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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.**

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7.1 Hugh Parry-Jones - Laneway off Easey Street, Collingwood

Question:

Is Council aware that this laneway which has been closed with a gate across it with a lock, a padlock available to all of the six residents that connect at the end of the laneway?

Is Council aware that this has provided security for these residents for over 25 years and the Yarra Health Centre?

The gate has now been removed without any consultation, and many people don't have bars on their windows due to having the locked gate.

Is Council aware that this gate has been removed?

Does the Council know that the only public who would be served by this public road are those six rate payers and that any member of the wider public who were found in the 30 meter laneway, would almost certainly be up to no good, as there has been plenty of evidence many years before the gate went up of public nuisance, vandalism, graffiti, burglary, drug use, drug related litter and even an unsolved double murder, none of which occurred when the gate went up?

Response:

*The Mayor advised:*

- (a) *He was aware of the gate being removed as were Council officers;*
- (b) *Council has a number of laneways across the municipality and the issue in terms of closure of laneways by way of closed fences, official closures through Council or whether it be used for alternative reasons is something that comes across Council a number of times;*
- (c) *Laneways are a public asset and they don't always have the same utility, some may have further benefits for the wider community, others may have very limited benefit, and particularly when it comes to laneway closures and road closures and discontinuances and these need to be balanced; and*
- (d) *Generally there are a number of issues that we need to consider when it comes to use and access to our laneways.*

*The Group Manager Chief Executive's office advised:*

- (a) *that Council officers will bring a report to Council so Council can adopt a*

*standard approach to certain categories of laneway, and that will be governed by some extent by the Road Management Act and other legislation where Council has an obligation under various legislations to keep roads open, but there is some leeway for Council to consider in special instances where laneways are not continuous; and*

*(b) that the gate can be returned and remain until Council decides on an outcome.*

## 7.2 Blair Clohesy - Complaint

Question:

Mr Clohesy made a number of defamatory statements and disclosures of personal information of third parties. He believed the officers and Councillors he had dealt with were corrupt and advised that he had tried to meet and speak with the CEO over a nine year period with no success.

Response:

*The Mayor advised that he would investigate the matter.*