
This record is provided as a summary of the questions asked by members of the public during Public Question Time at a meeting of the Yarra City Council. This summary includes the names of questioners, the subject matter of questions, the person providing a response and whether or not an answer was provided. An audio recording of the Council Meeting (including Public Question Time) is available on Council's website for twelve months following the meeting. **If a question is taken on notice, any response provided after the meeting is included here in red text.**

7.1 Mr Herschel Landes - Coles Plaza/ Carpark

Question:

The Bridge Road Streetscape plan that was recently tabled before, failed to provide context, funding or a vision to revitalise and reactivate Bridge Road - My question is a good example of this lack of vision.

Bridge Rd has the highest vacancy rate in Melbourne and currently reported that 40 sites have been taken off the market to become development sites.

Council has stated openly that it has no funding available to improve local amenity, notwithstanding 1000 apartments are being built/ have been built in the immediate vicinity of Richmond Hill and spilling onto the roadway without adequate footpath space.

Over the last two years Bridge Rd Mainstreet have been encouraging discussions between Council and Coles to collaborate on an off street public parking facility, as part of their development to improve amenity and public realm outcomes for the immediate area, especially with the new High School, local administration and a central sporting complex.

The offer is an added basement to provide a 180 space public underground carpark - 2 hr free, number plate recognition, with pedestrian access through its mall to an entrance and thence to Citizens park area, the new High School and the Town hall area.

I believe that Coles has now written letters to CEO of Yarra and Minister stating that they need a decision by Christmas otherwise they will proceed regardless. Coles is also apparently still waiting for Council to confirm when they are going to brief the Councillors.

Have Councillors been briefed and whether a way forward has been activated to shape a future outcome for this valuable community asset?

Response:

The Mayor responded

The Director Planning and Place Making responded

7.2 Mr John Price - Strategic Plan

Questions:

Given the number of high rise developments proposed or approved at the east end of Queens Parade, why is the promised Strategic Plan for all of Queens Parade i.e. both the retail and commercial (east end) precincts not on the agenda for tonight's meeting?

What is the current state of progress with the strategic plan, and how does this impact on current and proposed developments?

Has the Council appointed an external planning consultant to expedite this process, given the Planning Minister's willingness to consider "interim built form guidance, including mandatory maximum height controls" (letter to me 28/7/17) as he has already done for the west end of Queens Parade?

Response:

The Mayor responded

7.3 Ms Margaret O'Brien - Flower Show

Question:

There is currently notification in the Carlton Gardens asking for submissions to the Executive Director Heritage. Will Council please submit an objection or write an appropriate letter to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria stating Council's objections to the Flower show?

Council has previously, in previous years, sometimes the Mayor, sometimes the appropriate Executive written such a letter.

It occupies the gardens for about a month, the consequences of that are felt for many months after that and also before. It also fully enclosing the Carlton gardens southern part for 21 days, the period of enclosure has increased, some might say rather cynically, that increase is because of the objections being made by residents in the community to the City of Melbourne, they are responsible for the licencing the event and the responsibility for the heritage permit is with the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria because it is a World Heritage site.

Would Council, either the Mayor or whoever Councillors think appropriate, to inform themselves of that permit and to the timeline by which some commentary is required?

Response:

The Mayor responded