



Newsflash

August 2006

As you will know from recent communications, we are embattled with planning issues:

262-276 Drummond Street

Our previous Newsflash reported that Council, despite 22 objections, overruled the advice of its own planners and passed a proposal for partial demolition of the existing 2 storey commercial building, and construction of a 4 storey apartment block of 58 residential (mainly 'studio') apartments. This despite the site being in a Residential 1 Zone, Heritage Overlay 1, and Design and Development Overlay 48 (maximum building height 10.5 meters). The matter is listed for a VCAT mediation hearing on 8th August. Failing agreement, the case will go to a full hearing. Progress of the above can be followed by accessing the City of Melbourne's web site www.melbourne.vic.gov.au, selecting 'Building, Planning & Your Property', and following the links to 'Permits online – iCompass'.

Carlton Public Housing Estate Redevelopment

A public information session was held on 13 July and plans for redevelopment of 3 sites revealed. Those of us who attended were shocked at the implications, and the removal of our democratic rights to appeal. CRA convened a broadly representative public meeting on 26 July, involving residents, business and public housing tenants. It concluded that a thorough reconsideration of plans thus far is essential, specifically in relation to gross over development, road access and the provision of public housing. The meeting concluded more time is required to facilitate a broader consideration of the issues, including an overall review of the current flawed design concepts. Letters stating our concerns were sent to Housing Minister Candy Broad and copied to the Premier, other senior Ministers and City Council. A controversial plan to reinstate Drummond Street through the Estate was dropped by the Housing Minister next day, just prior to a large rally on the Estate and to the relief of us all. Our remaining concerns are:

- Gross over development of the 3 sites
- Massive 4ha loss of green space & play space for local children on the Estates and neighborhood
- Substantially increased traffic through Keppel, Cardigan, Canning & Palmerston Streets; more than 500 additional car parking spaces
- Up to 8 storeys on Queen Elizabeth site (Keppel and Cardigan Streets), Rathdowne Street and Elgin St.
- Overload of local infrastructure (schools, public transport, supermarkets etc)
- Massive handover of public lands to a private developer on 3 sites
- Around 138 fewer public housing beds overall YET 550 more private dwellings!
- Lack of detailed information and rushed time frame to allow for proper assessment and debate of proposals

CRA is continuing to pressure the State Govt for a review of the whole ill-considered redevelopment project, including impacts on the Elgin-Nicholson St Precinct (loss of playground and open space).

Carlton needs you! Here's what you can do:

Please take the time to write a letter to the Planning Panel commenting on some or all of the above issues. A desperately short timeframe has been set, and all submissions must be received by Monday 7th August.

Ref: Ministry for Planning Amendment C117 to the Melbourne Planning Scheme

Address: Minister for Planning
Attention: Adrian Williams
Planning Panels Victoria
Dept. of Sustainability & Environment PO Box 500 East Melbourne 3002

Parks and Recreation - Open Space Strategy

This is an initiative of MCC to assist the planning of parkland for residents and visitors to enjoy now and into the future. The City of Melbourne has undertaken an analysis of the existing open space for Carlton, based on the size, type, ease of access and future population. At the local public meeting Council staff elaborated their criteria, the ideal being one hectare of open space for every 1,000 people and provision of parkland within 300m of households. Carlton was assessed to have adequate parkland. However this was arrived at only by including Princes Park, which represents two thirds of the identified public open space and is remote for most Carlton residents (further than 300m) being typically 1km from central Carlton and separated by two very busy arterial roads. It therefore cannot reasonably be regarded as accessible parkland for Carlton residents and visitors. The reality is that open space for Carlton residents is only around 0.7 ha per 1000 people. CRA's 'Open Space Strategy, Carlton Area' response can be seen on our website.

Some interesting Carlton statistics:

Resident 11,129 Workers coming to Carlton daily 15,742 2021 projection: Resident 17,681

General Meeting, June 29 "Greening Carlton"

Our Federal Government is actively anti-environment e.g. Kyoto Greenhouse Protocol was not signed, the last five budgets contain minimal expenditure on the environment, private transport is actively promoted over public. CSIRO's Division of Atmospheric Research has been closed, thereby shutting down vital research - Prime Minister Howard et al don't want the bad news. Pondering what we could do locally, we invited **Guest speakers** Gabrielle Stannus from 'Sustainability Street' (MCC program), Stephen Ingrouille 'Going Solar' and Luke Brown 'Flo Carshare', who informed how we could create a healthier, safer and more sustainable community here in Carlton.

Lygon Street Plane Trees

You will recall demands by members of the Carlton Business Assn last summer that the 180 plane trees in Lygon St be clear felled. It was claimed that the trees drop pollen, causing hay fever and asthma to some staff and patrons working and dining alfresco. CRA was inundated with telephone calls from people throughout Melbourne praising the plane trees, their ambience, atmosphere, shade, beauty, blending quality, and voicing horror at the possibility of their loss. Thank you to CRA members who contacted Council with their concerns. The trees constitute an investment of \$1m. They will not be removed! Cr Fraser Brindley sought a solution, and problem minimization including additional street sweeping and selected pruning is being trialled and monitored, particularly during the heavy pollen spring weeks.

The World Heritage listed Carlton Gardens / Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show

The organizers of this event have been granted a two-year extension. Alternative venues, which would not be damaged by the heavy construction, such as the purpose built Showgrounds or Birrarung Marr were rejected by MIFGS: the first because it lacks the desired tree canopy, the second, which has beautiful trees plus the Yarra, lacks the Exhibition Building backdrop!

Greta Bird

President

Coming Event CRA General Meeting '*Trading Places - Coexistence in Carlton*' To facilitate greater dialogue and understanding, we have invited local traders to talk with us. Monday, 21 August
Kathleen Syme Building Cnr Faraday & Cardigan Streets Carlton. Time: Business 7.30pm Speakers 8.00pm



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