



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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CHARLES DARWIN IN 1859 said

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change, that lives within the means available and works co-operatively against common threats".

I recently attended a conference in Melbourne on the subject **"the Future of Local Government"** Speakers from different parts of the world all gave testament to the great pressure being applied to Local Governments (by Central Governments) to deliver more services with less money and with increasingly diminished powers and authority. (LG loss of planning assessment powers and Ministerial call-ins are by no means peculiar to Adelaide)

The challenges of **Climate Change** coupled with finite supplies of oil and gas (Peak Oil), the **Global Financial Crisis** and the increasing gap between food supply and demand are impacting on local communities and demanding new and sustainable solutions. And this is where Local Government can deliver those solutions by being adaptable and resilient to change. Councils have to become more locally **patriotic** rather than **parochial** and have to **work more collaboratively** with each other and the other spheres of government, especially the State. After all, we all share the same citizens and most people don't care who provides a particular service.

We just have to decide who does what for whom, most effectively and efficiently and who bears the cost!

Carl Neu of the USA pointed out that Councils have 2 interfaces, One is its citizens and businesses and the other is the State. US trends are away from representative to participatory government with more complexity and a rise of diverse special-interest groups coupled with a decline of faith in government, its officials and processes. General experience has shown that wholesale amalgamations of Councils are seldom cost-effective nor does it satisfy local community aspirations. A more successful approach is to develop Shared Services where groups of Councils work to plan strategically for their communities and to find new ways to self-deliver or 'buy-in' services.

In the final analysis, Councils policies, plans and services affect citizens' lives on a daily basis, we shape the places they use and we deliver most of the services that determine our quality of life. Peter McKinley of New Zealand argued that Councils have **long-term plans** but that Local Government as a sphere of government has **no long-term direction**. If our future is to be more than just as an agency of the State we have to offer strong leadership, win respect and assert our role as community builders. **Is this the Future of Local Government?**

THE VALUE OF CONSULTATION

One of the certain trends of Local Government around the world is for much greater participation by citizens in helping to shape the way that Councils plan their strategies and spend your dollars. You can't have much of a say on the State Budget but Council's budget process is as open as the day is long. **BUT YOU DON'T.** So far, attendance at Information Sessions has been very disappointing with staff and Councillors outnumbering 'customers' by about 4 to 1. **Remaining sessions are:** 14 May at 11am at the **Central Market** and 6pm at the **Box Factory** 59 Regent St South and on 15 May at 11am in **Rundle Mall** (by Myers) **We want your comments, by 5pm on 20 May.** You can write to us, email us use the Blog or the on-line Feedback Form. You can find the **Draft 2009-2010 Business Plan and Budget** on the web at the link below:
<http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/adccwr/assets/main/lib60051/draft-2009-10-business-plan-and-budget.pdf>



RIDE OF SILENCE IN ADELAIDE.



On Saturday May 23 The Bicycle Institute of SA (BISA) will be holding the 3rd Ride of Silence. The Ride is an international event to commemorate and remember fallen cyclists and campaign for better cycling facilities that increase the profile and number of people cycling and adding to the safety in numbers that bicycle riders feel when there are more people cycling more often!

BISA is particularly interested in increasing the profile of cycling as an everyday transport option, seeing a greater cross section of the community cycling more often, and building the culture of cycling in Adelaide. Bicycle riders will assemble in Victoria Square from 8.30 aiming to head off by 9.30. This year the route is from the centre of Adelaide to the beachside suburb of Semaphore where we will assemble again on the foreshore. For more details of this world-wide event visit <http://www.rideofsilence.org/main.php>

STOP PRESS.....Council has been able to boost its Bicycle Action Plan with a further State Grant of \$115k This is a direct result of this Council's strong commitment to improving cycling routes and facilities in the City.

BID FOR A CITY FARM FOR ADELAIDE

A not-for-profit group called Permaculture Education Zone (PEZ) currently have a petition going to demonstrate community support for Adelaide getting a Sustainable Living Demonstration Site, or 'City Farm' at the Old Adelaide Gaol in Adelaide's Parklands. For more details go to the link below so that you can read the information available, and sign the petition if you support it. <http://www.gopetition.com.au/petitions/sustainable-living.html>.

Some recent meeting decisions.....

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL

Meeting held on 4 May 2009 (*The next meeting will be at 5.30pm on 18 May 2009*)

The Panel considered the following applications **ON MERIT**:

- Approval was granted for conservation works and new boundary fencing at the rear of **117-119 Barnard Street North Adelaide** (DA/527/2008)
- Approval was given for alterations and additions to an existing dwelling at **121 Stanley Street North Adelaide** (DA/4/2009)
- Approval was given to demolish the existing dwelling and construct a new part 2-storey townhouse at the corner of **Vincent St and Vincent Pl.** (DA/339/2008)
- 2 semi-detached dwellings have been approved to replace a single storey cottage at **41-45 Margaret Street North Adelaide** (DA/664/2008) ▶▶▶



As a **Schedule 10 matter** (to be determined by DAC – above \$10m value) the Panel agreed **unanimously** to advise the DAC that it considered there were serious shortcomings in various aspects of the proposal to construct 3 multi-storied student accommodation buildings on the Freedom site at **Grote Street** (DA/961/2008)

A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD ON FRIDAY 1 MAY to consider a confidential leasing matter related to the Adelaide Oval. (subsequently announced plans for an **ACDC Concert** at the Oval in March 2010)

BRIEFINGS were held on 5 May (I was not present) dealing with ■ Youth Policy and Action Plan Review ■ City Arts and Living Culture Strategy Review ■ A presentation by Tennis SA and SA Rugby seeking support to co-locate administrations in the Memorial Drive Complex and ■ A confidential briefing on ElectraNet.

COUNCIL AND KEY COMMITTEES

Meeting held on Monday 11 May 2009. (next meeting Monday 25 May 2009 at 5.30pm)

Motions on Notice were moved by **Cr Cullen** asking Council to investigate setting-up a **free call number** for reporting issues of hygiene, cleanliness, graffiti and safety; and by **Cr Henningsen** asking for an investigation of opportunities for **aquifer storage and recovery** of Torrens water to supplement the GAP recycled water supply.

- Council agreed to an encroachment into **Topham Mall** to create an outdoor café area with disabled access.
- Approval was given to *Medicins sans Frontieres* to establish a '**Refugee Camp**' in Victoria Square (19/9-27/9). No fencing of the area is proposed and I was assured that only essential vehicles would be allowed on the Sq.
- Council agreed to the use of parking areas adjacent to Fullarton Road for the staging of the HPV Super Series Pedal Prix Event on 17 May and 26 July at **Victoria Park**. The use of PA systems is to be carefully monitored.
- **Cr Ann Moran** was nominated to be considered for appointment to the DEH Dog and Cat Management Board.
- Council received a report informing us of a number of public realm considerations arising from the proposal to redevelop the **Harris Scarfe site in Rundle Mall**. Of particular concern are the proposals to demolish the heritage-valued façade and to lose all the character of Lindes Lane and Francis Street which links the Mall to Grenfell Street which is destined to become the major bus access to the city. **On my amendment** to the motion Council agreed to use the findings of the report and the recommendations of the Rundle Mall Master Plan as the basis of a renewed attempt to negotiate a better outcome with the developer, the Gandel Group. **Surely any developer interested in the long-term future of our Mall would want to create a place that provides both first-class retail areas and respects the essential character that sets Rundle Mall apart.**
- Later in the meeting (in a confidential item) I successfully moved to defer further lease dealings with the Gandel Group until Council had been able to put its case and renew its offers of assistance to the developer.
- Council (in confidence) dealt with an extension of time request related to the **Balfours/Bus Station Project**.

CITY STRATEGY COMMITTEE

- Council noted the good work being done by **Enterprise Adelaide** and called upon **Business SA** and other Industry associations to work more constructively with Council in supporting economic development in the city.
- A **Design Review Panel** has been appointed to give critical and independent advice on the Masterplan design for **Victoria Square**. They are Catherin Bull, Philip Cox, Mads Gaardboe, Lawrence Nield and Malcolm Snow. **I understand that the name of the winning design group is to be released on Thursday of this week.**
- Council will apply for Jobs Fund money to complete construction of **Stage 5 of the Park Lands Trail**.
- Design plans for **Park Lands Creek stage 2** were approved following advice from the Park Lands Authority.
- The committee gave the go-ahead to a reprint of **Progressive Adelaide** which juxtaposes 1936 views of many City streets with pictures of them as they are today. It is sobering to see how much has been lost or changed.
- Council endorsed its **CBA and Mixed Use heritage and character DPA** for agency consultation.

CITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- The committee received Reports on its Fee Based Facilities and its Corporate Property Facilities.
- It was agreed that **SACA** be allowed to retain temporary seating between the Chappell Stands until 30/4/2011.

The views expressed herein are those of Cr Plumridge and do not purport to be those of the Adelaide City Council. If you know of other people who would like to receive my Notes please ask them to send me their email address.