in the Town Hall Foyer, aboriginal content on the Rundle Lantern and aboriginal representation on the Public Art Roundtable.
- **■ A presentation on design ideas for Victoria Square** led to some lively suggestions for **an aboriginal presence** at the heart of the city and a chance to be formally involved in presenting their culture and customs in an ongoing way.
- **■ A report was given on good progress to establish an Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Hub at Mawson Lakes.**
- **■ The meeting was attended by all the agencies providing support for the Dry Area** in the city. While some progress has been made, there still appear to be significant shortcomings particularly the lack of a dedicated detoxification centre and a suitable place in the city where aborigines can enjoy social interaction and a legal place to have a drink in much the same way that other cultures can freely drink and socialize in the city. (just look at the increasing number of footpath cafes and regular licensed events in the Park Lands and Squares)

COUNCIL AND KEY COMMITTEES – Meeting 9 November (next meeting Monday 23 November at 5.30pm)

- **■ Motions on Notice** were moved by Cr Moran 1) offering 2 hours free parking to casual customers in the Rundle precinct who spend \$50. This was referred to the Rundle Mall Authority and 2) calling for a meeting with SAPOL and local stakeholders to discuss how to curb escalating crime in Hindley Street was accepted in a modified form, and by Cr Clearihan which cleared the way to allow Council sponsorship of \$8k to the **Muriel Matters Society**. I moved a **Motion w/out Notice** extending the consultation on the **Park Lands Events Policy** to 11 December and Cr Hayward successfully moved to give **Rotary Club** regular weekly **parking on the Park Lands** north of the Oval.
- **■ (12.1) Council set the allowances for Councillors, Lord Mayor and Deputy LM at the same amounts as last year.**
- **■ (12.2) Presiding Members of Committees appointed were; City Strategy, Lord Mayor; City Services & Facilities, Cr Ralph Clarke; Corporate Strategy, Cr Sue Clearihan.**
- **■ (12.3) Development Assessment Panel** appointees were Cirs Cullen, Yarwood, Moran and Clarke and specialists Shanti Ditter (Presiding), Rob Cheesman, Mads Gaardboe, Sybella Blencowe and Stephanie Johnston.
- **■ (12.4) Other appointments; Capital City Committee, Lord Mayor, Cr Wong and myself; Education Adelaide, Cr Clearihan, Adelaide Convention & Tourism Authority, Cr Wong; N. Adelaide Community Centre, Cr Clearihan.**
- **■ (12.5) Council agreed to pre-commit its 2010-2011 (2nd) contribution of \$300k to the Adelaide Festival of Arts.**
- **■ (12.7) Council granted lease for the Pearl Jam Concert** to be held in Park 26 on 17 December and for the use of part of Rymill Pk for the **BT Financial Dinner** on 16 April 2010. Noise Mitigating Procedures will apply to Pearl Jam.
- **■ (12.8) Council agreed to the use of the Park Lands north of the Adelaide Oval to be used for parking for visitors to the Zoo** during the period of the school holidays. A fee of \$10 is to be charged including the cost of a shuttle bus service. The shuttle service, which will also pass city UParks, is a very commendable initiative but the use of Park Lands is totally contrary to Council Park Lands policy and it flees in the face of all of our Sustainability policies and efforts to reduce CO2 emissions which include discouraging car use in favour of public transport
- **■ Confidential Items dealt with 1) Rundle St Market – Future Direction and 2) A Strategic Property Matter.**

CITY STRATEGY COMMITTEE

- **■ (5.1) Council noted an update report on the Noise Management Program** and endorsed the 09/10 Project Plan.
- **■ (5.2) Council delegated authority to GM City Strategy (Deb Just)** to submit comments on the Master Plan for **Bowden Urban Village** as provided by LMC. Major areas of this TOD site will be for residential use which will be well connected to the city and should add to its activity. The Village will link to the Park Lands for recreation facilities.
- **■ (5.3) Council will apply for \$51k** from the Australian Government Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program to assist with the funding of the **Victoria park Exercise Track**.
- **■ (5.5) Tenders will be called for Stage 1 upgrade of the Victoria Park Grandstand** to provide BCA upgrading and restoration of change rooms and toilet facilities at an estimated cost of **\$1.3m** funded by SAJC make-good money.
- **■ (5.7 and 5.8) Council approved sports lighting to the SA Croquet Association** on Park 17 and called for a further report on proposals to provide safe **pedestrian crossings in Whitmore Square**.

CITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- **■ (5.4) The Council adopted the recommendation of the Central Market Committee that Optional Wednesday trading continue** for a further 6 months trial and that the UPark 2 hour free car parking offer also continue.