



Malvern East Group

MEG Supports *PLANNING BACKLASH*

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Newsletter Oct-Nov 2007

From the Working Group

At our AGM on September 5, the Financial Statement, prepared by Remy was presented by Ron Syle and I gave a Convenor's Report outlining the activities for the year. Matthew Guy, Shadow Minister for Planning, spoke with passion about the disastrous results of the Government's M2030 plan, at the same time admitting that the Kennett Government did not exactly do wonderful things in planning. People rang the following day congratulating MEG on an interesting meeting and commenting on the pleasant atmosphere we've developed amongst members. It's a pity so many of you missed it. If you have any suggestions about future meetings please let us know.

Our special thanks to Ron and Olwyn Syle and Rachel Davies who were towers of strength at the meeting. Thanks, too, to Councillors Ullin, O'Shea and Hindle for attending and to Councillors Chandler, Gahan and Stefanopoulos for sending their apologies.

Submissions Forms from the M2030 Audit were available on the night. Alas, not too many were taken. This was our last chance to tell the Government formally what we think of M2030. A total of 204 submissions were received by the Audit Expert Group, we know of 6 MEG members who submitted. Thank you for your efforts.

Membership Renewals

Membership Renewals were due on July 1st. If you have not yet renewed we would appreciate your doing so. If you don't wish to continue your MEG Membership, please advise us and we will take you off the mailing list. Thanks to all those people who continue to support us.

Northbrook House

We told you in our last newsletter that we had been granted 3 uses of Northbrook for our meetings. Council has decided to use Northbrook to house the archives of Prahran and Malvern and from Jan. '08 the house will not be available for use by the community. As one MEG member lamented... "What a terrible waste!". We will be offered an alternative venue. In the meantime it would be great if MEG members sent a letter to Mayor and Councillors deploring the loss of Northbrook House as a community meeting place. The decision by Council was not unanimous.

Select Committee on Public Land

We felt that Council's submission to the Select Committee did not truly reflect the anger that hundreds of Stonnington residents (and certainly many MEG members) felt about the sale of Stonnington Mansion by Deakin University.

Consequently, we applied for an extension of time and submitted a somewhat more passionate submission to the Select Committee. We were fortunate in having some interesting documents that had been released under FOI to support our outrage at the whole process. Over 100 submissions have been made to the Select Committee from all over Victoria. These are public documents and can be viewed on the website:

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/committee/publicland/sub.html>

(or go to Google and type ...Select Committee on Public Land Victoria.) MEG's submission is listed under Malvern East Group...Public Land in Malvern. If you wish we could forward a copy to you.

Stonnington Mansion is a tragic loss of public land. Hamton JV has lodged a Planning Application for partial demolition of the

Mansion and construction of 79 dwellings
with tennis court and swimming pool.

Planning Backlash

We booked Northbrook House for a meeting of the Planning Backlash Working Group on October 21 to prepare for the 3rd and final meeting with the Minister which was to be on October 25. For the second time, this has been deferred and is now scheduled for Nov.28. An ABC representative came to the meeting. The ABC is planning a series on Heritage and Planning issues. We have a meeting with the Hon. David Davis MLC and Matthew Guy MLC on October 31. We want them to push the issue regarding a comprehensive review of M2030 as promised by the Government.

M2030 Audit Expert Group

Those of us who lodged a submission to the Panel received an invitation to a Workshop on Oct. 20 (on Caulfield Cup Day!) at Telstra Dome. The meeting was pre-empted by DSE issuing a glowing report of what has happened so far with M2030...unbelievable! 5 MEG members attended the workshop.

Planning Applications & VCAT Appeals

I've reported before about residents' groups (and Councillors) no longer receiving the Current Applications Register. We were told in July that a meeting would be held with people who used to receive the register ... no meeting took place. Recently, we were told that Council was trying to simplify the information on the website and that there would be a meeting about it. The meeting is imminent but as yet we have no date. We have repeatedly asked for a hard copy to be issued to no avail. We asked members at the AGM to write to the CEO, Hadley Sides, requesting that this practice be resumed.

Since then this matter has been pursued by a number of Councillors and at Council Meeting on October 29 Councillor Ullin asked when this would be available to Councillors and residents' groups. Jon Brock, General Manager of Planning and Development reported that after consultation with the CEO the hard copies would be sent out within a week. Here's hoping!

In the meantime, through endless phone calls, visits to the Planning Dept. and word of mouth, I have managed to glean the following information....

VCAT Appeals

11 Villers Sq. Hearing held on Sept.26. Awaiting decision.

1173 Dandenong Rd. Dual Occ. in Heritage Overlay. Against Refusal to Grant a Permit. Awaiting date.

52 Belgrave Rd. Dual Occ. Against Refusal to Grant a Permit. Awaiting date.

790-792 Warrigal Rd. 20 flats & basement car parking. Against Refusal to Grant a Permit (for the second time). Awaiting date.

13 Nirvana Av. Demolition of dwelling and erection of new dwelling. Against Failure to Grant a Permit.

781-805 Dandenong Rd. (Cnr Tooronga & Dandenong). Gym, shop and cafe. Against Failure to Grant a Permit. Awaiting date.

1023 Dandenong Rd. Student Acc. 27 units. Against Refusal to Grant

Planning Applications

19 Prior Rd. Dual Occ. Permit Refused by Planning Dept.

16 Alma St. Four 3 storey dwellings on one block. Called up to Council. Consultative Meeting to be held.

Chadstone Shopping Centre. Construct 2 additional levels (4 storeys) of offices outside the maximum height stipulated in the Inc. Plan of June 2005 (they're at it again!).

17 Sylvester St. Dual Occ. Approved by Council on October 29.

615 Waverley Rd. Student Acc. 16 units. Advertising complete.

Reg Hunt Site

I have checked with the Planning Dept. and the new owners of this site have not lodged new plans. But, on October 31st, Ron Syle reported that the site is being surveyed so a new application could be imminent. It's a never-ending saga.

I know there are more Planning Applications for Malvern East but am unable to give you any more information until I start receiving the Current Planning Applications Register.

Melbourne Racing Club

MRC is seeking to exhibit a proposal for high density commercial/residential development between Caulfield Racecourse and the railway line, involving land owned by MRC and some Crown Land. Part of the proposal would be up to 15 storeys. Over 1000 residential units are proposed, some dwellings, some hotel rooms or student accommodation and 35,000 sq.m. of retail

& office development. Like Monash/
Caulfield this may not be advertised.

There are 2 submissions to the Select
Committee regarding this proposal, one
from the Glen Eira Residents' Group and
one from Frank Penhallurick. MEG advised a
Glen Eira resident of the Parliamentary
Inquiry and supplied the details regarding
lodging a submission.

**A Final Thought from Melbourne
Weekly July 15/07**

*The original planners and thinkers behind
the establishment of Melbourne, then,
wanted to create a modern city and they
understood that parks and leafy
streetscapes were central to this idea.*

How have planners in the 21st century
managed to lose the plot?

*HAPPY CHRISTMAS
To all MEG members
from the Working Group*

MEG's Postal Address

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