



MALVERN EAST GROUP

c/- 14 Chanak St, Malvern East VIC 3145

www.chezsamuel.com/meghome.php

(03) 9572 3205

some

1.

MEG NEWSLETTER...JULY/ AUGUST 2014

From the Convenor's desk

My thought for this month...we are constantly exhorted to encourage development in the suburbs. At a recent meeting I heard a quiet voice say, "Don't they realize that they're already developed!" Clearly not the present Government, nor the previous one, nor the previous one has understood such a simple concept. Our suburbs are already developed so leave us alone. Go away and **plant a city**. Canberra's a 'planted city.' Select a sheep paddock and build a city from scratch. There are plenty of paddocks in Victoria. We have an unused desalination plant, a plethora of planners and architects and stacks of developers. Let them loose in a paddock and leave us in peace.

Ponder this while you spend your energies opposing the next inappropriate development in or near your backyard.

Membership Subscriptions

It's that time of the year again. MEG subscriptions expired on June 30. We'll attach a Membership Renewal Form to this newsletter. If you intend to renew your membership we would appreciate it if you would do so ASAP.

2 Important Dates

Put these dates in your diary...

Oct. 1...MEG Annual General Meeting...Guest Speaker Michael O'Brien MP. St. Joseph's Hall...Stanhope St. Malvern. 7.30p.m.

Oct. 13...Debate on the population issue between Lord Mayor Robert Doyle & Kelvin Thompson MP...Deakin Edge ... Federation Square...5.30-7p.m.

More about these events at a later date.

Amendment C187 ...the Zones.

Title of Leader article (June 24) was somewhat misleading. "***New zones to keep highrises out of heritage areas***" is not what the "zones" legislation is about. 'Highrises' will be excluded from **all** NRZ & GRZ areas. (This doesn't mean that another 18 storey 'thing' can't be built **adjacent to** such a zone!)

Minister Guy has signed off on C187. In doing so he has accepted the entire Amendment as presented by Council. This was the right thing to do considering that in comparison with other municipalities we asked for so little.

Our thanks go to all those MEG members who wrote to Minister Guy and to our local MP Michael O'Brien about this matter.

Plan Melbourne

This strategic plan for Melbourne and the regions has been signed off by Minister Guy. It replaces M2030 & Melbourne at 5 Million. It is designed to house an extra 3 million people (at least) in Melbourne alone. MEG believes that the good thing about this Plan is that through the "zones" legislation some of the highly valued suburbs of this city will have some protection against the ubiquitous multi-storey developments. The Plan has a million clichés that can be interpreted by anyone any which way so you can guess what will happen. We still have ResCode and Local Planning Policies.

2.

Amendment C175...Neighbourhood Character Policy

Would you believe that this Amendment was started in 2005? It was submitted to the then Planning Minister Justin Madden in 2007 and sat on a number of desks for 4 years. When the present Government came to power over 3 years ago Minister Guy refused the Amendment....and it was the right thing to do. In 4 years it had not only gathered considerable dust but also it was out-dated.

Since then Council has prepared another Neighbourhood Character Policy. MEG (and others) lodged a submission to Council last year and the Panel process commenced a couple of months ago. We declined an invitation to speak to the Panel Hearing...(just too much to do at the time.) After a few submissions were made at the Hearing the Amendment was put on hold by the Panel while we awaited a decision on the "Zones" Amendment. Council, Malvern Meadows Group, Larkfield Holdings, LendLease & Cabrini were in attendance at Panel.

Needless to say, Cabrini's position is to "abandon the Amendment." This, of course, is not Council's position nor is it MEG's. The Panel will commence hearing submissions again in September or October at 1 Spring St. Ring 8290 1395 for final date.

Federal Government asks for help!

In the HS July 2 we noticed this..."*The Federal Government wants advice about how and where to plant 20 million trees by 2020.*"

Well now....how about they start such a wonderful campaign by stopping the destruction of trees by developers? Then they could put in place a '**green corridors**' project, planting trees along every railway line in Australia. A Government 'jobs' initiative could be to employ people to dig a hole and plant a tree on every housing lot in the nation.

We could all write to the Federal Environment Minister with suggestions for 20 million trees.

Are you a 'NIMBY' or a "BANANA?"

We all know what NIMBYs are and some of us proudly wear the name knowing that it was bestowed on us by the 'DENSIFICATION BULLIES.' In the Age July 4 Mr. Abbott "*hit out at opponents of development*" calling us BANANAS...'Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone.'(It's an old one Mr. Abbott!)

Actually, we don't mind highrise buildings as long as they are built beside the homes of all State and Federal politicians...and developers!

Bad Builders

In the Age June 22, "*The Napthine government has backed away from key building reforms designed to better protect homeowners in the face of opposition from the building industry.*" The article goes on to quote the CEO of the Master Builders' Association of Victoria who said the government had "*agreed not to proceed with the building legislation amendment bill in its current form.....the reforms would "impact builders and their businesses every day.*" Gosh!!! Not a lot of thought being given to the victims of bad builders in this 'back off' by the Government.

Inferior Design in highrise

June 14 (Age) "*Windowless bedrooms exist in almost 1 quarter of new residential development studies.*" We can't believe that this has just been discovered. It's been going on for years. The Australian Institute of Architects is calling for minimum apartment design and the Victorian Government Architect is preparing a set of apartment design standards. And MEG says, "**It's about time!**" Residents' groups have known for years that many apartment buildings were only about making a quick buck...It's a "throw 'em up and sell 'em off" attitude. It's astonishing that the Government has only just found out about this. Some of these apartments would be illegal in countries such as New York, Hong Kong and London. (Age June 11) Stonnington Council is working with the Government Architect to establish in our Local Planning Scheme minimum size and minimum standards for

3.

apartments. In the meantime residents are subjected to "town cramming."

Long Term Parking in Local Streets.

Apparently this is a perennial problem that is likely to be exacerbated now that there are no Registration Labels. If there are no parking restrictions in your street Council cannot take any action about what appears to be an abandoned vehicle if it is registered. Residents who have access to a computer can check if a vehicle is registered or not by going to the VicRoads website registration page...<http://vicroads.vic.gov.au> If it's not registered contact Tenix on 9200 8215, skip the Menu, press 5 and report the situation. Vehicles without plates is another issue. VicRoads has received confidential advice from State Government Legal about this matter but **it's so confidential no-one is allowed to know what it is...not even those with enforcement powers... like Council!**

Heritage Victoria

Tim Smith is the new Executive Director of Heritage Victoria. (NOT ex-Cr. Tim Smith!) Tim has a staff and then there's the Council of Heritage Victoria which is a Panel of 10 people appointed by the Planning Minister and it's that Panel that has the final say on all Heritage matters. But wait....there's more! There's a higher authority...a Department that handles Statutory Planning and Heritage. The Statutory part of it attends to the Amendments on Planning that are awaiting the Planning Minister's signature...(so that's where they all are!!!). That Dept. appoints the Executive Director (now Tim Smith) and the head of that Department is Jim Gardner.

And the comment from the source of this information is..."What a convoluted mess!" And what MEG can't fathom is, "What's Tim Smith's role in all of this?"

191-193 Wattletree Rd.

There is a notice outside this property stating that the owner is going to the Supreme Court AGAIN! It appears that they seek to minimise opposition to removal of the Covenant by limiting the beneficiaries to just one. The case will be heard in the Supreme Court at 436 Lonsdale St. on July 24 at 10.30.

875-879 Dandenong Rd.

Having received a permit for a 7 storey building the applicant has now decided that he'd like to have 8. An application for an 8th storey was lodged with Council but the applicant lodged the wrong plans. Ah well...!!!

887 Dandenong Rd.

This is an application for an 8 storey building on the corner of Finch St. and Dandenong Rd. It's a **BLACK** 8 storey building...a great gateway to the Gascoigne! It's not too late to lodge an objection if you haven't already done so. Some of you will be familiar with that complicated traffic situation at that corner. Well, this is going to make it a whole lot worse. The car access for 31 car spaces is in Finch St. just where cars are turning from the service lane into Finch and cars are whizzing round that bend into Finch from Dandenong Rd. There's an interesting twist to this application and we'll tell you about in our next newsletter.

Chadstone Shopping Centre

Bus. Age May 17 reported that early works and demolition "will start in June." The Age went on to report that "Construction is expected to begin in September with staged openings until 2016. This refers to the Hoyts Cinemas area. Spare a thought for residents whose houses abut that site. Chadstone.com.au for further information.

Cresthaven...1(a) The Avenue & 239 & 241 Waverley Rd. The Yellow Notice is posted on this huge site. Demolition of existing buildings...3 storeys, 118 residents, 56 basement car spaces. (So much to be demolished!) More details in our last newsletter.

Caulfield Racecourse Development

We're told that VicRoads made a few minor adjustments to the traffic movements in Stages 1, 2 and 3 of this development and a compliant Council approved it despite the fact (as MEG was told) that what is to be done contravenes the Incorporated Plan. So much for Incorporated Plans! Chadstone was given permission to exceed its Incorporated Plan too. It seems that there's not much point in going to the trouble of having institutions prepare such a plan, getting input from residents and having it approved by Council only for them to exceed it.

New MEG Member offers assistance

A very recent addition to our ranks is a Justice of the Peace and is willing to offer his services in that capacity to any MEG member. Ring MEG on 9572 3205 if you want John's contact details. He lives round the Manning Rd. area.

Planning Applications

We list some of the recent application and indicate the status of some other applications we have listed in previous newsletters.

12 Thurso St. Ext. to existing dwelling & constr. of 2nd dwelling on site. Permit Refused

2 Maroora St. Constr. of 3 dwellings on a lot.

23 Coolgardie Av. Constr. of 2nd dwelling on a lot in a H.O. Amended plans to be received.

336 Waverley Rd. Pt. dem., bldgs. & works & parking dispensation ass. With use of site as dwellings & existing use as a Post Office...in Commercial Zone & H.O.

26-28 Emo Rd. Alterations to existing dwelling & 2 other dwellings on the lot. Adv. complete. FTD possible.

36 Ferncroft Av. Constr. of 3 dwellings on a lot. Info. received. To be advertised.

16 Ardrie Rd. Extension of existing dwelling & constr. of boundary to boundary 2nd dwelling on a lot. Cons. Mtg. May 29. Awaiting planner assessment.

114-116 Argyll St. 10 dwellings on a lot. 3 storeys & basement. Cons. Mtg. June 25. FTD possible.

28 Midlothian St. 2 dwellings on a lot. Info received. Advertising required.

636 Warrigal Rd. 2 dwellings on a lot. Lapsed.

14 Arcadia Av. 2 dwellings on a lot. Permit issued.

1A Bowen St. 3 dwellings on a lot. NOD issued.

1 Sylvester Cr. 3 storey de. Cons. Mtg. held. Amended to be submitted.

1-3 Olive St. Pt. demolition & use & dev. of land for a child care centre for 145 children and parking dispensation. Cons. Mtg. held. FTD possible.

2.4 Alma St. 2 dwellings on a lot. FTD possible.

875-879 Dandenong Rd. Application for an 8th storey on 7 storey dev.

19 Rotherwood Dr. Constr. of 3 dwellings on a lot. Info req.

37 Darling Rd. Constr. of 3 dwellings on a lot. Info. req.

83 Alma St. Constr. of additional dwelling on a lot. To be advertised.

887 Dandenong Rd. Multi-unit dev. of 8 storeys. Parking dispensation.

1 Beech St. Amendment to Planning Permit & extension of time. Refusal. (Begun in 2003.)

18 Goode St. Constr. of 2 dwelling son a lot. On advertising.

30 Argyll St. Additional dwelling on a lot. Advertising required.

8 Nyora St. 3 storey multi-unit dev. 11 units. Info. requested.

86 Burke Rd. 3 storey apartment bldg. Parking dispensation.

7 Darling Rd. Construction of two 2-storey dwellings.

90 Manning Rd. Dual Occ. NOD issued. VCAT appeal against NOD. Awaiting date.



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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR PERIOD TO JUNE 30

Family Name: _____

Given Names: _____

Email: _____

If your physical address and other contact details have changed, please attach your new details

If you have E-mail, please provide your email address above to ensure that we have a correct current
E-mail

Please renew my membership of the MALVERN EAST GROUP (MEG)

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

Membership contribution...\$5.00 per person

Total \$_____

N.B Couples can use the one form.