



Malvern East Group

MEG Supports *PLANNING BACKLASH*

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

Newsletter June-July 2007

From the Working Group

MEG is an active member of *PLANNING BACKLASH*. This is a coalition of over 90 groups (yes, we've grown!) from across the metropolitan area and some country areas. On May 6/07 MEG hosted a meeting of representatives from about 40 of these groups at Northbrook House. Our guest speaker was Professor Kevin O'Connor from Melbourne University who talked about his alternative strategic plan for Melbourne. It would be great if the Bracks Government were capable of considering alternatives to M2030 which is gradually destroying the neighbourhood character of Melbourne's suburbs.

At the end of the meeting there was unanimous approval for a motion to request Minister Madden to have at least 4 representatives of *PLANNING BACKLASH* on the M2030 Review Committee (which has now morphed into an "Audit" committee). We contacted our email members and asked them to write to the Minister endorsing this request. If you did that "Thank You." If you are not on email and want to support us you can write a supporting letter now. Address it to:

The Hon. Justin Madden
Minister for Planning
Level 17, 8 Nicholson St
Melbourne VIC 3000

email:
justin.madden@parliament.vic.gov.au

At a meeting with the Minister on May 10 he agreed to consider the request. He also agreed to have regular meetings with members of the coalition.

John Masanauskas of the Herald Sun reported this meeting on May 7/07 in an article titled ***Suburban Bracks-lash***. The article included comments from

Dr. Bob Birrell of Monash University, Mary Drost Convenor of *PLANNING BACKLASH* and Ann Reid Convenor of MEG, all vigorous opponents of M2030.

N.B (News just received) Further to our request for representation on the M2030 Review Committee, on June 7 Peter Kavanagh DLP Upper House asked Minister Madden if this had been granted. The Minister talked around it and, needless to say, did not answer the question. Mary Drost talked to the Minister after the session and he has agreed to meet with representatives from the groups...not at one meeting! He will have a few meetings with small numbers from each region. This is being organised and reps are urged to concentrate on the need for representation on the committee.

N.B. (News keeps coming in) Not at any of our meetings with either Minister Hulls or Madden have we been told us that they were not telling us the truth about an M2030 Review. (Are we surprised?) A Press Release to the Herald Sun on June 10 and printed on June 12 announced that they would be having an *audit* of M2030 and the experts have been appointed. Will this be like the audit of the Kerang level crossing which declared the crossing safe? Group reps from *PLANNING BACKLASH* will still be having informal meetings with Minister Madden in the near future...more fudge!

Snippets

Reg Hunt Site

Malvern East Pty Ltd., owner of the Reg Hunt site has obtained another extension of permit for the 6 storey development on the edge of the Urban Forest. Despite the huge "For Sale With Permit" and 3 flags announcing "Land For Sale" no buyer has appeared.

Tatts Building

This building on the corner of Dandenong and Tooronga Rds. has been sold. Here's hoping there won't be another Reg Hunt saga!

Chadstone

It came as no surprise that the Gandel Corporation and First Colonial, co-owners of Chadstone Shopping Centre, were granted a permit on May 7/07 to build an additional level on the multi-level carpark on the south west corner of the site.

Warning to Homeowners in Heritage Overlays

Planning Applications for alterations and additions to houses in Heritage Overlays need not be advertised unless the site is under 500sq.m. Many are advertised, some are not. The Planning Department makes this decision. Unless information has been relayed through neighbours residents can find a 2 storey extension being constructed beside them with no prior warning. (This happened to two of our members.)

In making a decision re these applications Council can only take into consideration the heritage issues. In deciding not to advertise Council denies residents the right to appeal to VCAT and employ a heritage advisor with contrary views to the one employed by Council.

On a site less than 500 sq.m. and for more than one dwelling on a site amenity issues must be considered and these applications must be advertised. Single dwellings outside Heritage Overlays are never advertised unless the site is under 500sq.m.

In a win for residents following questioning by MEG, we have been informed that all future Planning Applications in Heritage Overlays will be advertised.

Stonington Mansion – a Victorian Icon in the Heart of Stonnington

Council has reluctantly agreed to re-zone this site To Res.1 This Amendment to the Planning Scheme will be advertised towards the end of June and Hamton PL have prepared a Planning Application for development of the site. If Council had not agreed to the re-zoning Deakin University intended to pursue a Ministerial Amendment. Hamton conducted an information session on June 13.

This is an alienation of public land. On May 2nd, Matthew Guy, Shadow Planning Minister, moved in the Upper House that a committee of 7 members be appointed to inquire into:-

- (a) the sale or alienation of public land for development.
- (b) the sale or alienation of public open space for the purpose of private development
- (c) the sale and development of public land and the relationship to the M2030 policy and green wedges.

MEG has approached Councillors from the 3 Stonnington Wards and suggested that Council prepare a submission to be presented to the Select Committee in relation to Stonington Mansion and grounds and Council has agreed to do so.

It is interesting to note that a reply to an FOI request by Stonnington Council for documents before and post the sale of the land, including negotiations for sale and that the land is included in the Deakin University Toorak Campus has resulted in the following statement... "no documents could be located in respect to your request." Further investigation is taking place.

Planning Applications

The following applications are for partial demolition, additions and alterations to single houses in Heritage Overlays:

- 1 Heatherleigh Place* (Permit Issued)
- 68 Emo Rd.*
- 30-32 Finch St.*
- 11 Villers Sq.* Recommendation for Approval by the Planning Dept. Refused by Council on June 4.
- 11 Kerferd St.*
- 276 Wattletree Rd.*
- 52 Kerferd St.*
- 20 Coppin St.*
- 8 Beaver St.*
- 73 Burke Rd.*
- 52 Repton Rd.*
- 1962 Malvern Rd.*
- 35 Ardrie Rd.*
- 74 Nirvana Av.*
- 13 Nirvana Av.* Demolition of dwelling.

In a Heritage Overlay on lots under 500sq.m:

- 47c Coppin St.*
- 37c Tooronga Rd.*
- 1141 Dandenong Rd*

Also in Heritage Overlays:

1173 Dandenong Rd. Partial demolition and works to construct 2 dwellings .

1407-1409 Dandenong Rd. 7 lot subdivision.

1143 Dandenong Rd. Extension to multi-unit development.

Applications outside Heritage Overlays:

1023 Dandenong Rd. Use and development of site for student housing and carparking dispensation.l

790-792 Warrigal Rd. 3 storey building for 20 dwellings with basement carpark.

19 Prior Rd. Alterations and additions to existing dwelling and second dwelling on single lot.

16 Hilda St. Construction of two 2 storey dwellings on a single lot.

16 Alma St. Development of four 2 storey units.

283-285 Tooronga Rd. Development of site for 11 dwellings with a part 3 storey building.

52 Belgrave Rd. Demolition of existing house and construction of two 2 storey dwellings. (Applicant has submitted

amended and application will be re-advertised.

3 Waverley Rd. Restaurant and car parking dispensation. (Permit Issued.)

30 Macgregor St. Alterations and 1st floor extension to dwelling on a lot under 500sq.m.

29 Brunel St. New dwelling in a Neighbourhood Character Overlay.

VCAT Hearings:

1409 High St. (Harold Holt Pool) Against Decision to Grant. 20/7/07

67-69 Finch St. Against Refusal to Grant. 16/4/07. Awaiting Decision.

32 Serrell St. Against Conditions. 19/4/07. Appeal dismissed.

45 Ardrie Rd. Against Refusal to Grant. 4/5/07 Awaiting Decision.

60 Tooronga Rd. Against Failure to Determine. 5/7/07

Membership Subscriptions

Membership Subscriptions are due on July 1st 2007. A Membership Application Form is attached.

Only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize that we cannot eat money – Cree Indian Proverb.

Have you visited MEG's website?

<http://www.chezsamuel.com/meghome.php>

MEG's postal address:

c/o 14 Chanak St

Malvern East VIC 3145



MALVERN EAST GROUP
 C/- 14 Chanak Street,
 East Malvern Vic 3145
 Telephone: 95723205 email meg@chezsamuel.com

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Family Name: _____ Given Names: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Business): _____

FAX: _____ Email: _____

I wish to become a member of MALVERN EAST GROUP (MEG).

Signature of Applicant.....Date.....

Membership contribution \$5.00 per person Total \$ _____

This membership is for the year ending 30 June 2008.

Receipt Required Yes/No



MALVERN EAST GROUP
 C/- 14 Chanak Street,
 East Malvern Vic 3145
 Telephone: 95723205 email meg@chezsamuel.com

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