



Malvern East Group

MEG Supports *PLANNING BACKLASH*

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VALE LEON HILL

*Leon was a Stonnington City Councillor from 1996 to 2004. He was Mayor in 2001-2002. I did not know Leon well but I do remember that he introduced the gavel at Council Meetings in order to quell the riots..(well, near riots)...and that he wielded that gavel with great enthusiasm. I also remember that the best he could ever say about the Planning Policies of the then State Government(s) was to state frequently and emphatically the words that live on today **"It's planning by arithmetic!"***

MEG NEWSLETTER JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

From the Convenor's desk

I'm going to begin this year by saying something nice about Chadstone Shopping Centre! Here goes!

Entering CSC from Chadstone Rd. one is treated to a simply beautiful display of red Crepe Myrtle trees. The garden at the roundabout near the David Jones carpark is a joy. A number of Crepe Myrtles form a crimson umbrella that is breath-taking when the trees are in full bloom. CSC is to be commended for its landscaping.

Having said that you might want to know that the same people have applied to have MORE shops. In Council's Notice Paper of Feb.5/2018 there is a report on a planning application to modify the east mall and "Atrium" space so that the leasable floor area can be increased by 1,148 sq.m. They want to align the "Atrium" space with the **design aesthetic** (?) of the upgraded northern mall...AND ...there'll be a new SCULPTURE feature! So good to know that! These works are exempt from public notification because they are within the Interim Planning Overlay (IPO).

When will "enough be enough" for this shopping centre? I think NEVER!
And don't forget that the 13 storey hotel is about to rise above it all in the very near future.

Smart Planning.... Exempt from public notification...

MEG was asked by a non-government source in November 2017 if we had received notification of DELWP's intention "*to remove unnecessary clutter from planning rules and reduce red tape for homes owners and business.*" Needless to say we hadn't heard, nor had Planning Backlash. In fact NO community group had heard! DELWP had been consulting with all of the major industry and planning peak bodies for months with not a word to THE PEOPLE! With only week to go before the closing date for submissions Mary Drost, Convenor of Planning Backlash, sent an angry submission to DELWP and within a couple of days the due date for submissions was extended by a week. MEG consulted with the Secretary of the Macedon Ranges Residents' Association and the Brunswick Network and we were given much information in 'simple language' rather than 'planning speak.' This went out to all the groups in the Planning Backlash network. Armed with this MEG

submitted a somewhat angry response with a few significant details. Our submission is on the MEG website.

MEG acknowledges that the Planning system is somewhat 'cluttered' but we are strongly opposed to the Planning Minister's Dept. **consulting only** with the people who make money out of Planning while ignoring the people who are affected by it and we are disturbed by the fact that this is only the beginning. What is to come is an increase in VicSmart applications. These are 'small' applications for which there will be exemption from advertising and Council Planning Department will make a decision within 10 days and all of that will lead eventually to 'Code Assess' which is assessment by the developer with no input from residents. To add insult to injury we received from DELWP on January 18 a note to say that the Department was *"excited to deliver Smart Planning initiatives"* with more to come **after** they read the 250 submissions!

In the Herald Sun (Nov. 2017) John Masanauskas reported that *"The Urban Planning Development Institute of Australia wants the State Government to set up a super planning authority to take over complex decision-making from councils in growth areas."*

The whole of Melbourne is a GROWTH area so that means all of us!!

Growth areas

Herald Sun.. Feb.9/2018 *"Areas like Footscray, Yarraville, St. Kilda and Collingwood are doing the heavy lifting when it comes to providing housing for Melbourne's booming population in the suburbs."* The article reports 234,000 dwellings in major developments were either under construction or in the pipeline. CBD counted for more than a quarter of these. Next came the areas we've noted, then Boroondara with 6,463 and **Stonnington with 8,318**. Please note that the article only mentions 6 municipalities and also only mentions **major** developments not the endless dual occs., nor the 3 & 4 storey aberrations that residents vigorously oppose.

Amendment C223...Glenferrie Rd/High St...Major Activity Centre...Panel Report

MEG received the Panel Report from DELWP in late December '17. We are now on the mailing list of DELWP so we get information very quickly. Might come in handy!

The Government-appointed Panel considered all submissions (so the report said) and found "that the proposed Structure Plan strikes the right balance between protecting the Activity Centre's considerable heritage values and enabling growth." One resident said that the entire Amendment was 'ill-conceived.' Council's recommendation for an 8 storey limit at the Malvern Central site was dismissed and the Panel has allowed a 12 storey height.

(From the Convenor....not good but better than eighteen!!)

There was general acceptance of 5 storey developments in the Activity Centre.

Re Cabrini...Council stated that *"Cabrini Hospital had not attempted to respond to its surrounding residential context."* Council said further that it was *"open to the development of an Incorporated Plan Overlay for the Cabrini Hospital site SHOULD CABRINI PROPOSE ONE!"* Cabrini representatives said that the hospital should not be constrained by the height regulations that apply to the area in which it resides.

Cabrinirumours abound...true or false?

Is it true or false that construction was halted on the Wattletree/Isabella site because asbestos had been found?

Is it true or false that Cabrini is in the process of preparing plans for a new 8 storey building to replace the older building on the Coonil Crescent side of the hospital?

Is it true or false that at an Information Session re the present 7 storey development the Planner for Cabrini Property Group said to a group of 5 residents, 'We're an institution. We can do what we like.'? *(From the Convenor....I was in that group! It's true!)*

Land Valuations

Members of the Community Consultation Committee were told at a meeting in Spring St. in December 2017 that handing over all land valuations to the Valuer General for annual valuations was the first step towards privatisation of the Titles Office. State Government has decreed that ALL land valuations will have to be given to the Valuer General by 2022. Until Council Meeting of February 5 there were 15 Councils that had not agreed. On Feb.5/2018 Stonnington Council voted to do what the Government wants so now there are 14 Councils resisting Government pressure.

Now when/ if the Titles Office is For Sale who do you think will want to buy it?

Percy Treyvaud Park Master Plan.... Chadstone Bowls Club *et al*

See Council Notice Paper Feb.5/2018 for full report.

A process has been established to make decisions re Percy Treyvaud Park ..e.g. the location of a new multi-purpose sport & recreation facility to host 4 indoor sports courts, Chadstone Bowls Club, Chadstone Tennis Club, Chadstone Recreation and Civic Club and summer and winter users of the sportsground including the Chadstone Lacrosse Club....and, remember, all of this is to go into the Park **without encroaching by even 1mm into 'public open space.'** There will be a Steering Committee chaired by Cr. Stefanopoulos with Crs. Atwell and Kocic as members of the Committee. Cr. Atwell will be the Chair of the Stakeholder Group. There will be representatives from each of the stakeholders groups...all of the above sporting groups plus Prahran Netball Association, Cricket Club, Basketball Victoria and traders from the Chadstone Rd. shopping strip. Senior Council staff, including the CEO, will be on the Committee....(not sure which Committee...perhaps both) plus other staff members as required, project support persons, consultants, and Sports & Recreation Victoria.

From May to October 2018 the Master Plan process will be undertaken and will go to Council in November 2018 and then in May 2019 there'll be a concept schematic design, detailed design/documentation will go to Council and tenders process will occur in May/June 2019 with the Contract awarded in July 2019.

\$36.4 million later....what will we have? Still the same amount of Public Open Space we hope, a stadium for netball and basketball...(mostly basketball, we hear)...a displaced Bowls Club.. (perhaps, perhaps not...who knows?)...and PLEASE no artificial turf. We remember Dr. Greg Moore's words at MEG meeting in 2017 about artificial turf..."they're cooking the kids" AND "it contains carcinogens."

Villers Bretonneux Centenary Commemoration

In 1919 the War Service Homes Commission was formed to provide housing for men who had served during the war and for the widows of those who had died during the war. The Squares in Malvern East was named after the French village of Villers and Bretonneux and houses were built around them and in the surrounding streets. The entire area is now protected covered by a Heritage overlay. To commemorate the centenary of the battle the

two squares will be re-furbished and the work is estimated to be \$48,972. The ceremony will be held on **April 21/2018 at 11.00a.m.** Information can be found in Council Notice Paper Feb.5/2018.

Caulfield Racecourse Reserve

Across the highway there are 54 hectares of Public Land. The management of the Reserve has been the subject of a scathing report by the Auditor General. There have been recommendations made by whoever happens to be the relevant Minister in whatever year and STILL this land is managed and used by the MRC for the benefit of the MRC and not for the benefit of the true owners. State Government has now decided that it will be managed by a Trust and in 2017 DELWP called for nominations. A MEG member has nominated and it's interesting to note that a couple of racing type organisations have done a search for him on the Internet. Has DELWP circulated names of nominees to racing interests? Perish the thought! MEG's belief is that the MRC seeks to continue its control of our land.

Nominations have closed. We can report that 50 people have nominated for a position on the Trust and 5-7 will be chosen. We are not aware of the criteria that will be used to select the Trust members.

We hope that DELWP considers people who wish to have the community use a large portion of the 54 hectares in the same way the VRC is planning to use Flemington Racecourse.

Residents distraught.....

(The Age Jan31/'18) State Government has cut down dozens of gum trees ***"2 days before a community meeting to discuss it \$114million plan to remove a level crossing in Essendon."***

This vandalism included the destruction of 17 sugar gums which were on Council's Significant Tree Register. MEG wept...just as we have wept about the destruction of hundreds of trees for the ubiquitous Sky Rail to the immediate south of Stonnington and the simultaneous destruction of hundreds of trees for Metro Rail and the hundreds of trees destroyed by VicRoads when building roads to by-pass country towns and 15 more trees to go to improve traffic flow on Hoddle St. Punt Rd. Has this Government NO IDEA of what it is doing to the very air we breathe by this maniacal process? Is it so lacking in basic intelligence to know that destruction of trees destroys the very air we breathe? We quote Dr. Greg Moore again, "You start nibbling away at your urban tree population and it's possible that you lose a whole forest, simply by removing one tree at a time."

Well, Greg, we don't lose just one tree at a time. We lose swathes of them each time State Government has a 'thought bubble' about a road or a level crossing or a by-pass.

Snippet about Chadstone

In the Herald Sun on Jan.30 we noticed a small paragraph in which it was reported that *"Billionaire John Gandel and the listed Vicinity Centres had lost a legal battle with department store Myer over rental payments at landmark Chadstone."* You might remember that Myer was being sued late 2016 over the lease arrangements. Apparently the owners of CSC believed that Myer owed "money for rent." MYER WON THE CASE!

Cladding blow to owners The Age Jan. 20/18...Madeleine Heffernan wrote that *"Apartment owners will be slugged up to \$60,000 to fix dangerous cladding after a court ruled the building watchdog could not force builders to repair apartment blocks once residents are able to move in."* Appalling decision? Of course it's appalling. Some

watchdog we've got! Up to 1400 towers have been identified as having non-compliant cladding.

We've heard on the grapevine that the building DELWP occupies has non-compliant cladding. If that's true WHO will pay for that one? The Planning Minister?

Letters to the Age on Jan.22 made various apt suggestions....one writer said, *"As for the building 'watch dog'...how appropriately named is that? Let's get rid of one that just watches and get one that actually bites!"*

Another said, *"How is it that the builders are not responsible for repairing 1400 buildings...including 8 public hospitals...on which they have installed non-compliant, flammable cladding?"* And another indicated that *"the court got it wrong?"*

Malvern Primary School

Heritage Victoria has issued a Permit for the construction of 2 storey additions to Senior Classrooms at rear of site with associated landscape works. The Title boundary is to be re-drawn as Council and the school did a land swap during 2017.

Most of you will be aware that the school has exclusive use of the Council-owned Penpraze Park from 8.30a.m. to 4.30p.m. every school day. At Council Meeting of Feb.5 a letter was tabled from a resident who lives west of Penpraze Park. The letter-writer deplored the state of the park and asked the Ward Councillor to make enquiries about its use and management. Cr. Davis asked questions of the appropriate officer about the arrangement between Council and the school re the use of the Park and the financial arrangements re its upkeep. The officer took the question On Notice. We will let you know about that.

Some of the Planning Applications & VCAT Hearings in our area.

100 Waverley Rd. (McDonalds) Building & works. \$2,200,000 for façade upgrade, expansion of McCafe, additional 'drive thru' window and corner window, canopy extended over 'drive thru', modified entrance on western elevation, replacement of barriers with planter bollards, minor internal modifications.

116 Burke Rd. Constr. of a 3 storey apt. building with basement parking.

74-76 Chadstone Rd. Multi-dwelling dev. Refusal to Grant. VCAT appeal Against Refusal. Compulsory Conference April 10. (This is the gem with the 'floating eaves'.)

45 Washington St. Dual occ. in NRZ.

1045 Dandenong Rd. Constr. of 3 dwellings in GRZ.

69 Brunel St. Dual occ. in NRZ with an NCO

9 Pererill St. Dual occ. in NRZ. Info req.

79 Brunel St. Dual occ, in NRZ with an NCO.

7 Wilmot St. Dual occ. in NRZ with NCO. Info. req.

152 Darling Rd. Constr. of additional dwellings on a lot in GRZ with an SBO.

102,104 & 106 Burke Rd. & 2A & 2 B Nyora St. Multi-dwelling development and reduction is visitor parking req. FTD VCAT June 18 for 4 days.

79 Burke Rd. Pt.dem., bldgs. & works to a dwelling on a lot less than 500sq.m. in GRZ and H.O. Against Decision to Grant. July 9.

22 & 22A Winter St. Malvern Demolition of oldest house in the street and constr. of 3 double storey developments each with 5 bedrooms, basement car parking and rooftop terrace and abutting Edsall St.H.O. to the rear of site.