



## **BOORMAN AND GAULT WARDS COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES**

**HELD ON MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2018  
MAYOR'S PARLOUR**

Chair: Cr Adriana Christopoulos (Boorman Ward)

Elected Members in attendance:

- Mayor Glenn Spear
- Cr Adriana Christopoulos (Boorman Ward)
- Cr Andrew Tilley (Boorman Ward) - arrived at 7.10 pm
- Cr Stephen Fisher (Gault Ward)
- Cr John Wilson (Gault Ward)

Staff in attendance:

- Matthew Pears (Chief Executive Officer)
- Howard Lacy (General Manager Engineering and Horticulture)
- Nita Freer-Cooling (Minute Secretary)

Other Elected Members in attendance:

- Cr Lindy Taeuber (Craigburn Ward)

Community attendees: 22

The meeting commenced at: 7 pm

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

The Mayor also welcomed Sam Duluk (State Member for Davenport) and acknowledged apologies from Cr Jane Bange (The Park Ward) and Nicole Flint (Federal Member for Boothby).

The Mayor then handed the meeting to the Chair, Cr Adriana Christopoulos.

Cr Christopoulos welcomed attendees, acknowledged Tracey Spear (Mayoress) 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.

Cr Christopoulos then asked for questions from the floor. Questions received in writing are listed below.

NAME	ISSUES AND COMMENTS	RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE
Dr Gwyn Jolley	<p>Mitcham residents are very concerned about the plans for the new car park and traffic flow at the redeveloped library. Without any public consultation, Council has endorsed the destruction of part of the Sensory Garden and the building of a one-way road around the remaining garden, turning it into a roundabout. We urgently need Council to reconsider this decision and look for other options.</p> <p>What can Councillors do to support the many community members who want to save the Sensory Garden?</p>	General Manager Engineering and Horticulture
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for your question regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Mitcham Library and car park and their potential impact on the Sensory Garden. Council notes that you and others have asked similar related questions on this issue on numerous occasions, but we are always happy to provide a further response.</i></p> <p><i>A priority for the Mitcham Library car park design was to ensure the safety of all users and easy accessibility. The car park improvements are required to meet the increased parking demand generated as a result of the significant Library expansion and are designed to allow for the safe movement of pedestrians of all ages to the library, kindergarten and gardens.</i></p> <p><i>Three project workshops were held with Elected Members (4 April 2017, 13 July 2017 and 17 October 2017) which were all open to the public. Notifications regarding all workshops / briefings with Elected Members are provided on Council's website, at the Civic Centre and at both Libraries. Whilst Council resolved to only consult on the vision, outputs and outcomes of the project and not on the detailed designs, discussions have since been held about the potential impacts of the project on the Sensory Garden with its volunteers and other stakeholders. These discussions led to a modification of the original design with angled parking introduced, at the expense of some car park spaces, to avoid any impact on the second row of garden beds and allow additional working space for the volunteers. The modifications also allow for the protection of two small pine trees within the garden beds. The design also improves lighting and CCTV coverage to increase security within the Sensory Garden and car park.</i></p> <p><i>Unfortunately, it was not possible to expand the car park any further into the western lawn area because it would seriously threaten the root zones and health of the existing large pine trees. The final design of the car park is considered to best balance the outcomes required. These include the sustainability and protection of the Sensory Garden as well as the safety and amenity of all users of the precinct.</i></p> <p><i>Council considered a rescission motion that would have had the effect of leaving the carpark design for the Mitcham Library Upgrade Project unchanged, however this recession was lost. Subsequently a Section 270 review request (Section 270 of the Local Government Act) has been lodged which seeks a review of Council's original decision(s) and process in relation to the proposed new car park design. At its meeting on 27 February 2018, Council approved the appointment of an independent legal reviewer to undertake the Section 270 review. Results of the Section 270 review will be available once complete.</i></p>		

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Mrs Denese Wyatt	<p>Each morning my husband and I walk through Batchelor Reserve and each day we are so disappointed to see the condition of the gardens with weeds growing – sometimes higher than the neighbouring fences - and the roses in some places look like they are not getting watered at all and have never been dead-headed, so they do not have a second blooming.</p> <p>This is such an asset for the area and if for some reason, the Council cannot afford to keep it looking as it should, why haven't you called for volunteers to come once a month to help with the up-keep?</p> <p>I am sure there are local citizens and those who use the courts and other facilities who would willingly give up a small amount of their time to work together to keep our local area looking the best it could be.</p>	General Manager Engineering and Horticulture
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>Council thanks you for bringing this to our attention and will investigate the condition of the reserve before providing a response.</i></p> <p><i>Update: Maintenance of the gardens has now been completed. The reserve has a maintenance program which includes general lawns and garden maintenance, but also includes regular maintenance of the roses, rain garden and garden beds. Due to workload pressures, this program had not been properly applied. Additional time has now been allocated to ensure this essential garden maintenance can be carried out on a regular basis.</i></p> <p><i>In relation to volunteers, there are currently 360 volunteers at the City of Mitcham who do a great job. If anyone would like to volunteer they can contact Lynne Norton on 8372 8888.</i></p>		
Mr L J Butler	Is the City of Mitcham aware their buildings in Colonel Light Gardens are getting very old and due to cost pressure and work standards will be unable to do much with them? In my opinion this requires new buildings to be built. Will Council allow building over the 40% to open area ratio?	General Manager Development Services and Community Safety
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>Proposals for the demolition of existing houses and the construction of new houses in Colonel Light Gardens are assessed on merit and in consultation with the State Heritage Unit.</i></p>		

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<p><i>Achieving a total floor area of 40% for all buildings (including garages, carports and verandahs) on a house block is one of the many considerations in the merit assessment of a proposal. Having said this, there are some examples in Colonel Light Gardens where approval has been granted for the total floor area of buildings on a house block to exceed 40% of the site area.</i></p>		
<p>Mr P Carter</p>	<p>When a councillor nominated for the State Elections she was loathed to resign. Under pressure from her Party Leader she took leave with pay. Why is she allowed to continue receiving pay? If she is actually acting legally will the Council be prepared to pass a “by-law” to prevent ratepayers from paying for this very questionable behaviour?</p>	<p>General Manager Organisational and Community Development</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>The Local Government Act 1999 allows an Elected Member to take leave with pay in these circumstances. It is beyond the power of a council to create a by-law to prevent an Elected member taking leave with pay.</i></p>		
<p>M/s D Lynch</p>	<p>When will the Council begin community consultation about the plans to reduce the widths of roads in the Torrens Park area bounded by Belair Road, Blythwood Road, Parkers Road and Alton Avenue? When will the Council consult with the community in this area about stormwater issues, pedestrian access, parking and other infrastructure needs instead of imposing changes that may not reflect the needs of the community? When will the Council respond to and talk with the residents on Brook Street, Torrens Park who have expressed concerns about the proposed changes to Brook Street that may reduce safety, create parking problems, increase traffic congestion, reduce access for essential vehicles and not address the stormwater issues? This bushfire area requires wide roads to allow any essential vehicles access to Randell Park and the surrounding area. Additionally, the area requires an increase in stormwater nodes or systems to maximise the use of stormwater, such as using the stormwater retention system at the pump station, reduction in trees that block stormwater nodes, improved footpaths and other locally identified needs.</p>	<p>General Manager Engineering and Horticulture</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>Council will investigate the concerns raised.</i></p> <p><i>Update: Council has referred the proposal to reduce the width of Brook Street for community consultation. The other issues such as stormwater problems are progressing and once options are identified, these will be presented to Council who will decide whether further community consultation is required.</i></p>		

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M/s D Lynch	<p>Two years ago, I requested increased lighting at the Lynton Train Station. There is good lighting on the station. As soon as a person gets half way up the northern ramp there is no light and this extends to the road where there is an inadequate path. This is dangerous for users of public transport, especially those with a disability.</p> <p>When will the Council install adequate lighting and footpaths?</p>	General Manager Engineering and Horticulture
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>This issue was referred to Council for funding approximately two years ago. Unfortunately Council was not able to allocate funding to improve lighting at that time. Funding has again been requested in 2018/19 and this project will be considered as a priority if funds are approved.</i></p>		
M/s D Lynch	<p>In 2016 it took the Council nearly six months to clean a blocked stormwater drain between two properties on George Street and Brook Street, Torrens Park. The stormwater overflowed the drain into properties on Brook Street. Eventually the Council cleaned the drain by entering a property and removing fence panels on Brook Street without notifying the owners or seeking permission from the owners. The owners appreciated the Council cleaning the drain, although not the disregard of the owners' rights.</p> <p>What is the Council doing to ensure that this stormwater drain remains clean and the owners of the George Street property provide access to the easement?</p>	General Manager Engineering and Horticulture
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>This open drain is located on private property at 21 George Street, Torrens Park and follows the joint property line between this property and adjoining Brook Street property (a small block of single storey residential flats). The drain was most likely installed by either the previous or current owners of 21 George Street. It is Administration's view that the drain is not owned or maintained by Council and is a private responsibility. However, following repeated requests from adjoining Brook Street property owner(s), Council intervened and arranged for a contractor to clean the drain out. The owner of the George Street property declined to allow access via their yard due to the risk of damage to their existing gardens and shrubs. The contractor therefore opted to access the drain from the Brook Street property, but does not appear to have sought permission to do so or to remove several panels from the common boundary fence. Council apologise that our contractor did not follow appropriate business rules to first obtain permission. The drain was subsequently cleared and local flooding has reduced. Council will periodically check the stormwater drain and if cleaning is required, will negotiate with the property owner.</i></p>		

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Mr D Bartlett	<p>What is the policy position and approach of the Gault Ward Elected Members to the funding and implementation of various elements of the Price Memorial Master Plan that was endorsed by Council on 10 October 2017?</p> <p>This PMO upgrading ranked second in March 2017 following community consultation on the Council's Strategic Management Plan on a list of Council's 17 unfunded strategic initiatives behind improving open space and playgrounds which is linked to the PMO works.</p> <p>Adjacent Council, the City of Marion, has gained \$8m in funding from the Federal and State Governments for upgrading the Edwardstown Oval facilities with a two story clubrooms and change rooms. It has also prepared a comprehensive Master Plan for Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre and is actively seeking 50% funding on the \$19.75m project cost. These facilities will add to the comprehensive facilities at the Marion Oval complex.</p> <p>In the City of Unley, the State Government committee to \$2.5m to the replacement of the grandstand with new clubrooms and change rooms at Goodwood Oval in November 2017 and Council added \$950,000. In addition, Unley Council committed \$1.8m to the estimated project cost of \$2.9m and are seeking \$500,000 from the State Government for a major upgrade of Unley Oval.</p> <p>In the City of Burnside, a project in excess of \$4.5m to develop change rooms and facilities at Glenunga Oval was opened in February 2016.</p> <p>With significant investment in these adjacent facilities being undertaken in the past year or so, underway currently or close to commencing, local sporting clubs and the community in the City of Mitcham is understandably feels that they are being placed at a significant disadvantage with its aging sporting facilities.</p> <p>Is there genuine effort being made to position Mitcham Council to capitalise on government funding of sporting venues given the upcoming State Election?</p>	Sport and Recreation Officer

*City of Mitcham response:*

The endorsed Master Plan for Price Memorial Oval will be the basis that Elected Members, Council Administration and the sporting / community clubs will use to source grant funding over the coming years.

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<p>Yes, Mitcham Council has and will continue to capitalise on government funding as it becomes available to help sporting and community groups within the City. In February 2018 Council received grant funding of \$431,500 for female facilities at Hewett Sporting Reserve from the Office for Recreation and Sport Round 3 Female Facilities Program - <a href="http://ors.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/413529/rptWebSuccessfulFFP3.pdf">http://ors.sa.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0006/413529/rptWebSuccessfulFFP3.pdf</a></p>		
<p>M/s L Halliday</p>	<p>My question is about parking in Norseman Avenue. We have two large Aged Care Facilities, Resthaven and All Hallows. Both facilities have not provided adequate parking for staff and visitors, and residents are inconvenienced. Parking in Norseman Avenue is limited to one side as it is a very narrow street. However, cars are parked extremely close to driveways on the southern side. I am told by the 'traffic team' that it is legal to park right up to driveways and that yellow lines are not enforceable. As I walk around my neighbourhood I see evidence of many yellow lines extending to about 1 metre from the driveway. An example of this is at the eastern end of Monmouth Avenue, near to the Church where bright yellow lines have been painted and are obviously new. Residents of All Hallows ILUs urgently request more parking guidelines and ask for existing lines to be repainted.</p> <p>Also, at the exit of Norseman Avenue to Sussex Terrace the lines are not long enough and cars are parked closed to the junction. The situation will only get worse with the opening of the new Resthaven unit which is presently under construction.</p>	<p>General Manager Engineering and Horticulture</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>There have been a number of detail traffic and parking studies in Norseman Avenue, including small changes implemented to address specific issues with the exit at the Resthaven Aged Care facility. Parking has been restricted on one side of the street to improve traffic flows and safety. Unfortunately Norseman Avenue is relatively narrow compared to some streets in the area and with the restrictions, there is a reduced amount of on-street parking. Council has attempted to balance the safety and capacity of the road and residents' amenity with the need to have on-street parking available for employees and visitors to the aged care facilities.</i></p> <p><i>In relation to parking close to driveways, it is obviously illegal to park across a driveway; however it is not illegal to park right up to a driveway. Council implements painted arrows (perpendicular to the kerb line) as advisory lines, in an attempt to encourage drivers to park further away from driveways. Council cannot apply enforcement if people park right to the edge of a driveway.</i></p> <p><i>Council uses yellow lines parallel with the kerb (No Standing) adjacent to intersections to reinforce the standard 10m clearance area from an intersection. Where these lines have faded, Council will arrange for them to be repainted. Similarly if parking restriction signs are obscured by street trees, Council can arrange to have the tree trimmed. Staff will be asked to visit the area to check on the condition of lines and sign visibility / condition.</i></p>		

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	<i>Staff from Council's traffic team will arrange a meeting with resident representatives to discuss areas of concern. Council appreciates that there are significant traffic issues that arise from the access / exits from the major aged care facilities, but there is a limit to the amount of changes that can be made taking account of the competing priorities.</i>	

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

- City of Mitcham Annual Financial Statements and Long Term Financial Plan
- Graffiti at the Torrens Park Station – DPTI
- Parking issues - Eden Street, Cumberland Park – signage in front of the school
- Sensory Garden

A number of residents were concerned that their emails about the Community Ward Forum had not been acknowledged by Council or read out on the night on the forum.

*Update: The City of Mitcham recently implemented a new system and upgraded its website. This led to three emails not being received prior to the forum. The issue has now been resolved and Council continues to monitor the implementation of the new system. There will be ongoing work to ensure that processes are improved to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. Council is grateful for your feedback and comments and want to assure you that we are continuously striving to better the customer experience.*

The meeting closed at 8.43 pm.