



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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PEAK OIL – OFF THE BOIL?

I regularly meet with a group of enthusiastic people who are committed to promoting awareness of the potential crisis confronting the world as we come to the end of the earth's supply of oil, or perhaps I should say, the end of the supply of oil at an affordable price. Already we are told that increasing demand for oil outstrips the level at which new reserves are being opened up but with some respite in petrol prices at the bowser and with increasing focus on climate change, not to mention the global financial crisis, our attention may have been diverted away from Peak Oil.

The Council is continuing to work on its Carbon Neutral Action Plan which will see a 60% reduction of its own emissions by 2012 on the way to complete neutrality by 2020 – an ambitious but achievable target.

WALK21

One way to help to reduce emissions is to encourage walking and where better than in the city? Not only does walking reduce demands for oil, it also contributes to climate change mitigation by reducing CO₂ emissions and it enhances our health and wellbeing. **Dr Rodney Tolley**, who was recently in Adelaide at the invitation of the Heart Foundation, addressed a breakfast meeting of key Council staff and Councillors Yarwood, Clarke, Clearihan, Wilkinson and myself. **Walk21** has made many world cities more 'walkable' including even parts of New York!



By converting streets into **well-designed** public spaces with wider footpaths, more shade and the space shared equitably between cars and people, the quality of life in the street has improved dramatically. Contrary to expectations, replacing cars with people has increased business, made the streets safer and has encouraged the healthy practice of walking. It is particularly good for children and older people.



We need to remember that everyone coming into the city by whatever means, becomes a pedestrian and we must do all we can to make that experience more attractive. The Mall may be good but if walking from the car, tram or bus is not an inviting experience then we have failed. If the perception –and perhaps the reality – is that we are more interested in cars than in people, then we have failed and if we don't provide the very best facilities for cyclists and pedestrians throughout the city then we will have failed in our responsibility as city planners. **The city's future depends on the public and private sectors working together to create the very best public realm possible, from the simplest pieces of street furniture, intimate shady 'pocket parks,' retention of city character and showing design excellence in major places such as North Tce, Riverbank & Victoria Square.**

Walk21 has developed a Charter which is aimed at increasing the awareness of the needs of walkers and the benefits that will result from a commitment to supporting the numerous benefits of walking. It shows how to create a culture where people choose to walk. It identifies the needs of people on foot and provides a common framework to help authorities refocus their existing policies, activities and relationships to create a culture where people choose to walk. **Council can support the Charter by signing it and encouraging all interested parties to work with us to help create a healthy, efficient, vibrant and sustainable walking community for Adelaide.** See the Charter at <http://www.walk21.com/papers/International%20Charter%20for%20Walking.pdf>

SWEDEN GETS SERIOUS ABOUT THE CARBON-FOOD CONNECTION

Studies conclude that agricultural methods and shipping food around the world contributes the largest measure of GHG emissions. Sweden has launched a comprehensive effort to bring the various parts of the food web together to begin untangling the complex web of emissions. The country is launching the world's first carbon label on foods along with nutritional advice, which could cut emissions 20-50%. Restaurant menus and grocery items are beginning to list the carbon emissions for each food item. Last year, the Swedish National Food Admin. was asked to create food guidelines that give **equal weight to climate and health.** Excerpt from [Sustainable Business News](#), 2 November 2009

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Council has already supported 2 table-top gardens and has agreed to an in-ground area at Veale Gardens. Currently it is consulting on a licence for an operator of the garden. There are those who feel that it is wrong to use Park Lands for this purpose; a view which I do not share. In the light of **Peak Oil** and other pressures we surely must encourage more sustainable food production as close to home as possible. Community Gardens are just one way in which we can support best practice in communal food growing techniques, whilst reducing our carbon footprint.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL Meeting held 16 November 2009 (next meeting Monday 7/12/09)

■ Non-Complying Applications

- There were no non-complying applications.

■ Applications for consideration on Merit

- Consent was **GRANTED** to construct a tennis court with lighting at the rear of the property at **229 Stanley St North Adelaide** (DA/520/2009)
- Consent was **GRANTED** to demolish existing dwelling and construct a new 2 storey dwelling at **16 Childers St N.A.** (known as 1 Childers Ct) (DA/447/2009).
- Schedule 10 Matters – Referral to the DAC. (DA/1055/2008)
- An application to demolish existing buildings in the Cathedral precinct including **Fennsecey House** and construct a 9 storey office building with basement car parking at **37-45 Wakefield St** was considered and it was resolved to **recommend to the DAC** that the Panel **DOES NOT** support the proposal ►►



Note: This was the last meeting of the current City of Adelaide Development Assessment Panel.

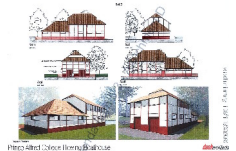
ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY - Meeting held 19 November 2009. (next meeting 7 December 2009)

- (5.1) The Authority noted the positive results of a public consultation and resolved to advise Council that it supports the establishment of a 15m x 9m, 3 on 3 basketball facility in **Whitmore Square**.
- (5.2) After much discussion concerning provision of a **fenced dog park in Park 5** (North Adelaide) it was decided to recommend that Council should canvass the views of the public on such a proposal.
- (5.3) It was agreed to advise Council that the Authority endorses the **PAC boatshed** proposal-(see 12.5 below)
- (5.4) The Authority reviewed the **Draft Events in the Park Lands Policy** and offered detailed advice to Council.
- (5.6) Consideration of new access and parking arrangements proposed for **Narnungga (Park 24)** were deferred.
- (5.7) A Draft Interpretation Concept Plan for **Wirranendi (Park 26)** was recommended to Council. The plan, jointly funded by Council and Planning SA, establishes an educational and environmental trail in the northern part of the Park based on the themes of **earth, fire, water and wind**. It was prepared by Melbourne consultants **Look Ear P/L**. ►►



COUNCIL AND KEY COMMITTEES – Meeting 23 November (next meeting Monday 14 December at 5.30pm)

- **Motions on Notice** were moved by **Cr Moran** 1) calling for an investigation into the *Renew Newcastle* regeneration program and 2) seeking support for the campaign to save the *City of Adelaide* clipper ship and by **myself** requesting a change of parking controls from 10 hour to 4 hour duration in the vicinity of the Zoo.
- **Motions w/out Notice** were moved by **myself** protesting the loss of the **National Archives** and by **Cllr Henningsen** seeking to extend the GoGet Carshare program beyond the 2 cars currently based at Sturt Street.
- (12.1) Council noted the CEO's **new business model** which will enhance the Council's administration structure.
- (12.2) Based on the new Business Model Council adopted the process and timeline to develop the **10/11 budget**.
- (12.3) The September Qtrly Report showing good progress on the **09/10 Business Plan and Budget** was noted.
- (12.5) Council agreed to the **Prince Alfred College** proposal to repair the boatshed on the **Torrens** at their full cost and subject to a minor design change; also to enter into negotiations for an extended lease for a period possibly up to 21 yrs. The cost, between \$400k and \$450k►
- (12.6) Council has endorsed a proposal from **The Council for International Trade and Commerce SA (CITCSA)** to take over the management of our **Sister Cities Program** and to assist in developing stronger links with our existing 4 Sister Cities and the impending *El Ferrol*.
- (12.7) Council has agreed to a request from the Minister for Environment to become a sponsor the **Clever Green Conference and Showcase** to be held next February. The cost of sponsorship will be \$5k (and the use of Tindo!)
- (12.10) Temporary leases were approved for **7 coming events in the Park Lands** including 2 music festivals, the Test Match, Tour Down Under, Fringe Activities and the Opening Event for the Festival of Arts in Victoria Park.
- (12.13) Council will support a system of subsidies of vouchers for shoppers who spend over \$50 at one location in Rundle Mall over the school holiday period and who have parked in certain UPark car parks.. This will be funded from the Rundle Mall Management Authority's marketing budget and is based on a model used at Westfield centres.
- (16) An Agreement for the supply of Recycled Water was dealt with in confidence. **That an agreement involving Council and a statutory authority for supply of a basic commodity needs to be confidential astounds me!**



CITY STRATEGY COMMITTEE

- (5.1) The October **Capital Works Report** shows **\$12.133m** spent to date with a further **\$12.267** committed.
- (5.2) Development Applications lodged for the quarter were slightly down (10%) on the same period last year but early indications are that the current quarter will have an increased value. No Schedule 10 applications were lodged.
- (5.3) 25 out of 32 applications for **Round Two 2009/2010 Grants** were approved with a total value of **\$125,445**. **Arts and Living Culture** received \$34,500; **Community Development** \$61,550 and **Recreation & Sport** \$29,395.
- (5.4) Council has reluctantly approved the removal of 10 Significant trees in **Walyo Werta** (Park 21) The trees, which include 3 English Elms are dead and are deemed to pose a threat to park users who frequent this area.
- (5.5) **Whitmore Square** is to have pedestrian-actuated traffic signals installed on the west side, north of Sturt St.
- **A Solar Cities Project, An integrated Design Strategy and Concept designs for Victoria Square** were considered in confidence because they all involve contracts and/or partnerships with other parties.

CORPORATE STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

- A report shows that this year to date Council has successfully applied for external funding to the value of **\$5.917m**.