

Summary of Public Questions

20 March 2018



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 Daniel Joran - Childcare Centre/ Woolworths Promotion Earn and Learn

Question:

One of Yarra's Childcare Centre recently sent out a newsletter that included a reference to the Woolworths Earn and Learn promotion. The reason for the Childcare engaging in this activity, in their opinion, is to qualify to meet with the national quality standards areas 6.2.3 community engagement. I disagree, engaging with Woolworths who are the biggest purveyor of pokie machines in this country is an outrage. The vision of Council's gambling policy is to advocate for a fairer society when the gambling industry no longer causes social or economic harm in the community of Yarra.

How is supporting the Woolworths Earn and Learn scheme through children's services consistent with Yarra's gambling policy?

Response:

The Mayor and Acting Director Community Wellbeing advised Mr Jordan that he would be contacted the following day with a response.

7.2 Mr Maurice Sheehan - Coles Site/Know your Council Website

Question:

Over the years the Coles site has had a negative impact on trading in that area because Coles have continually proposed to redevelop the site. Stores have moved out as a result. I had been advised that work on the site would commence in August 2018.

Has there been any communication from Coles to the City of Yarra with regards to the site that is there, to the permits they are seeking in terms of the development of the site?

In relation to the Know your Council website and comparing Yarra with other Council's in meetings closed to the public, I am puzzled as to why the City of Yarra is at 11.29% in comparison with other Council at 7.17% and all Councils at 9.45%?

Response:

The Mayor and Director Planning and Place Making responded.

7.3 Ms Michelle Zwagerman - Graffiti in North Richmond

Question:

Graffiti in North Richmond has severely escalated and believe that graffiti has a negative effect on the neighbourhood and by allowing it to occur implies that illegal acts are acceptable.

In relation to Yarra's Graffiti Management Framework where and how and what are the monitoring and evaluation results that are stated should be ongoing and occurring. Are Council going to consider looking at alternative solutions, cost effective solutions and better engagement with the community and youth services?

Response:

The Mayor and Director City Works and Assets responded

7.4 Ms Polly Helsing, Fitzroy North Residents Action Group - Piedemonte's Site

Question:

In relation to the development of the Piedemonte's site, we note Council officer's assessment of the Waste Management Plan which concludes that all waste collections will be conducted internal to the site.

How does this align with the development plan which shows the closure of the existing right-of-way and the construction of a new, 6 metre wide road into a small one-way street for waste collection?

Response:

The Mayor and Director Planning and Place Making responded.

7.5 Mr Ken Gomez - Debit Issues

Question:

Is Council aware or Mr Andrew Day aware that Yarra ranks quite poorly with other Council's in terms of debit, cash and term deposits?

What is Council doing in the long term basis to address the situation?

Response:

The Mayor responded

7.6 Mr Brad Marsh - 582 Heidelberg Road, Alphington Development Application

Question:

Yarra has recently advertised for an 11 storey residential property at 582 Heidelberg Road, Alphington.

I am concerned about the statement in the Town Planning report that has been submitted by the applicant, "*there has been one pre-application meeting with the City of Yarra Council to discuss various aspects of the proposal held on 22 August 2017 with the Manager of Statutory Planning and the key conclusions to this meeting are:*

that Council is generally supportive of the design direction and resolution”.

Why is the Planning Department allowing developers to come away from meetings with them, before applications have been received and advertised with a genuine belief that they are giving a tentative thumbs-up for such a controversial application?

How can the community trust that the Planning Department has any concern for residents objections and how can we be sure that it hasn't already been decided it's going to support this application for whatever reason and turn a blind eye or down play elements of the scheme that work against the application while highlighting and emphasising the elements that support it?

Response:

The Mayor advised that he would speak with the Director Planning and Place Making.

Cr Jolly would like some clarification as to what actually occurred at the meeting between the developer and officer.

Cr Stone also advised that some developers like to imply in early documents that Yarra Planners support something and has seen this occur many times, and planners had advised that they had said no such thing. Cr Stone would also like to know if this can be prevented as it had not been the first time a developer had made such comments.

7.7 Ms Terry Konapacki - Planning Matters/Communications/Dog Registration

Question:

I live in a modest workers cottage in a row of six that are over 100 years old and that have only been residences. We are covered by Heritage Overlay and I am very passionate about heritage. The row of terrace houses is contributory and has a character that is much sought after.

I thought I'd done the right thing by meeting with the Planning Department and found that I sat there for an hour only to hear two consistent words: irrelevant and emotional. I felt that the planners couldn't answer any of questions or provide any guidance as to where to go or what to do and found them to be quite insulting. I'm sorry for picking on planning I know they do work hard but is this standard procedure?

I forgot to pay my dog registration, I got a reminder text, I paid it, but now I am being taken to court. I'd forgotten about the matter. I've gone to see various people and I just get palmed off. I find this distressing.

Response:

The Mayor responded