

BOORMAN AND GAULT WARDS COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

**HELD ON MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2019
MITCHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Chair: Cr Andrew Tilley (Boorman Ward)

Elected Members in attendance:

- Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross
- Cr Adriana Christopoulos (Boorman Ward)
- Cr Jasmine Berry (Gault Ward)
- Cr Stephen Fisher (Gault Ward)

Staff in attendance:

- Matthew Pears (Chief Executive Officer)
- Craig Harrison (General Manager Development Services & Community Safety)
- Daniel Baker (General Manager Engineering & Horticulture)
- Kate O'Neill (General Manager Organisational & Community Development)
- Jamie Barrett (Minute Secretary)

Community attendees: 32

The meeting commenced at: 7 pm

The Mayor welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and introduced the Elected Members and staff present. She also acknowledged the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians of the land.

The Mayor also welcomed Carolyn Power (State Member for Elder) and Sam Duluk (State Member for Waite) and acknowledged apologies from Rebekha Sharkie (Federal Member for Mayo) and Nicolle Flint (Federal Member for Boothby).

The Mayor then handed the meeting to the Chair, Cr Tilley.

Cr Tilley welcomed attendees and advised them of housekeeping matters in accordance with WHS requirements. A short explanation was given of the procedures for the evening. It was requested that attendees submit their questions in writing to formally record their questions or maintenance requests so that Administration can respond in due course.

NAME	ISSUES AND COMMENTS	RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE
Karin Nyfort-Hansen	<p>My question relates to road safety for local residents and shoppers at the Mitcham shopping centre;</p> <p>Does the Council have plans to install additional safety measures for pedestrians crossing Princes Road adjacent to the Mitcham square entrance and Good Life gym?</p>	Engineering and Horticulture
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>Further to previous correspondence issued to the Federal Office of Boothby, Council has previously considered this matter on 11 September 2018 and resolved to implement road signage alterations, additional pavement marking and road lighting improvements at this location as a progressive treatment to improve the current level of road safety in this location. There are numerical warrants (that must be met) associated with the implementation of a formalised pedestrian crossing and other traffic control measures are to be considered as a progressive measure prior to consideration of formal crossings. As part of the 2019/2020 financial year through Councils Traffic and Transport Program, Council will be arranging for a survey to be undertaken to determine if the associated movements of both vehicles and pedestrians meet the warrants criteria for a formalised pedestrian crossing. Concurrent with the investigation on the feasibility of a formalised pedestrian crossing, Council will be reviewing the criteria for a speed limit reduction to enhance the road safety in this location.</i></p> <p><i>Based on the results of the survey, should the warrants for a formalised pedestrian crossing be met at this location or alternatively if any additional works are required, funding will be sought as part of the 2020/2021 Capital Works Program subject to Council Endorsement</i></p>		
Phillip Knight	<p>Why doesn't the City of Mitcham use the Burra Charter Process set out in the 'The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013' to manage Heritage Places under its care and control?</p>	Development Service & Community Safety
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>The Council is aware of the principles and procedures contained in the Burra Charter guidelines. The Burra Charter process involves three steps: (1) Understanding Significance; (2) Developing Policy; and (3) Managing (heritage) in accordance with this policy. Whilst not a legal requirement, the application of these principles and procedures is evident in much of our work. This includes direct references to the Burra Charter in the Conservation Management Plan for Colonel Light Gardens.</i></p>		
Phillip Knight	<p>With respect to Heritage Places under the City of Mitcham's care and control, what Procedures and Policies are followed by staff to ensure that the objectives of the Heritage Places Act are observed?</p>	Development Service & Community Safety

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<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>There are many ways that Council promotes the identification, recording and conservation of heritage in the City of Mitcham. In addition to the wide range of proactive work that we do on a daily basis, which is in part evidenced in Heritage Action Plan reports to Council, we seek to respond in a timely and appropriate manner to issues of compliance raised with us by our community.</i></p> <p><i>Over the last 3 years Council has been undertaking a project preparing Heritage Management Plans to guide restoration, conservation and ongoing maintenance of each of its 17 Heritage Buildings which is expected to be completed this financial year.</i></p>		
Joanna Wells	<p>I understand that 250 sqm blocks are proposed for Blackwood, an area recognized as being “of particular risk” in terms of bushfire.</p> <p>Whilst the area being proposed for these changes is near main roads, the only main road that could possibly take a high volume of traffic fleeing a bushfire is Shepherd’s Hill Road. It’s irresponsible to further open up an area of high bushfire risk to greater density housing.</p> <p>Should this proposed development change go ahead, what does the Mitcham Council intend to do to ensure that there is no increased risk to the safety of those already living in the area?</p>	Development Services & Community Safety
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>In the main, the proposed changes affect areas identified within the “Medium Bushfire Protection Area” and either on, or in proximity to, main roads and immediately adjacent to the exiting District Centre.</p> <p>The draft Growth Precincts Development Plan Amendment has been forwarded to the Country Fire Service (CFS) for comment as part of the consultation process. It is anticipated that the CFS will provide feedback on the types of points raised in the question above, which will be taken on-board by the Council.</p>		
Joanna Wells	<p>The Draft Growth Precincts DPA speaks of “local building constraints such as the location of Significant and Regulated Trees”. The tree laws state that a regulated tree should not be removed or damaged other than where it can be demonstrated that one or more of the following apply</p> <p>(d) development that is reasonable and expected would not otherwise be possible.</p> <p>In addition, Council approval is not required to remove a significant regulated tree in SA if it is:</p>	Development Services & Community Safety

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	<p>Located within 10 metres of an existing dwelling (except if the tree is either a willow myrtle or a eucalyptus.</p> <p>It is abundantly clear to those of us who see and hear significant and regulated trees disappearing on the skyline on a regular basis, that the location of a significant or regulated tree is not in any way a constraint on local building.</p> <p>Council must surely understand that the co-called replacement of trees removed from private property with saplings planted on Council land does nothing to cool our streets or houses, nor can these saplings ever in our lifetimes remove and store the same amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as the mature trees we are told they replace.</p> <p>How many</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Significant (b) Regulated <p>trees have been removed from private property within the Mitcham Council area in the last 15 years and for what reasons?</p> <p>Where does Council stand regarding strengthening the laws to protect trees?</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Council receives and assesses development applications for removal of significant and regulated trees – sometimes as part of a development, sometimes as a stand-alone application. Not all applications for removal are approved. As with any development application, sometimes those which are approved are not enacted.</p> <p>The draft Growth Precincts Development Plan Amendment allows for higher density residential living in proximity to areas with shops, services and public transport, however, this affects only a very small proportion of the Council area. It is acknowledged that within these areas, some loss of vegetation may result, however with thoughtful design, siting and orientation it may be possible to retain existing vegetation and develop new dwellings. There are many examples of unit developments in Blackwood – particularly between the rail corridor and Main Road – which have small (less than 250m²) sites but that are located in tree-lined streets and which retain the open and leafy feel of hills living.</p> <p>Council currently plants in the order of 1200 new trees per year. Councils Tree Strategy 2016 describes that tree planting numbers need to increase to 1800 trees per annum to avoid a future decline in Councils tree stock.</p> <p>As part of the 2019/20 Annual Business Plan Council committed additional funds to new tree planting to increase Councils annual tree planting numbers to 1800 trees per annum within the next 3 years. Additionally, Council has recently supported the initiative to hold an Arbour Day celebration in 2020, including the provision of 500 trees to be donated to residents to encourage increased planting within the City of Mitcham.</p> <p>It is difficult and not simple for Council to exactly provide information for the last 15 years, but on average over the last 4 years the following has occurred:</p>		

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	<p>On average 54 applications are lodged for the removal of a Significant or Regulated Tree 39 applications are approved 6 are withdrawn/cancelled/refused</p> <p>10 applications were for Council Street Trees, so only 44 on average for private land.</p> <p>On average the number of tree applications is reducing every year, with only 14 trees approved to be removed on private land that were lodged in 2019. Of these 14 trees only 1 tree - was removed for the development of the site, and this site was located in Blackwood Park.</p> <p>In Blackwood Park, trees that are ordinarily exempt from requiring approval for their removal are captured as part of the land division and required to be retained. This shows Council's commitment to maintain trees where possible.</p>	
Joanna Wells	I met with my local State MP the other day who told me that the State government will be very much guided by the response of Councils to the proposed changes to Planning in this state. I was as surprised to hear this as he was to hear that the previous state Labor government had not paid any attention to Council's objection to Netherby being placed on Res Code. What response does Council intend to make to the latest changes being proposed to the Planning Code and is Council confident that this State government will take on board its response?	Development Services & Community Safety
	<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The Administration is currently reviewing the vast amount of information released for public consultation by the State Government on the Planning and Design Code. 3000+ pages. Consultation is open until February 2020 and over the next few months Administration will be working together with Council on formulating its response.</p> <p>It is anticipated that Council will be presented with a public report from the Administration in relation to the Planning and Design Code that will outline the submission to be made.</p> <p>Residents are also encouraged to directly engage with DPTI either with their enquiries and or making submissions.</p> <p>Council has an extensive planning policy program underway to enable us to transition – the Growth Precinct DPA seeks to designate areas where we</p>	

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	<p>wish to encourage investment, development and enable our City to grow whilst at the same time we are undertaking a Character Areas DPA which seeks to designate further areas across Council where we seek to preserve and protect the existing character and amenity. The Character areas are in addition to our existing State and Local Heritage Areas.</p>	
Janet Scott	<p>Under the new DPTI Planning Code – how will the heritage values of CLG be protected? Will the trees and street scapes and open spaces still be protected as part of the heriateg of a Model Garden suburb? What will Council’s role be in implementing the new Planning Code, and continuing to protect the Heritage Values of Colonel Light Gardens?</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The Administration is currently reviewing the vast amount of information released for public consultation by the State Government on the Planning and Design Code. Consultation is open until February 2020 and over the next few months Administration will be working together with Council on formulating its response. It is anticipated that Council will be presented with a public report from the Administration in relation to the Planning and Design Code that will outline the submission to be made.</p> <p>Residents are encouraged to directly engage with DPTI either with their enquiries and or making submissions.</p> <p>The CLG Conservation Management Plan will continue to assist and guide the management of public spaces and infrastructure within Colonel Light Gardens.</p> <p>It is understood that the State Heritage Areas will transition across into the new Code with similar protections to that which presently exist.</p>		
Janet Scott	<p>Does Mitcham Council Acknowledge the Burra Charter as best practice in preserving heritage areas and places.</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The Council is aware of the principles and procedures contained in the Burra Charter guidelines. Council supports the Burra Charter which is evident through its incorporated into the Conservation Management Plan for Colonel Light Gardens and in much of our work Council and the State Heritage Branch Reports on the assessment and approval process for the developments at Mortlock Park are available on Council’s web site.</p>		
Janet Scott	<p>Does Mitcham Council follow the Burra Charter? If yes – where are the documents relevant to Colonel Light Gardens as a Model Garden Suburb that support the design of the gazebo, toilet block, seating at Mortlock Park.</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p>		

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<p>The Council is aware of the principles and procedures contained in the Burra Charter guidelines. Council supports the Burra Charter which is evident through its incorporated into the Conservation Management Plan for Colonel Light Gardens and in much of our work Council and the State Heritage Branch Reports on the assessment and approval process for the developments at Mortlock Park are available on Council's web site.</p>		
<p>Janet Scott</p>	<p>Trees – Council is planning to plant a lot of trees, are any planned for Colonel Light Gardens – will they follow the tree planting guidelines set out in the Mitcham Garden Suburb documentation – calling for the same species, and age to be planted at the same time in a block to get the best avenue effect.</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The CLG Conservation Management Plan guides that streets are to be replanted in blocks so that trees grow uniformly and mature simultaneously to provide the desired aesthetic. This being so, then planting can only proceed when we can replant entire blocks. This means either waiting for all the trees in a block to die, or removing established trees prematurely. Neither of these approaches are practical or acceptable to the community. In addition to the 'block planting' requirement of the Conservation Management Plan some of the original species recommended are not likely to thrive in the changing climate and species selections are not provided for some streets in the Conservation Management Plan. The plan included no tree planting in the minor streets. Not planting minor streets and planting trees that won't thrive under the prevailing condition would be unacceptable to most residents. Also, species selections are required for the streets where the Conservation Management Plan provides no guidance. All these matters will be raised for consideration and discussion during consultation on Council's Draft Tree Asset Management Plan when it is developed in 2020. Input from heritage advisors, all interested in heritage protection, residents groups, other specific interest groups and from the wider community will be sought during the engagement process.</p>		
<p>Janet Scott</p>	<p>Stolen Community Land – When is the reserve in side of Tidworth, Salisbury, Flinders and Kandahar going to be restored to the community as per the local government Act.</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Council has identified as a project the need to review its management of Community Land situated within Colonel Light Gardens. The review of Community Land management plans for Mortlock Park, Rochester Avenue Reserve, Portland Place, Hillview Reserve and Reade Park have been completed to date. The continuation of this work is subject to Council prioritisation of resources.</p>		
<p>Janet Scott</p>	<p>Community Land Register – where is it. What are the schedules for Football and each school. Where is the CLR for other suburbs like Hawthorn and Clarence gardens and Panorama?</p>	

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<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The Community Land Register is available for viewing at Council Civic Centre.</p>		
<p>Janet Scott</p>	<p>Spraying of verges and open spaces – can we have the safety sheets available at reception for emergencies (when public get sprayed) and can we – like other councils) have signs up that indicate how long we should keep pets and children off the grass after spraying and when and where the spraying is? And with sprays designed to “save money” are we measuring the before spending and the after spending – including the cost of spraying – is it cheaper to spray – do we really mow less often or is it cheaper to mow more often (less weeds too). Note – CLGRA was advised by the contractor what the name of the product they used was but Council Staff insisted it was a different chemical. I have not yet been advised by council what the chemical was – this would be unacceptable in an emergency ie if I or my dog had a bad reaction to it.</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Council can supply Safety Data Sheets (SDS) if requested. Additionally all spray vehicles should be labelled with the chemical being used. Council are in the process of developing a list of Chemicals that are used on road verges, reserves and sports fields which will be made available. For broadleaf spraying on ovals. There are no withholding periods listed on chemical label for people to use the area and is considered safe once the chemical is dry. Ovals are sprayed at night to minimise public contact with spray. Spraying assists in reducing mowing, which is a more resource intensive activity for council. Additionally removing weeds rather than cutting them, reduces weeds spread and improves the integrity of our horticulture. Council is constantly reviewing the value for money proposition of our weed management strategies. For discussion of specific incidents please contact customer services on 8372-8888 who will direct your query through to the appropriate Manager.</p>		
<p>Janet Scott</p>	<p>Can the Technical Data sheet for Colonel Light Gardens be put back on the website, and can it be provided to all contractors who are quoting on infrastructure in CLG</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Council will review the infrastructure documentation provided on its website. As part of the design and delivery of infrastructure works within CLG, reference and consideration is made to the Technical Data Sheet for Colonel Light Gardens.</p>		

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Janet Scott	Bus Shelters Who is responsible for cleaning and maintaining the bus shelters in Mitcham – especially the wooden ones on East Parkway.							
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Council is responsible for maintaining bus shelters in Mitcham. The Bus shelters on East Parkway have recently been inspected by Council staff and observed to be in good condition however if there is a specific matter requiring attention please contact Council on 8372 8888 or email mitcham@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au with details.</p>								
Janet Scott	<p>Rubbish at Mortlock Park – Heritage Values for Model Garden Suburb – Sulman’s book, ‘Introduction to the Study of Town Planning in Australia’ has a Chapter 11 Parks and Parkways. At page 130 – summary: beauty and beauty are the goals and ugly eye sores are the enemy of garden Cities and Community Health and well-being.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="645 826 1812 935"> <tr> <td>15/10/2019</td> <td>WA2019/2582</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>TP2019/00429 and TP2019/00428</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20/03/2018</td> <td>Collected problems – rubbish ongoing</td> </tr> </table> <p>Is council turning a blind eye to rubbish and clutter at Morlock Park?</p>	15/10/2019	WA2019/2582		TP2019/00429 and TP2019/00428	20/03/2018	Collected problems – rubbish ongoing	
15/10/2019	WA2019/2582							
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20/03/2018	Collected problems – rubbish ongoing							
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Customer Requests for these queries will be lodged and followed up directly with the Club. Thank you for bringing to our attention, the rubbish will be inspected and actioned accordingly. Any matters observed to require Councils attention can be reported to Council on 8372 8888 or via mitcham@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au</p>								
Janet Scott	<p>Baseball – Can we have the unused metal sleeves removed from Mortlock Park please. These were identified as a hazard to park users during the IPOS inspection done on 7th March 2018. On Sunday 13th October I noticed the back stop nets in the South West corner being secured with 50cm spikes with post holders welded to the top. If Baseball no longer need fixed metal sleeves embedded in the ground – can all these be removed now? There are some in the northern end of the football oval and some more near the south west corner of Mortlock Park. the metal sleeves can become exposed during periods of heavy rain and they are not deep enough to be avoided by the council ground coring machine.</p>							

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	<p>The new devices with 50cm spikes – is the irrigation system more than 50cm deep? Did the baseball club pay for the repair to the irrigation system they damaged around the 4th October (President of club admitted it to me at the time) and the repairs were done by Council staff on 5th Oct 2018?</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Council staff have been in contact with the Baseball Club in relation to exposed metal sleeves or metal caps on the playing surface of Mortlock Park ovals. The Club have advised that they will check and remove any metal caps or sleeves that are exposed on the ovals at Mortlock Park. The Baseball club are using 350mm spikes. Council staff will inspect where the spikes are being used.</p>		
<p>Janet Scott</p>	<p>Emails from Council need to be more informative 10/10/2019 PB2019/0724 No idea what this one is about. What is this about and can staff please include more detail than “customer service report” and “Request for Services Progress” in the subject line or the email. The customer service reports have my report in them but the subject does not help me work out which is which given I usually make 5 reports as I go along on dog walks.</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Feedback noted.</p>		
<p>Janet Scott</p>	<p>Can we have some footpaths and pram ramps linking Broadway and the RSL / Dorset St across Prince George Parade?? It is difficult to get across without getting feet sopping wet. The footpath along Broadway next to 1 Prince George Parade – frequently gets covered in slippery wet mud and also makes access from the Northern part of CLG to the RSL difficult.</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The construction of new footpath links and associated pedestrian ramps within Colonel Light Gardens needs to be undertaken with respect to the Colonel Light Gardens Conservation Management Plan (CLGCMP). An investigation will be undertaken for these sites, consulting the CLGCMP and seeking heritage advice to determine the most appropriate solution for crossing points that is appropriate for the area. Consideration will then be given to prioritisation for budget allocation consideration by Full Council.</p>		

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Janet Scott	Can we have a pram ramp across the Strand between 11 and 9 Picadilly Circus	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The construction of new footpath links and associated pedestrian ramps within Colonel Light Gardens needs to be undertaken with respect to the Colonel Light Gardens Conservation Management Plan (CLGCMP). An investigation will be undertaken for these sites, consulting the CLGCMP and seeking heritage advice to determine the most appropriate solution for crossing points that is appropriate for the area. Consideration will then be given to prioritisation for budget allocation consideration by Full Council.</p>		
Janet Scott	Can we have a permanent pedestrian crossing where the school crossing over the Strand near number 9?	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The feasibility of implementing pedestrian crossings is determined by meeting specific requirements relating to the number of vehicles and pedestrians crossing in peak periods demonstrated through a formal pedestrian and vehicle survey. This location is currently not identified for treatment but has been listed on the Traffic and Transport Program for consideration and investigation as part of future works.</p>		
Janet Scott	Can we do something about the mud on the footpath between 1 and 1A Winchester. I think something needs to be done to remove school traffic in that laneway.	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Council will arrange for the footpath to be inspected and assessed as necessary.</p>		
Janet Scott	Can we have some yellow paint for the fire plugs in Pembroke Place and other streets in CLG. I frequently find someone parked over the fireplug in front of my house. It's worst when there are parties - all the fire plugs get covered up by visitors who don't know they are there, SA Water has been removing the posts and after fresh paving renovation - all the yellow paint and blue markers disappear. Pretty sure it is still a rule we don't park over them but how can people comply if they don't know where they are.	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The yellow linemarking associated with SA Water Top Stones and Fireplugs are the responsibility of SA Water to implement/reinstate. A request has been sent to SA Water to investigate the Colonel Light Gardens Area to undertake the linemarking works as required. If there are specific streets that have been</p>		

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identified by the public, these requests can be made direct to SA Water.		
Janet Scott	<p>Can we have some yellow paint to make it clear no parking within 3m of solid white line in Prince George Parade between Broadway and East Parkway.</p> <p>It is not possible to safely or legally park on either side of Prince George Parade here - but when there are big events at the RSL people get confused cos the north side of the Parade is marked "No standing" but the south side does not have yellow paint or signs - only the white line down the middle of the road - and most people don't know that rule. There isn't enough room for anyone to park there and leave 3m.</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>A preliminary review of this location has been undertaken based on the poor compliance history. Based on this review the provision of no stopping pavement markings will be considered.</p>		
Janet Scott	<p>Can we fix the footpath on East Parkway where it meets The Grove. Currently the footpath stops on the West Side and then crosses diagonally (J Walk) to the East Side of East Parkway. But if anyone wants to stay on the same side of East Parkway - there is no link for wheel chairs or prams. It just ends in a cliff. This was a hazard for the people on the walking tour of CLG on Sunday 13th (we had both wheelchairs and prams).</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The construction of new footpath links and associated pedestrian ramps within Colonel Light Gardens needs to be undertaken with respect to the Colonel Light Gardens Conservation Management Plan (CLGCMP). An investigation will be undertaken for these sites, consulting the CLGCMP and seeking heritage advice to determine the most appropriate solution for crossing points that is appropriate for the area. Consideration will then be given to prioritisation for budget allocation consideration by Full Council.</p>		
Rod Ellis	<p>What can Mitcham Council do to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the blocks of land up for sale adjacent to the Torrens Park Railway Station to improve facilities and car parking at the Station?</p>	Development Services & Community Safety
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Park and Ride facilities (dependent on the scale) are generally considered as part of the state governments strategy to encourage more patronage of</p>		

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	<p>public transport and are managed by DPTI. Council has directly raised this matter with the State Government and have been advised that the upgrade of the station is currently unfunded and as such there are no funds available to purchase land and expand the station. Council will be considering a Notice of Motion at its 12 November 2019 Meeting which seeks to jointly meet with the Minister, Members for Elder and Waite to request that the State Government reconsider its position in this matter and purchase the land.</p>	
Rod Ellis	Can Mitcham Council provide funds for completion of Wirraparinga Loop Trail in Brownhill Creek?	Engineering & Horticulture
	<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Council has completed upgrades to the Peter nelson trail in the 17/18 budget and upgrade works have been completed that forms part of the Wirriparinga Loop In . In addition, Council has committed to maintenance of sections of trail on Council land and to contribute to the signage when the project is rolled out. Council is actively involved in the committee assigned to drive the project and no specific requests for funding have been established at this stage.</p> <p>The trail concept is subject to multiple land owners and Council support the concept in principle but only has the intention currently of investing in Council managed property.</p>	
Carolyn Harry	What is the reason for changing “Residential Zone” to “Surburban neighbourhoods”?	Development Services & Community Safety
	<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>There were a number of factors in proposing to change select areas from the <i>Residential (Central Plains) Zone</i> to <i>Suburban Neighbourhood Zone</i>.</p> <p>At a strategic level, the proposed change reflects the Spatial Vision for the City and the Key Precinct Structure Plans, which were subject to community consultation in August 2018 and subsequently endorsed by Council in February 2019. The proposed change from <i>Residential (Central Plains) Zone</i> to <i>Suburban Neighbourhood Zone</i> affects only a small proportion of the Council area and is located entirely within the precincts identified on the Spatial Vision for the City as having potential for significant growth and change.</p> <p>The change also reflects the State Government’s commitment to containing urban growth within the existing metropolitan area, to provide greater housing choice and to develop walkable neighbourhoods.</p> <p>During discussions with the community over the past few years, we have heard that people want more choice in terms of housing to suit their changing family structures, lifestyles and personal preferences.</p> <p>Concentrating growth and change within relatively small parts of the Council area will also assist to protect the existing character of the balance</p>	

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of the Council area.		
Carolyn Harry	What does "Suburban Neighbourhood" mean?	Development Services & Community Safety
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The proposed <i>Suburban Neighbourhood Zones</i> are envisaged to be developed as low and medium density residential neighbourhoods established around Mixed Use, District Centre and Urban Corridor Zones where there is a concentration of activity, shops, services and public transport.</p> <p>The zone provides opportunity for housing diversity and choice, by allowing different housing forms that will cater for different household sizes, different stages of life and housing preferences.</p> <p>The dominant character of the zone is expected to be low and medium density residential buildings up to two storeys in height, with an average net residential density of around 30-40 dwellings per hectare (this equates to approximately 250-350sqm allotment sizes).</p> <p>The height, scale and density of development will reduce towards the zone boundary where it borders with existing lower density residential development outside the zone (ie, Residential Central Plains Zone).</p> <p>Medium density development up to three storeys in height will be appropriate only in limited circumstances where the development is adjacent to activity centres, public open space or public transport stops or on large (amalgamated) sites exceeding 2000sqm in area. Three storey buildings will need to be carefully sited and designed to minimise impacts on adjacent land.</p> <p>New development in the zone must address not only numerical values (eg minimum allotment sizes and street frontages, height, setbacks etc) but also the appearance and function of the buildings.</p>		
Carolyn Harry	What does "Predominantly residential but with small-scale non-residential land use" mean?	Development Services & Community Safety
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>The <i>Suburban Neighbourhood Zone</i> is a residential zone which also allows for small-scale, non-residential uses that serve the local community. Examples of such non-residential uses include shops, cafes, offices, consulting rooms and childcare facilities.</p> <p>Non-residential development should be of a nature and scale that only serves the local community, is consistent with the character of the area and does not detrimentally impact the amenity of nearby residents.</p>		

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Carolyn Harry	Who makes that decision?	Development Services & Community Safety
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>A development application for a non-residential use within <i>Suburban Neighbourhood Zone</i> would need to be lodged with Council for assessment.</p> <p>The application would be assessed against the provisions of the Development Plan (zone provisions, as well as broader Council-wide provisions) to reach a decision.</p> <p>The application may be dealt with by a planning officer under delegation, or may be presented to the Council Assessment Panel (CAP) for a decision – this will be a case-by-case scenario.</p>		
Carolyn Harry	Is there any purpose in appealing non residential land use?	Development Services & Community Safety
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Under the current legislation, and depending upon the type of application, there may be a public notification process, however there are some uses which will not be subject to public notification (for example, a dwelling, aged persons accommodation, an office associated with a dwelling). Non-residential land uses such as shops, consulting rooms and childcare centres would be subject to a public notification process whereby adjoining owners and occupiers would be provided notice of the development application.</p>		
Peter Carter	<p>DATE OF THE BOORMAN WARD FORUM</p> <p>Traditionally the Boorman ward forum has been held early in the year prior to the formulation of the budget. This has given rate payers an opportunity to raise concerns about roads, rates rubbish etc. This year the timing of the meeting was deferred until almost the start of the “festive season” when people’s availability may be reduced. Importantly the move prevented rate payers from meeting new councillors (I understand there are no new councillors in Boorman ward, but there are in others) and having direct input into their decision making.</p>	

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	<p><i>Why was the timing of the ward forums shifted and what benefits does the administration think will flow through to the ratepayers rather than the administration.</i></p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Council at its meeting on 2 January 2019 resolved to hold three Ward Forums in October / November each year with the exception of election years. It was recommended that the Ward Forums be held at this time to provide early and more meaningful opportunity to engagement with residents and provide input into the formation of the Annual Business Plan and Budget for the following financial year. It is also a less busy time of the year for Elected Members.</p>		
<p>Peter Carter</p>	<p>BALHAM RESERVE</p> <p>Last year a significant amount of money was spent on the walkway along the western side of Balham Reserve. My understanding, based on a discussion with a previous CEO, is that this is a category one park and within the council's guidelines there are standards for its maintenance.</p> <p>As a result the upgrade to the pathway along the reserve, which was much appreciated, the run off from the path near the northern end of the tennis courts pools badly on the grassed area and has killed it. The council has made an attempt to rectify the problem, but this achieved no positive result.</p> <p>Within three months of laying the bitumen it began cracking and continues to do so.</p> <p>At this time of the year the grass is allowed to dry off and run to seed. There a number of ramifications from this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What during the winter, with the exception of the ungrassed bog at the end of the tennis courts, was an area kids could enjoy becomes unusable; • The area becomes unsafe to use because the long grass hides things such as dog faeces, broken glass and needles; and • The grass seeds are injurious to dogs using the area; <p><i>Would the council please advise:</i></p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The recommended frequency of grass cutting at this time of year; and</i> • <i>What actions will be taken to repair the asphalt cracks and improve the way in which the run-off is handled.</i> 	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Balham reserve is on a four weekly maintenance cycle. The reserve is on a similar program with other reserves of the same priority.</p> <p>Following feedback from the community, the area of earth adjacent to the tennis courts that was left bare following construction was hydroseeded to assist the regrowth of grass. Additional drainage infrastructure was also installed at the same time to capture runoff from the tennis courts and increase pathway areas so that it no longer ponds on that area, allowing the seeded grass to establish itself.</p> <p>Asphalt cracking is a product of various site conditions. Every footpath within the City of Mitcham is routinely condition assessed across a wide range of criteria in order to inform renewal and maintenance practises. This footpath will be monitored and appropriate maintenance, such as crack sealing, will be undertaken as required.</p>		
Peter Carter	<p>RECOGNITION OF RATE PAYERS IN THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN</p> <p>The annual business plan is a very comprehensive document yet it contains no formal recognition of the council's key stakeholders viz. the ratepayers. Nor is there a formal mission statement saying something along the lines that the council will provide efficient and economic service to the rate payers that offer value for service - other councils recognise their obligations to their rate payers.</p> <p><i>When will the Mitcham council formally recognise the importance of addressing the needs of its key stake holders – the rate payers in its documents.</i></p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Thank you for your feedback. The Council has endorsed a draft Strategic Management Plan (SMP) - Mitcham 2030 – which is currently out for community consultation.</p> <p>The draft SMP incorporates themes across goals aligned to social, environmental, economic and leadership outcomes.</p>		

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	<p>Against Goal 4 “Excellence in Leadership”, you’ll note that Council commits to ‘Good Governance’ and ‘Organisational Improvement’ – both of which directly address the sentiment of your question.</p> <p>These themes will be used to drive the setting of a 4-Year Delivery Plan and our future business plans.</p>	
<p>Peter Carter</p>	<p>RATE INCREASE</p> <p>The Mitcham council has justifiably achieved a degree of notoriety with the rate increase of 2.68% it set for the 2019/2020 financial year. If it wasn’t the highest in South Australia it was close to the highest with most councils being able to constrain any increases to close to the local government movement in CPI. The financial hurt to the rate payers was exacerbated by the approach adopted by the council in its decision to pass on the State government’s waste levy of 0.99% thereby increasing the rate increase for the current financial year to 3.67%.</p> <p>The council had a number of alternative approaches that would have produced a better outcome. They included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paying for the increase from the very large surplus which was established “to handle unforeseen occurrences such as the transfer of government costs”; and • Treating the increase as a once off levy that would disappear when an alternative approach to recycling waste was identified and implemented. <p>The problem with the approach adopted by the council is that the money set aside to handle the waste levy increase may be used in the calculations used for increasing rates.</p> <p><i>What actions, other than increasing rates to recover the cost, is the council taking to reduce the future impact of the state government waste levy; and</i></p> <p><i>Can we be assured that the increase of 0.99% allowed in this year’s budget will be backed out when rate increases are calculated and then the actual amount required for the waste levy is added back in.</i></p>	

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	<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Each year Council reviews its annual budget in light of prior and current year's expenditure. Any identified reductions in costs are budgeted for to ensure future rate rises to maintain existing services are kept at a minimum.</p>	
<p>Peter Carter</p>	<p>BUDGET BLOWOUT</p> <p>The budget, when sanctioned by the rate payers, indicated a surplus for the 2019/2020 financial year of \$1.017m. At the last council meeting the elected members voted in favour of it being reduced to a figure somewhat less. On a personal basis I cannot understand how a reduction of this size in the surplus could be introduced three months into the current financial year.</p> <p>I read the justification for the reduction in the council business papers and had some difficulty understanding the reasons and wondered how elected members, generally less financially literate than I, voted on something where they may not have understand;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either the reason for the need for the size of the reduction; or • Why it was necessary to bring in within three months of the budget being finalised. <p>My immediate reaction on reading the presentation was that the administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed to foreshadow the impact of the changes at the time of public discussion on the budget and explain the ramifications of the decisions being made; or • Lacks adequate systems to identify the deferred cost of capital projects that run over two or more years; • Were unaware of changes to accounting practices that would have a significant impact on the budgetted surplus or if they were why they were they not forthcoming about their impact during budget discussions. <p><i>Does the unexpended money allocated to capital expenditure in the 2018/2019 show up dollar for dollar in the surplus or was some of it allocated to other unfunded activities or used to hide budget over-runs.</i></p>	

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	<p><i>Were the changes to the surplus understood or anticipated by the administration at the time the budget was finalised:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If not why not; and</i> • <i>If they were, why they were not foreshadowed in discussions with rate payers.</i> <p>In the administration's discussion paper regarding the reduction to the surplus there is reference to Goal 5 in the strategic plan. This relates to organisational improvement strategies.</p> <p><i>What lessons has the administration learned from this process and will any changes be made to ensure rate payers and elected members are fully briefed on any background issues that may influence budget projections.</i></p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Unexpended capital money that was re-budgeted in to 2019/20 due to unfinished capital projects does not impact Council's Long Term Financial Plan in any significant way overall. It was expenditure budgeted to occur last year and represents a re-timing from last year to this year, no increase overall. The current Long Term Financial Plan was prepared on the basis that this work was to be done.</p> <p>Council's budgeted underlying operating surplus as part of the first review of budget priorities decreased by \$38,000, from an operating surplus of \$1,017,000 to an operating surplus of \$979,000.</p> <p>The \$38,000 decrease is a result of additional operating expenses required to maintain and operate three new public toilets located at Mortlock Park, Avenue Road and CC Hood.</p> <p>Council's budgeted headline operating surplus see a decrease of \$607,000 this is predominantly due to a change in accounting standards that impact Council's subsidiary Centennial Park Cemetery Authority (CPCA). Under the new Accounting Standards, CPCA will bring to account as income a portion of Interment Right revenue in the year in which the Right is sold. The balance will be brought to account as income over the life of the Interment Right.</p> <p>This has resulted in CPCA budgeting a net deficit result in 2019/20 and as such Council is required to reflect their equity share of this result as a non-cash operating expense. Council has not historically recognised Equity Accounted gains / losses from Council subsidiaries as part of the underlying operating surplus / deficit on the basis that they are both a non-cash item and not part of Council's direct operations to the community. The accounting change does not have a cash impact on either CPCA or Council. The subsidiary is expected to be back in surplus in 2026/27 as the change washes through to the revised</p>		

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	<p>revenue recognition cycle and Council does not expect to have to raise revenue to cover the deficit over this time. Given these reasons Council will continue to exclude net gain / loss from Equity Accounted Council Subsidiaries from the underlying operating surplus / deficit.</p> <p>The change in Accounting Standards required investigation concerning its treatment and impact on the long term financial plan. Once this impact was known the budget was then adjusted as soon as possible. The change in accounting standards will now be reflected in the 2020/21 – 2029/30 Long Term Financial Plan and 2020/21 Annual Business Plan.</p>	
<p>Peter Carter</p>	<p>BLACKWOOD LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE</p> <p>The Mitcham council is very clear in the hierarchy of planning documents and the impact they have one on another:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ratepayers, working with the elected members set the Strategic Management Plan for the foreseeable future – my understanding is the current one is being updated; • The vision set in this is translated into a financial statement, the Long Term Financial Plan which is then used to develop the: • Annual Business Plan and Budget. <p>I have reviewed each of these documents in a reasonable amount of detail, albeit a “boy’s look” and can find no reference to a new Blackwood library and community centre in any of these documents. Yet I read in the local paper that planning work has commenced on these facilities and I gain the impression discussions are being held regarding purchase of land. There appears to be no money allocated in any of the financial papers for this work.</p> <p><i>Has a business case been developed to justify the new library and community centre;</i></p> <p><i>Where will the money come from for this initiative and what impact will it have on future rates.</i></p> <p><i>Is this apparent use of unfunded money mal-administration subject to review by ICAC.</i></p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>In the current Strategic Management Plan, which was developed in consultation with the community, identifies the improvement of Community Facilities</p>		

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	<p>(including the Blackwood Community Hub and Waite Street Reserve) as a Strategic Initiative.</p> <p>At it's meeting on 26 March 2019 Council endorsed the progression to Preliminary Design of the Blackwood Community Hub. Funding for this work was endorsed by Council at it's 8 October 2019 meeting, as part of Council's consideration of Operating Projects for the 2019/2020 Financial Year.</p> <p>No funding commitments have been made by Council at this time to fund the construction of the Blackwood Community Hub / Waite Street Reserve activation.</p> <p>At this time, a Business Case has not been developed for this project however administration is currently updating a Project Charter for Stage 2 (Preliminary Design) of the Project, a document that sets out the objectives and scope. The project reflects council's commitment to providing quality community facilities which are vibrant and well-serviced (Connected Community 1.3, and Prosperous Economy 3.1).</p> <p>Prior to endorsing the funding of the construction of this project, a Prudential Review will be completed and reported to Council.</p>	
<p>Glenn Spear</p>	<p>During the election campaign you made specific promises costing hundreds of millions of dollars. In fact the total promised by you has never been seen before in Local Government election campaigns. You promised FREE solar power and battery to every residence in Mitcham "at no cost to anyone". You continue to tell people that you are in the process of rolling this program out and that it will be free, at a function speaking as Mayor you said that your scheme would enable vulnerable and elderly to "run their air conditioning"</p> <p>How many homes in The city have received free "solar"?</p> <p>Can you explain to residents why you chose to delete many of your facebook posts from your Mayoral page shortly after the election?</p>	
	<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Solar power is radiation from the sun – which is free. Photovoltaic (PV) cells capture solar radiation and convert it to electricity. PV cells are proven to be cost effective in terms of savings on electricity costs versus installation costs. This is evidenced by over 8000 homes in the City of Mitcham having already installed PV cells. I remain totally committed to enabling residents to access free solar power through the installation of PV cells.</p> <p>Whilst the details of this scheme are finalised, because of the proven cost effectiveness of PV cells, that in the first instance PV cells should be installed on council buildings as an immediate cost saving measure for all ratepayers. I am working on this right now.</p> <p>After the election I deleted several Facebook and Instagram posts. These were posts which I felt were appropriate as a candidate but were not appropriate once I was elected Mayor.</p>	

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Glenn Spear	<p>In an email you sent to elected members earlier this year you asked Councillors “To be brave and vote for higher rate increases so that amongst other things people could receive HIGHER BOARD SITTING FEES” Congratulations..... it appears that your fellow Councillors listened to your request and, with your casting vote City of Mitcham applied / imposed the highest rate increase of any metropolitan Council. Having imposed this large increase in rates we learn that an executive director received an increase of \$12,000 dollars backdated to July last year and then the same person received another \$9,000 increase in July this year. The CEO advised the director of this huge increase in a letter dated February this year and again in correspondence in July of this year. Another director was granted an additional 5% increase this year! WOULDN’T THAT BE A NICE TRIP TO THE LETTERBOX... to be advised of an increase of some \$21,000 within a period of about 4 months.</p> <p>Was the Mayor aware of these increases? If so how can such an increase be justified at a time of wage restraint...we ask other staff to receive increase basically in line with CPI.</p> <p>The increase were not revealed in the wages register it took me several attempts to find the information?</p> <p>Why did no Councillor investigate wages, which make up most of our expenses, particularly given the imposition of such a large increase on residents?</p> <p>At budget time we heard administration tell us that we needed to employ more staff to address the budget backlog...and ridiculously administration needed to employ an additional staff resource to “PLAN” for planting an additional 400 trees surely a RED FLAG to most!</p> <p>Again no Councillor challenged these costs,,,,,, WHY?</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>This year the City of Mitcham determined that it could deliver its ongoing and additional services to residents with a 2.95% rate rise (exclusive of the state government solid waste levy). The Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) independently calculated that councils should apply a 2.90% rate rise. That these figures are very similar indicates that Mitcham Council is tracking incredibly well with state government expectations.</p> <p>As is legislated by state government, the terms of employee contracts with the City of Mitcham is the responsibility of the CEO. As such, I have not been involved with individual staff contract negotiations. However, I am happy to announce and very well aware that the additional staff required to deliver this years budgeted services are included in the 257 staff cap.</p>		

A number of questions were raised from the floor and discussion followed on the following topics (in addition to the above):

- Artificial turf, Council policy and do Council use it
- Vacant land on Belair Road and what it could be used for
- Overgrown creekbed at the start of Brownhill Creek recreation park
- Items included in budget review in a previous Full Council agenda

The meeting closed at 8:48pm.