



Malvern East Group

A Member of *PLANNING BACKLASH*

Phone/Fax 9572 3205
Email meg@chezsamuel.com
Web <http://www.chezsamuel.com/meghome.php>

Newsletter January 2007

NEXT MEETING OF MEG

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 14
7.30 PM**

NORTHBROOK HOUSE
**This meeting will feature a Guest
Speaker**

From the Working Group

The Working Group has not met since early November. A series of personal issues has intervened such as the birth of Jacqui's son, the absence of Remy's secretary, my brush with the surgical arm of the medical profession and Scott's sojourn to London...he says it's work! I don't know what has befallen June.

Our letter introducing MEG to Malvern East residents has been written and we are gradually touching base with our volunteer letter-droppers. Our thanks to Joan and Norm Warway for providing us with 500 copies of the letter. We cannot, of course, hope to letter-box all residents but we hope to cover sections of this large area and depend on 'word of mouth' to increase our membership. There's strength in numbers.

The results of the State election means that the M2030 juggernaut continues apace. The Bracks government is blind to its flaws and totally ignorant of alternative strategies for dealing with their aim of a greatly increased population.

Membership Renewal

A few members have not renewed their MEG membership. If you wish to continue to receive our newsletters please send in your subscriptions.

Student Housing Policy

Residents had an opportunity to lodge a submission with Council regarding this

controversial issue. Only 4 submissions were received...one from DOI, one from Student Housing Australia and 2 from residents. So no more whingeing about the proliferation of this sub-standard housing. **You had your chance.** The proposed policy will now go to a Government-appointed panel which will make recommendations to the Government about what we can have in our Planning Scheme. It will be a watered-down version of what residents and Councillors wanted.

Housing and Neighbourhood Character Study

The proposed Amendment C67 to the Planning Scheme was presented to Council on Dec.18/06 and Council adopted the Draft Policy. It now goes to the Minister as a policy of local significance with a request for authorisation for him to allow Council to approve the amendment. These things take forever. It is over 15 months that we contributed to the Neighbourhood Character Study.

Stonington Mansion

No doubt you have read in the Leader that this site has been sold to developers. The property was free to Deakin and we cannot quite work out how that university had the right to sell what is public property... historic real estate. The government had the power to stop the sale but did not do so. The National Trust is anxious to have no development along Glenferrie Rd. so that the view of the historic mansion is preserved. That's one issue. Another is that Public Access to the mansion and gatehouse must be preserved and yet another is the amount of development that will be proposed. Stonington Council was opposed to the sale as was a large number of Victorians.

Harold Holt Pool

An appeal to VCAT against Council's decision to Grant a Permit for buildings and works, including a convenience restaurant, to this community facility has been lodged by a number of residents. The hearing starts on Feb. 26/07.

Newsletter...Malvern Meadows Estate

A resident from the Malvern Meadows has initiated a newsletter for his area. the impetus for this was an application for a large Child Care Centre at 52-56 The Boulevard. This has been refused by both the Planning Department and Councillors. The applicant has appealed the decision... are we surprised? Residents are gearing up to fight this inappropriate development in a small residential street.

President of VCAT

We note that Justice Stuart Morris is in the news again. We reported in our last newsletter that his ambitions as a developer had been scuttled just before the election.

Now we read that his controversial decisions regarding additional poker machines in a number of venues against decisions by both the relevant Council and the Gaming Commission are called into question because he failed to declare his former role as Queen's counsel for the gaming operators prior to his appointment to VCAT. (Age Jan.13/07). But we must not believe that we read...the government constantly tells us that VCAT is an independent body.

Minister for Planning

Justin Madden has been appointed full-time (how about that!) to the Planning Portfolio. In December 06 the Working Group of "Planning Backlash" requested a meeting with him. To date there is no response to this request. Same old merry-go round!

Water Shortage

Since the re-election of the Bracks government "water" has become a big issue. It was a big issue before the election but not a lot was said about it. As Melbourne faces the possibility of Level 4 restrictions, more information is available. In the 'Age' Dec. 23/06 it was reported "that residents of Melbourne's high-rise apartments are some of the city's worst energy-guzzlers and generate more than 14,000 tonnes of waste each year. CBD

apartment dwellers account for 22% of Melbourne's water consumption."

Can we afford all this development? Can the environment survive the onslaught of these treeless concrete constructions?

You will notice in the list of applications for Malvern East the proliferation of two 2-storey dwellings on single lots. Can we afford this loss of open space and the consequent loss of greenery?

Emeritus Professor Malcolm Skillbeck in a letter (Age Jan. 16) says..."Environmentally sound gardens, whether public or private, are a major social amenity from which we all benefit."

Meanwhile, the Herald Sun (Jan. 11/07) reports that "a plan to keep Princes Park green by using recycled sewage has been scuttled by a row between the Victorian and Federal governments." A further article in the Age (Jan.22/07) indicates that the "black water" would be used to revive Princes Park, Royal Park, Carlton Gardens, Treasury Gardens and Fitzroy Gardens... and it's not being done!

So while we lose the greenery that absorbs the pollution we create, they fight. Who was the man who fiddled while Rome burned?

Landscape Plans

It is common practice for an applicant to lodge plans without a Landscape Plan. When challenged, the response is, "We'll do that when we get a permit." Surely a Landscape Plan is integral to any planning application. If a permit is issued and the Landscape Plan is a condition of permit, the only people to see it (and approve it) are those in the Planning Department. Residents are not given a chance to comment on this vital aspect of the Neighbourhood Character. Perhaps we should start a campaign to have Council insist that all plans are lodged at the beginning of the process.

Planning Applications

126 Burke Rd. Food and drink premises with car parking dispensation.
28 Chadstone Rd. Medical centre with car parking dispensation.
433 Waverley Rd. Medical Centre.
20 Webster St. Dual occupancy. New dwelling at rear of site.
52 Belgrave Rd. Two 2 storey dwellings on a single lot.
276 Wattletree Rd. 3 storey building with 6 dwellings and a shop. Car parking dispensation.
3 Waverley Rd. Restaurant and car parking dispensation.
16 Hilda St. Two 2storey buildings on a single lot.
19 Prior Rd. Alterations and additions to existing dwelling and a 2 storey dwelling at rear.
20 Paxton St. Two 2 storey dwellings on a single lot. Permit issued.
314-316 Waverley Rd. Dwelling at rear of shop. Permit issued.
708 Waverley Rd. 3 dwellings on one lot. Permit issued.
19 Abbotsford St. Dual occupancy. New dwelling at rear. Permit issued.
45 Ardie Rd. First floor addition to dwelling in a Heritage Overlay. Permit refused.

VCAT Hearings

32 Serrell St. Part demolition of dwelling and outbuilding and construction of rear upper level on a lot under 500 sq.m. in a Heritage Overlay.
Against Conditions. Awaiting Date.
52-56 The Boulevard Development of land for a Childcare Centre.
Against Refusal to Grant a Permit. April 2 and 3.
4-6 Clarence St. Dance School in a Res.1 Zone. Against Decision to Grant a Permit. Awaiting decision.
16 Wilmot St. Two 2 storey dwellings on a single lot. Against Decision to Grant a Permit. Permit issued by VCAT. It's a loss for residents.
1409-1413 High St. Harold Holt Pool. Building and works within an SBO, convenience restaurant and car parking dispensation.
Against Decision to Grant a Permit. Feb.26/07
15 Rowena Rd. Dual occupancy. New dwelling at rear of site. Against Decision to Grant. Awaiting Decision.
12 Edna St. Additions to a dwelling in a Heritage Overlay. Against conditions. Mediation Hearing Jan.15/07.

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