

## Memo

To: Amy Hodgen	diverse
Cc: Richa Swarup; Clare Lee; Blake Farmer-Bowers;	vibrant
Susan Stanes	01010000
From: Carrie Lindsay	exciting
Date: 13/04/2018	0
Subject: The Village Precinct, Alphington	inclusive

Dear Amy,

As requested, please find below comment on the concept plans submitted for the Village Precinct.

#### **Streetscape and Natural Values comments**

#### Heidelberg Road

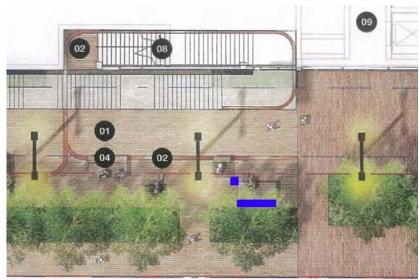
- A regular alignment of medium to large evergreen trees is supported.
- Clarification is required regarding the power line location there are currently low and high voltage overhead power lines which restrict tree planting opportunities.
- The continuous planting strip is not supported. It would be preferable to provide seat and bike parking as necessary in the space between the street trees.
- Section 1 More information is required on the extent of the steep gradient. If a retaining wall is required it is Council's preference that it be located at the kerbside edge to enable a continuous footpath space, improved tree planting conditions and improved access for tree maintenance.

#### Main Street

• The attached Council approved street profile and tree alignment should be referred to for street tree locations along Main Street. Also refer to Reeds Consulting engineering drawings (attached) for location of the pedestrian crossing.

#### **Outer Circle Mews**

- Preference for a single tree at each end of the Mews to continue the avenue of trees rather than a cluster of 4 trees at each end.
- Avoid small 'left over' spaces between street furniture and garden beds and minimise 'clutter' where possible (see below).



Avoid small spaces between and behind seats (shown in blue above). Some seating could be flush with garden beds.



• Consider viability of small garden beds along the building edge on the east side – explore vertical garden planting as an alternative approach to this space to provide cooling and vertical green interest.

#### Southern Access Lane

- A regular tree alignment on the south side is supported.
- Explore the possibility of providing further tree planting at the north/east edge (triangular space) to supplement the gap in Main Street tree planting at this location.
- Consider how the tree alignment at the south east edge relates to the Artisan Park proposed for this corner.
- A 1.5m planting width is preferable.

#### Village Square

- Opportunity to provide large height trees on the western side to provide a canopy which is visible from higher levels of the surrounding buildings.
- There is the concern that the western edge of the square could be dark/overshadowed select tree species which allow light to penetrate to ground level.
- Eastern edge incorporate tree planting to supplement the Main Street trees with consideration to the approved alignment.

#### The Terrace

• Medium size trees in larger planters could be investigated to provide greater impact.

#### Residential Gardens/ Paper Trail Gardens

- Explore opportunities for further tree planting along the southern edge, particularly as it is not possible to plant street trees along this boundary.
- Explore opportunities to provide trees along the eastern boundary.

#### **Open Space Planning and Design comments**

#### Village Square

- The design of the Village Square does not adequately consider pedestrian access and circulation and it lacks a prominent address to Latrobe Avenue. The section supplied effectively shows a 1.9m wall between the footpath and the Square, which impacts on visual permeability into the space.
- Do not support the use of corten steel for the public space, due to maintenance issues.
- Given restrictions on street tree planting along Latrobe Avenue in front of the Square, tree planting should be allowed for along the eastern frontage.
- An additional point of entry into the Village Square that relates to the Latrobe Avenue crossing location should be provided. This would also help to break up the raised planting bed along Latrobe Avenue, which presents as a barrier to the open space.
- Request removal of the proposed in ground water jets for the Village Square could the space occupied by this feature be better used?
- Consider custom seating that allows for groups to gather and interact, rather than the largely linear arrangement. Ensure seating with arm rests and seat backs are also included.
- The lawn area should be raised on at least two sides to reduce wear and tear from people cutting across it. A raised edge could also absorb some of the level changes across the site and incorporate a seating edge, eg



• Page 40 of the Urban Design report proposes:

"Even though the City of Yarra will be the freehold owner of the space with ongoing responsibility for management and maintenance of the space, it is envisaged that there will be a high level of cooperation between the City of Yarra and the retail owner in the engagement with the local community over the use of the space.

This coordination should encourage the frequent use and shared benefit of a meeting place for the local community, including a range of uses and programs designed to promote community activities. The 'shared' management of the Village Square will involve an agreed representation of the following key stakeholders:

- City of Yarra
- o The Village Alphington centre management (incl traders)
- o Alphington Primary School"

Any 'shared' management arrangements proposed for the Village Square and Terrace area will need to be subject to further discussion.

- Bicycle hoops, drinking fountains and bins within the public open space should be Yarra standard items.
- Further information regarding the condition of salvaged items proposed for re-used (such as "PV-02.3 feature metal inlay. Allowance for site salvaged artefact incorp" and "LF-07.1 salvaged paper roller element with clear sealant" before they can be accepted for use in the public realm.

**Terrace** 

- The proposed terrace landscape does not create a hospitable environment. Some further greening of the space and incorporation of softer materials (timber?) will help break up the hardscape.
- Larger/more trees will also help to provide some respite.
- Seating could be clustered to allow for groups of people to sit and talk, rather than in a linear arrangement along the eastern boundary. Or consider different forms to achieve same eg.

Arc Seat



http://streetfurniture.com/au/product/arc-seat/

#### Level 1 community space

 The arrangement of the level 1 community space should be reconsidered to allow for more flexibility – eg seating for groups.

Mews

• Please provide further detail of the 2mx2m porous windscreens (eg. will they be patterned, will they obscure sightlines, functionality)

#### Access Lane

• The proposed treatment on the north east corner of the access lane needs further resolution. The inclusion of the tree planting is supported, however the arrangement of the seating elements do not seem to relate to the streetscape or the building.

### **Urban Design comments**

#### Village Square

Grading Approach (Refer to attached Grading sketches 01 & 02)

- Create level Town Square surface to promote comfortable and flexible access and occupation (suggest 1:80 long fall & 1:120 crossfall)
- Further co-ordination is required to resolve interface between Village Square and La Trobe Avenue. Intent is to maintain a compliant footpath that facilitates all required access without localised benching -1:41 (1:40 max) longfall to accommodate landings, etc. without benching.
- Create a positive interface between the Town Square and La Trobe Avenue to improve connectivity, access and visibility. The proposed plaza grades and edge treatment obscure views into the square from southern approach and a significant length of La Trobe Avenue footpath Grade Town Square with overall precinct topography to reduce difference in levels between footpath and square.
- Improve connectivity between La Trobe Avenue pedestrian crossing and Town Square Objective is to
  offer a pedestrian connection into the Square at this location (Refer to attached Grading sketch 03
  Alternate Access Considerations).

Lawn Edge (Refer to attached Lawn Edge sketch 01 & Section C)

• Explore raising edge to lawn at north-east corner to deter pedestrian desire line through lawn. Create an occupiable edge to encourage occupation of the north-east corner of the square and interface with streetscape. Raised edge may also help to activate lawn (as it may help transition between standing and reclining).

Stair Planter Edge (Refer to attached Lawn Edge sketch 01 and Section D)

 Integrate a seating edge to the raised planter along the staircase to Level 1 Terrace. Creates addition seating along an unused edge that offers long views across plaza. May be useful waiting, meeting location.

Salvaged Rollers Lawn Edge

• Confirm proposed heights of salvaged rollers with consideration to free height of fall.

Primary Entry Access Path (Refer to attached Lawn Edge sketch 01)

Primary access path is very generous at 5.5m wide. It is recommended that a 4.0m typical width (with a 3.5m minimum) would accommodate access requirements.

Food Mall Interface (Refer to attached Square Interface sketch 01)

- Adjust functional layout at Food Mall and square interface to:
  - o create hierarchy of access along building frontage
  - o define F&B outdoor dining
  - o make allowance for clearances for furniture occupants
  - o integrate trench grates to articulate layout and locate away from primary access path

Water feature

• Water feature is not supported.

Tree planting

• Determine size parameters and tree species (deciduous)

- Review location and relationship to lawn, furniture, ribbon. (What is southern tree located in? grate. Is offset alignment purposeful?)
   750mm offset within lawn (mulch will need to be installed within establishment period. Confirm if ring/ square will be used).
- Area in front of Level 1 staircase is vast (12m x 10m). It is recommended that tree planting be incorporated within this area.

Stairs

• Confirm maximum offset to handrails (Village Square to Terrace, La Trobe Street to Village Square)

**Furniture Selections** 

- Ensure double sided timber benches <u>do</u> include backs & armrests to promote comfort, longer stay and equity of public seating.
- Are any public/ visitor bicycle hoops located within Village Square? (La Trobe Avenue?) Proposed bicycle hoops and bin enclosures are to be as per YCC Public Domain manual standards.

Heritage interpretation

• Provide further detail regarding heritage interpretation/ wayfinding element (steel paving inlay to vertical element transition). #1 on illustrative plan.

Walls and edges selections

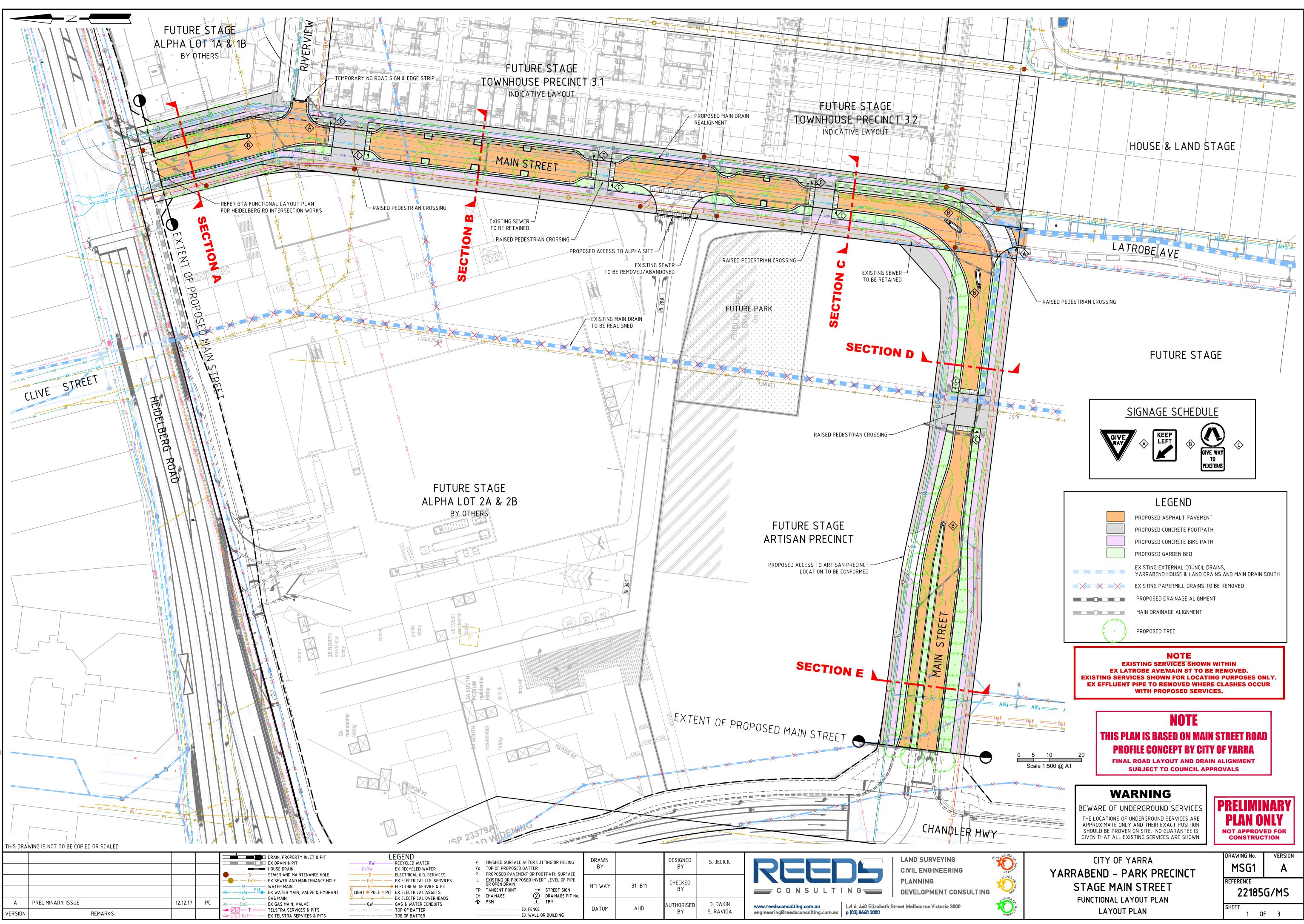
- Consider durability, maintenance and comfort (touch/ contact) when detailing steel walls, edges and inlays. Specify steel type, profile and finish.
- Confirm length of useable seating height for precast concrete walls on La Trobe Avenue. (Min-max heights)

Please let me know if you have any queries or require any further information.

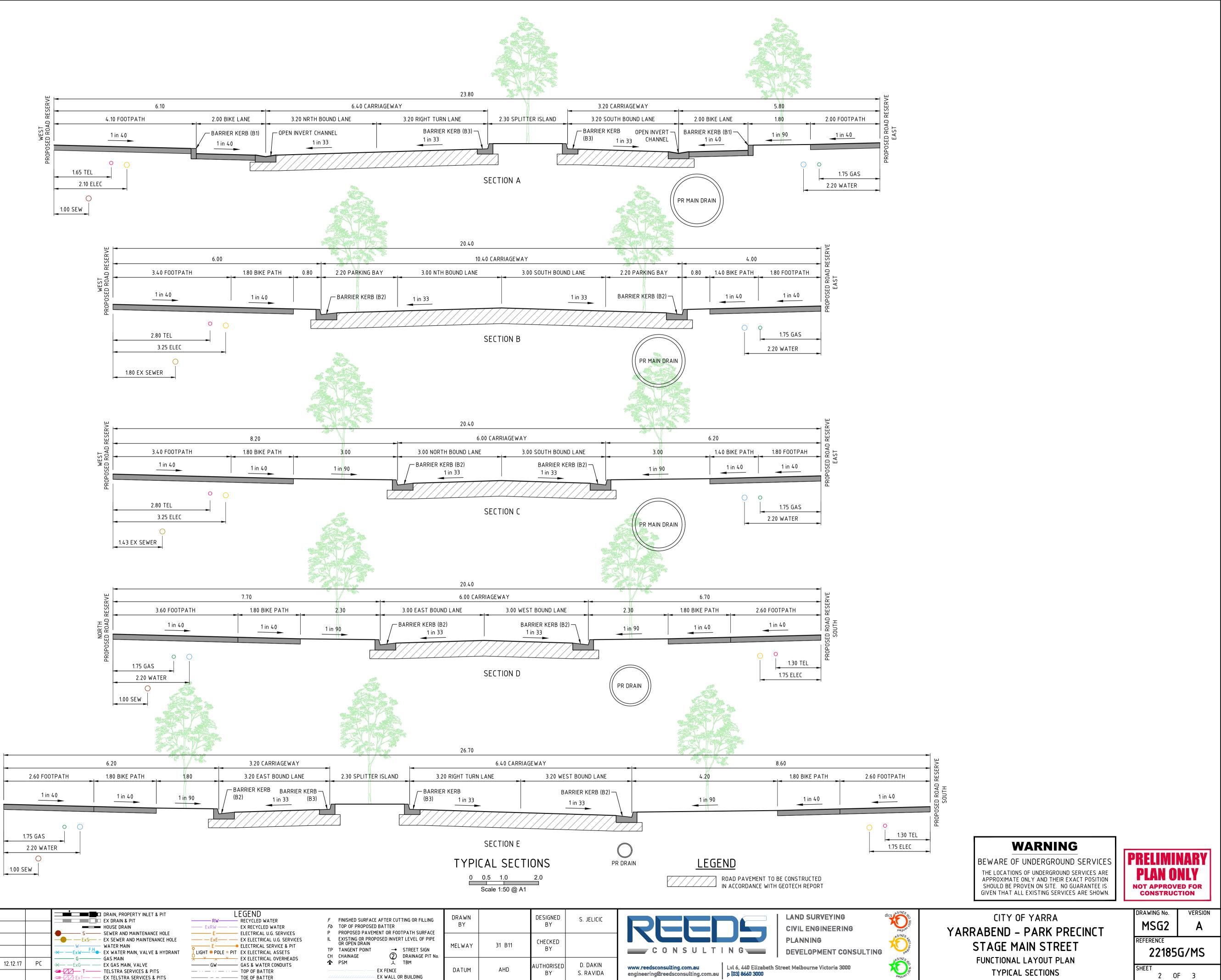
Kind regards,

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Carrie Lindsay Coordinator Open Space Planning and Design



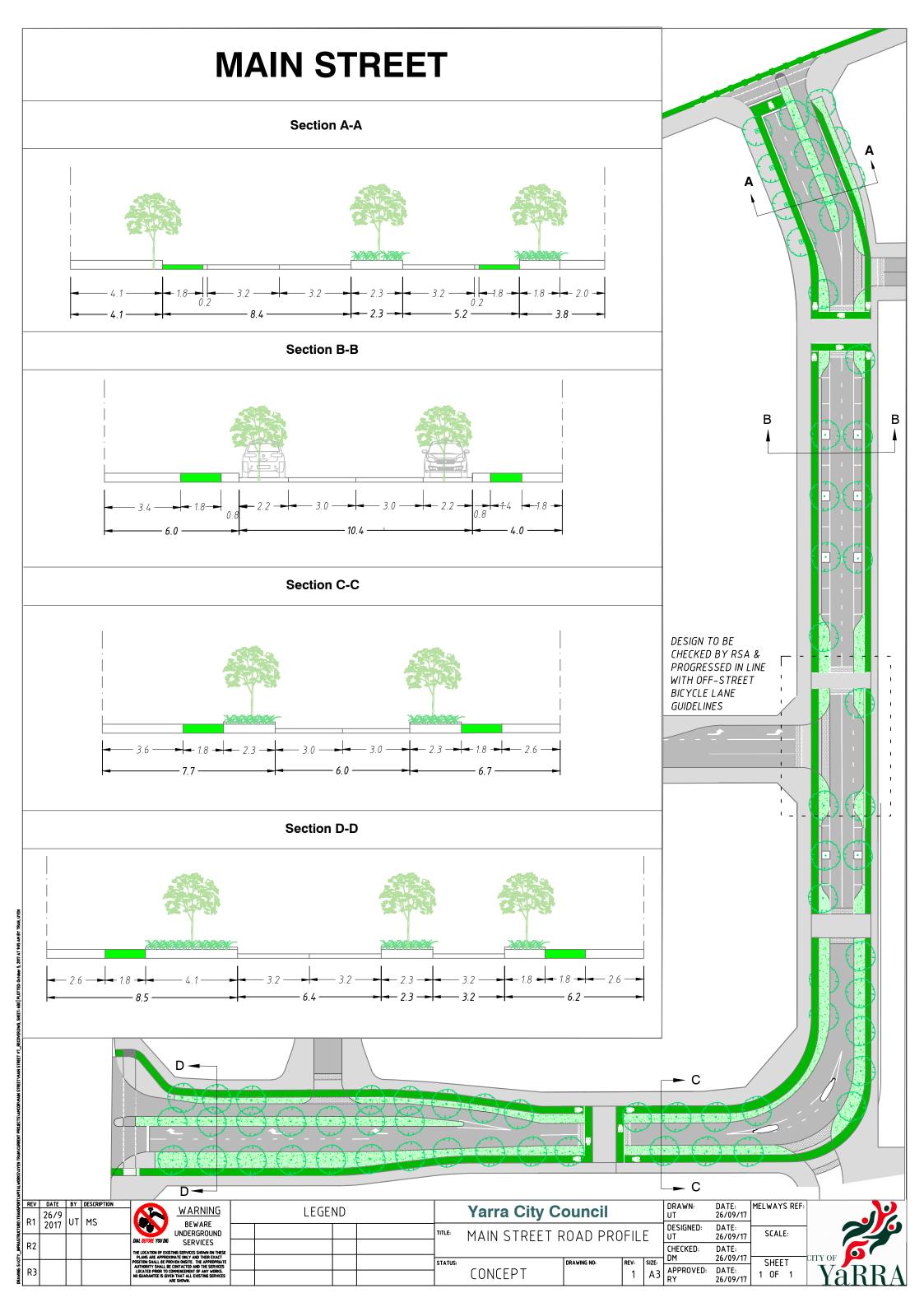
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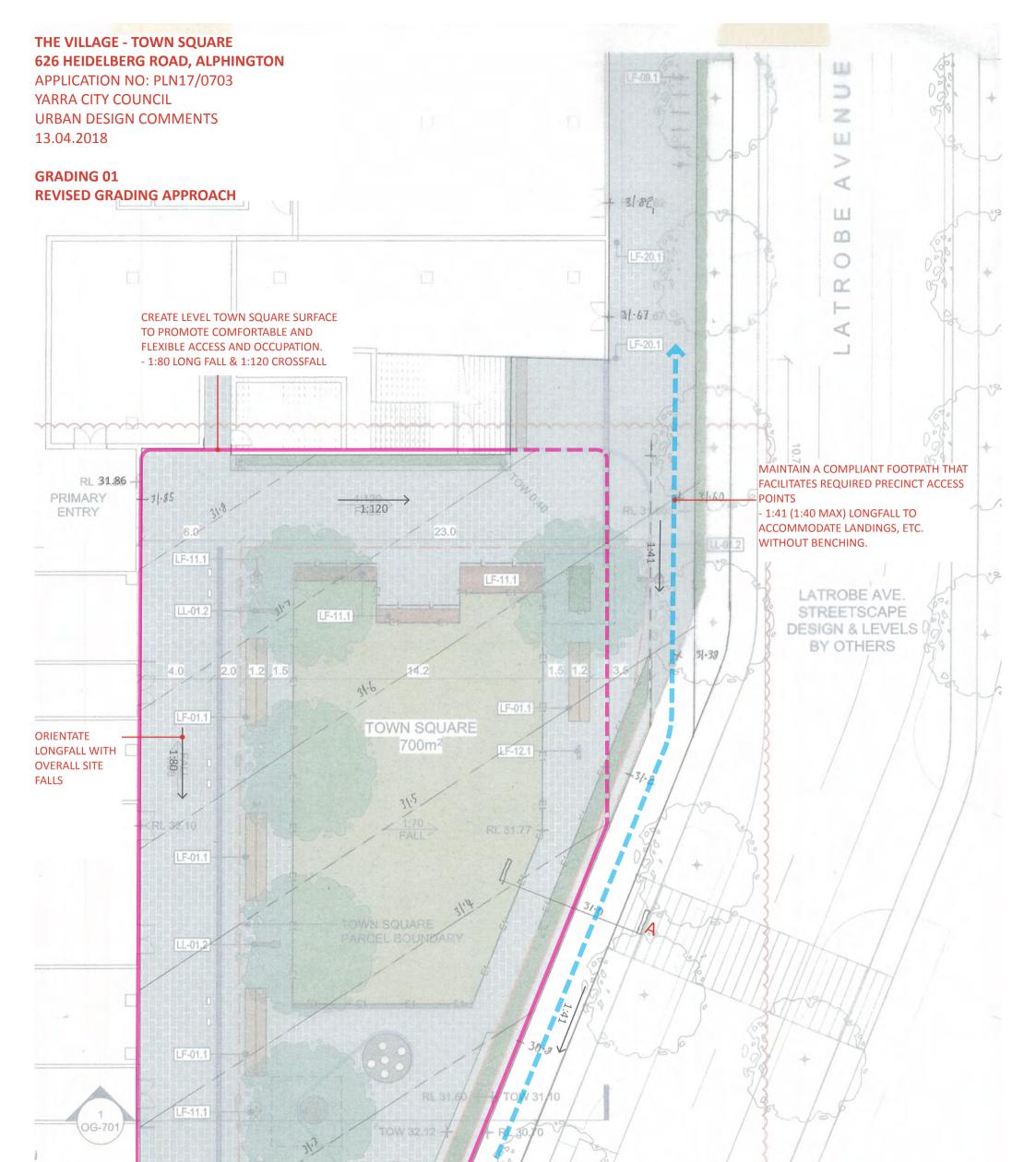


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CREATE A POSITIVE INTERFACE BETWEEN THE TOWN SQUARE AND LA TROBE AVENUE TO IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY, ACCESS AND VISIBILITY. - GRADE TOWN SQUARE WITH OVERALL PRECINCT TOPOGRAPHY TO REDUCE DIFFERENCE IN LEVELS BETWEEN FOOTPATH AND SQUARE. REFER TO SECTIONS A & B

**REVISION 03** 

300520

30.4

367276.

LF-10.12

15.2

RL 32.50

31.30

# THE VILLAGE - TOWN SQUARE

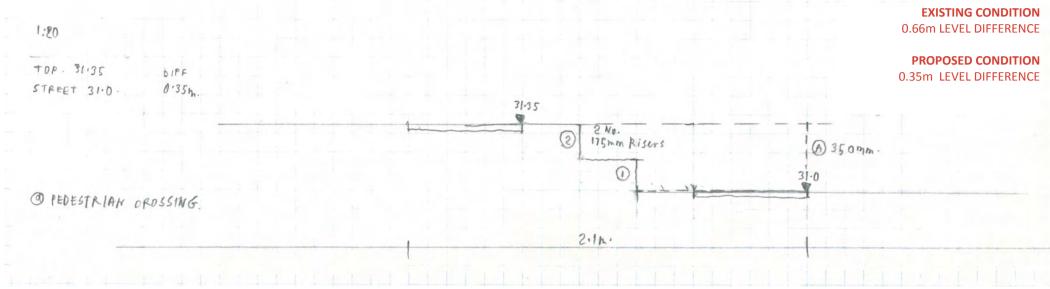
626 HEIDELBERG ROAD, ALPHINGTON APPLICATION NO: PLN17/0703 YARRA CITY COUNCIL URBAN DESIGN COMMENTS 13.04.2018

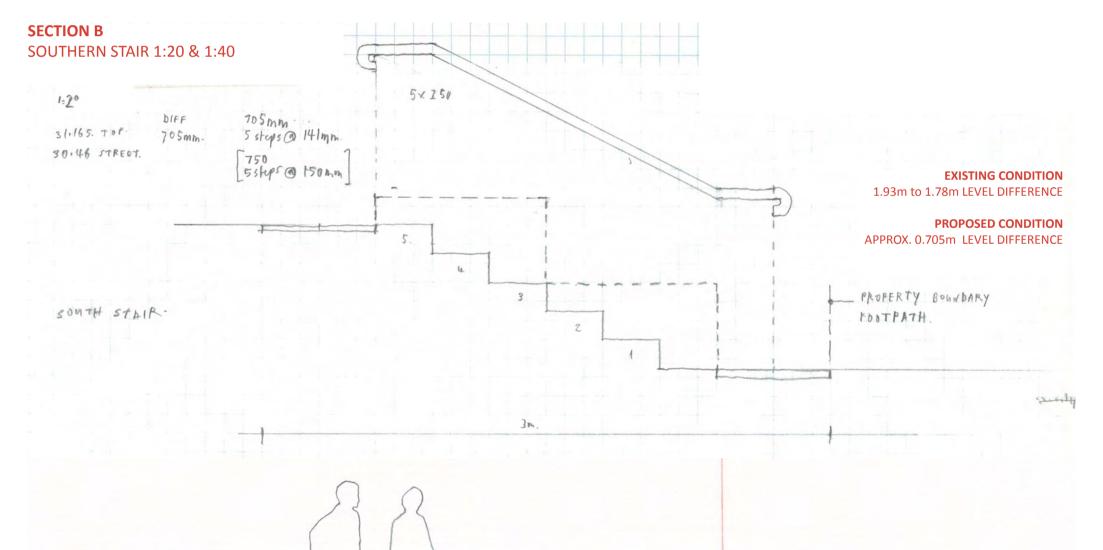
### **GRADING 02**

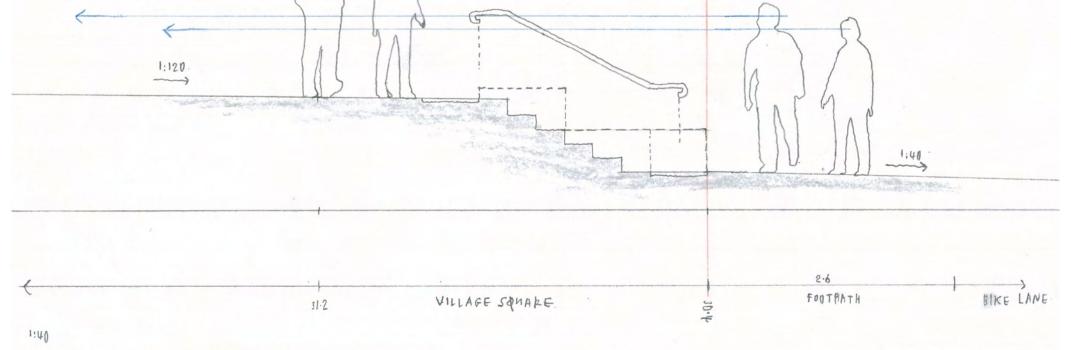
**EDGE SECTIONS** 

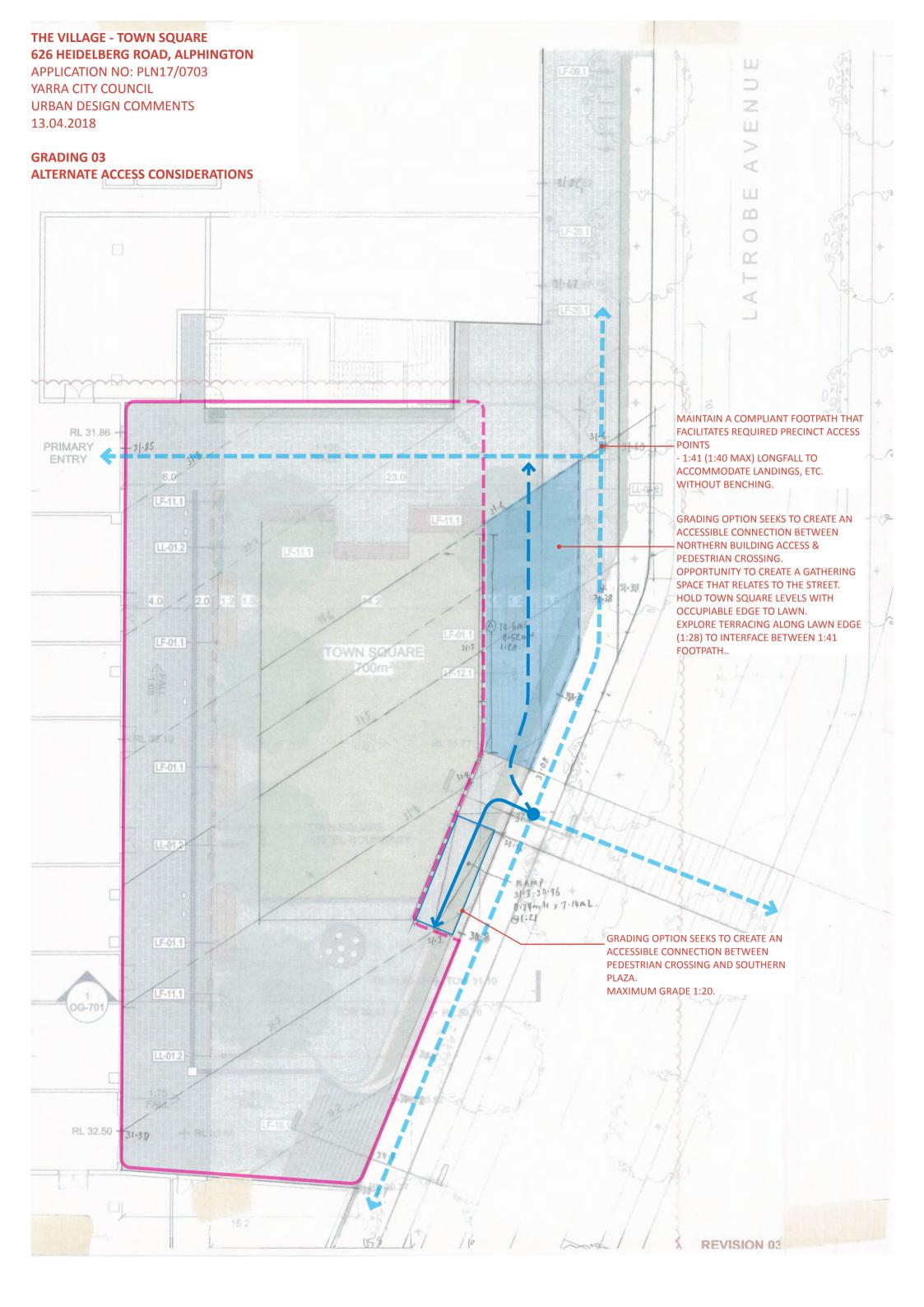
### **SECTION A**

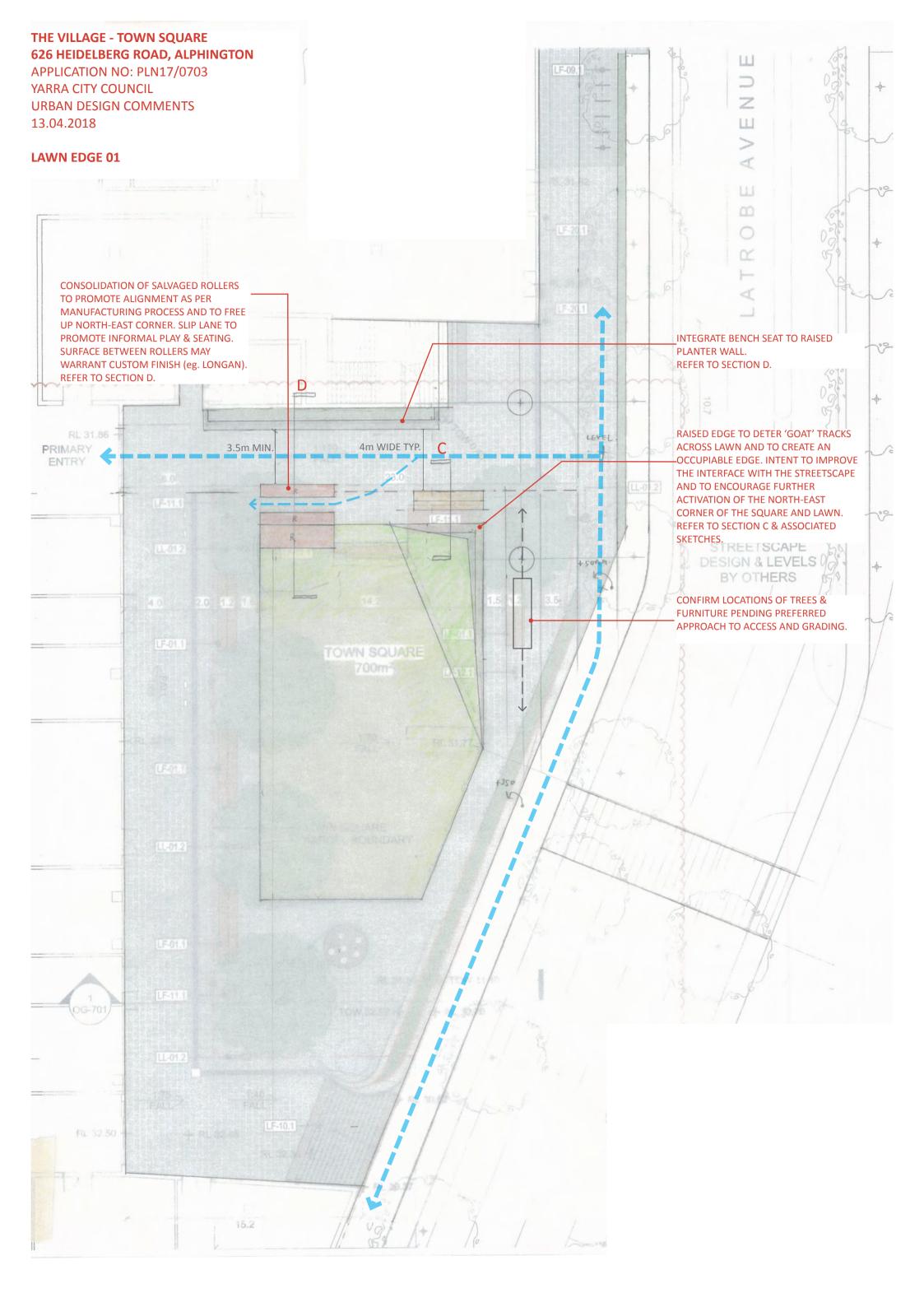






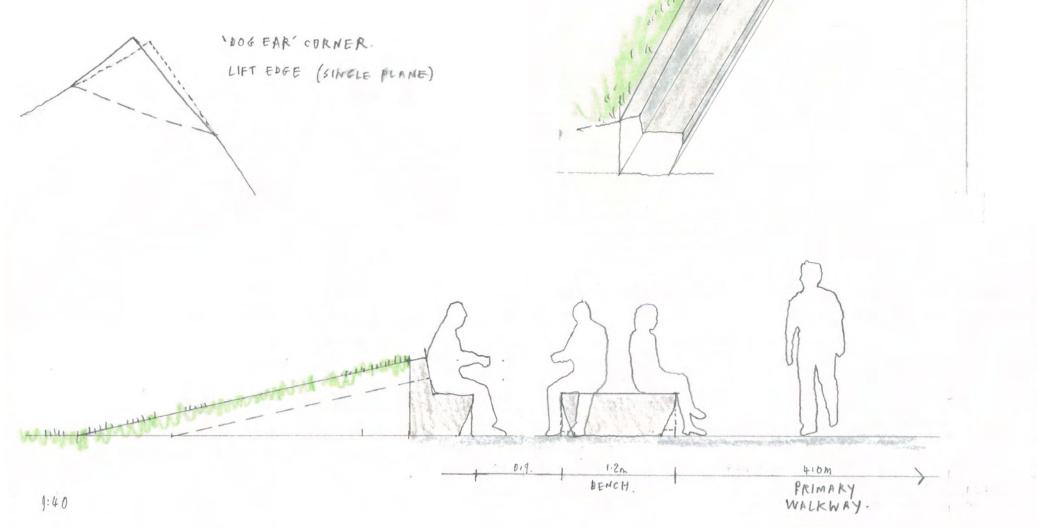






## THE VILLAGE - TOWN SQUARE 626 HEIDELBERG ROAD, ALPHINGTON APPLICATION NO: PLN17/0703 YARRA CITY COUNCIL URBAN DESIGN COMMENTS 13.04.2018

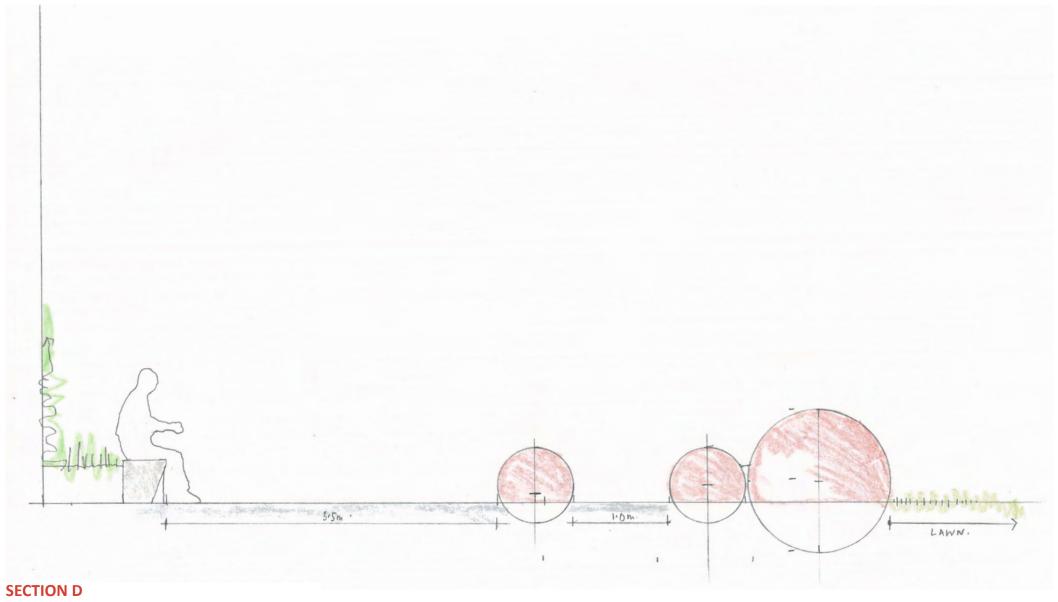
### LAWN EDGE 02



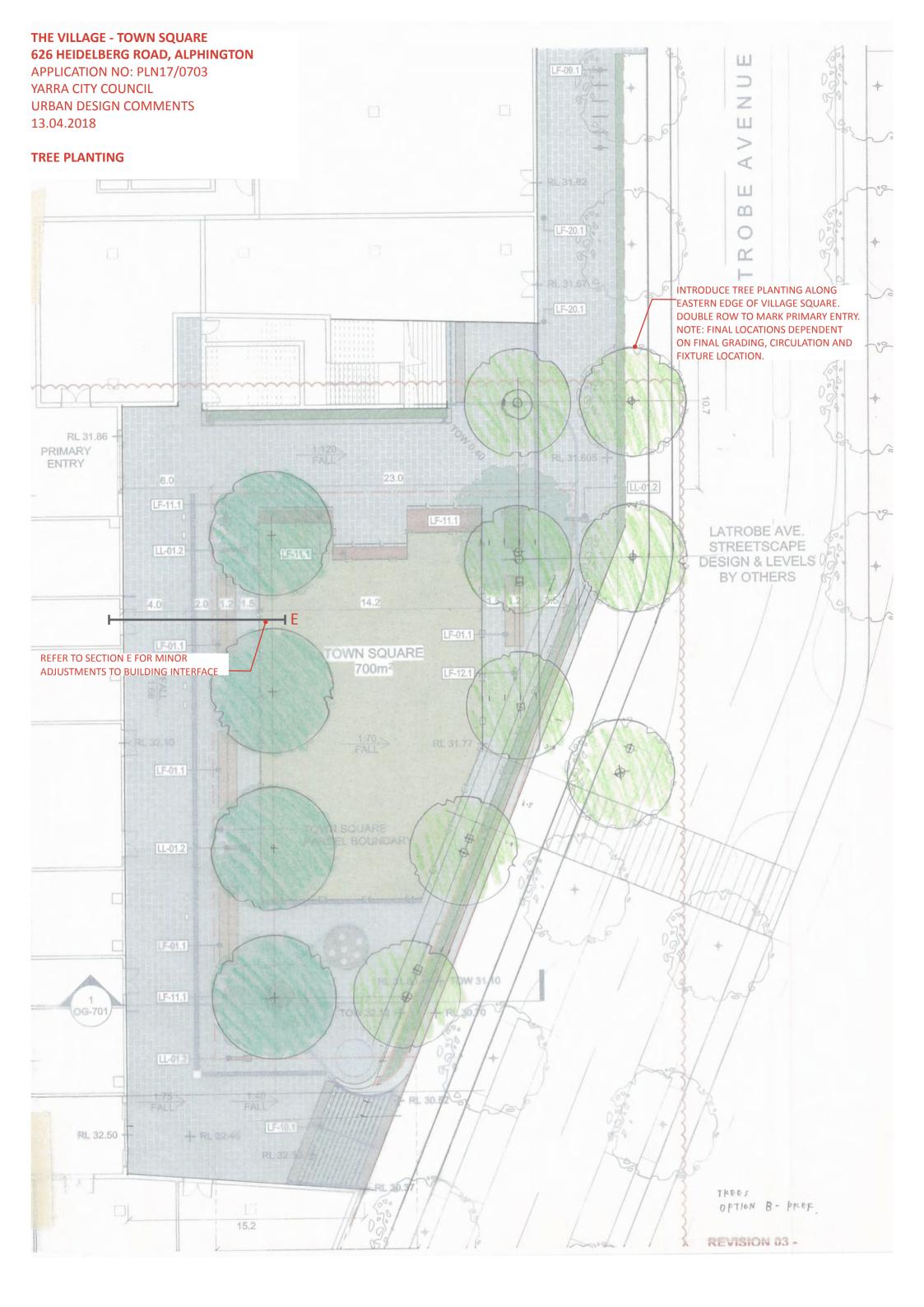
BACKREST INCREASES

IN HEIGHT TO TAKE OP HEIGHT DF GRASS PLAKE.

SECTION C RAISED LAWN & SEATING EDGE



SALVAGED ROLLERS



### THE VILLAGE - TOWN SQUARE 626 HEIDELBERG ROAD, ALPHINGTON

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### **SQUARE INTERFACE 01**

