

Dear Members,

In responding to questions put to the Town of Cambridge at the Council's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 7/12/2006, Acting CEO Mr. Ian Birch has provided information that will be of interest to many of us. A summary of the issues is provided below, along with some comments in response. Additional information is available in the original correspondence from Mr. Birch along with the minutes from the AGM which can be accessed via the following links... [\[Tim to insert link\]](#)

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The Council has advised that a number of traffic management items are pending approvals from Main Roads WA, and that a 'Position Report' on various traffic items will be presented to the Council's Technical Services Committee at their meeting on 13/2/2007.

In the mean time, as part of the Coles development, the Council has implemented clearways in front of the development site (on Cambridge street) to facilitate vehicles turning in and out of the new shopping centre.

The Council has also approved reducing parking on railway Pd, near Roslyn Street, to improve sight lines for vehicles leaving the shopping centre. A date for implementation has not been confirmed.

The WLRA also understand that the only vehicles leaving the completed Coles site by Roslyn Street are staff cars, not customers or delivery vehicles. Hopefully, this will minimize the impact on Roslyn Street. The Council also notes their commitment to monitor the traffic at Roslyn & Railway once the development is complete.

A number of intersections around the development site will have a key impact on traffic patterns, namely the intersections along Cambridge St at Southport, Kimberley and Northwood streets. Our position and understanding of these are as follows:

Northwood/Cambridge – In August 2006 the Council revised their proposal for Northwood/Cambridge, bringing it into line with the WLRA observations. The amended proposal for a half seagull on the southern side of Cambridge Street is not currently supported by Main Roads WA and a report is being prepared for the Technical Services Committee for Feb. 14, 2007. The Council has \$40,000 allocated in this financial years capitol works budget.

Kimberley /Cambridge – A half seagull island on the south side of Cambridge Street (as endorsed by the WLRA) has now been approved by Main Roads WA and whilst not stated, we understand this to be part of the 2006/07 capitol works budget.

McCourt/Cambridge – The Council want to conclude their review of this intersection once the final design of Kimberley and Northwood intersections have been adopted. This seems to be a reasonable approach given that it wont have a direct impact on car movements relating to the new shopping centre.

The design and programs for these three proposals are endorsed by the WLRA, however, we have significant concerns over the program for other road works that will effect both the Coles development as well as the wider West Leederville area. The capitol works program for the next 5 years is currently before the Council for consideration. In it are the following items and proposed implementation dates which we will be demanding a greater priority for:

Cambridge St pedestrian crossing (to suit school & Coles development) – 2008/2009
Railway pde/Southport St roundabout – 2008/2009
Railway Pde/Kimberley St roundabout – 2009/2010
Cambridge St/Southport St traffic lights – 2009/2010

Albeit the letter from Mr. Birch reiterates that Councils acknowledgement of our response the to West Leederville Traffic Management Review, relevant steps, such as including our elements of our proposals have been ignored in the Capitol Works Program (CWP). It will clearly be more difficult to get new works and funding added to the CWP than it will be to have them deleted after further consideration, so in that regard, we will be asking the Council to include on the CWP the following items:

- Pedestrian access at Cambridge St, St John of God Hospital.
- Traffic chokes to Kimberley and Northwood Streets
- Pedestrian Access at Railway Pde (near train Station)

In concluding the traffic management issues in his correspondence to the WLRA, Mr. Birch has advised that the Council is expecting a report from the Executive Manager of Technical Services during February in regard to a program for a review of our submission. We look forward to hearing further at that point in time.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC ADVERTISING

The WLRA questioned the success and appropriateness of the current methods of communicating with residents, including the use of Public Notices and the Council's Community Consultation Policy (No 1.2.11). Recent issues such as the parking arrangements near the West Leederville Primary School, and some development approvals that received bad press, suggest that there is room for improvement in this area.

In response, Mr. Birch advised that the Council was formulating a “whole of organization” approach to develop their communications strategy, to be undertaken in the “near future”.

The WLRA will be seeking a commitment of a reasonable time frame for this review, for as it stands, the current “Community Consultation Policy” does not seem to satisfy the residents of West Leederville.

RATES FUNDING BIAS

There is a perception held by many West Leederville residents that Council funding tends to be biased towards the Coastal Ward in preference to the Wembley Ward, which includes West Leederville. This is further reinforced when you compare the funding outlined in the capitol works program for the next 5 years, in which funding for the Coastal ward is 40% higher than that of the Wembley. Given that there are nearly 20% more properties in the Wembley Ward than Coastal, maybe these concerns are legitimate.

In response, Mr. Birch notes that funding reflects the needs within the community. Hopefully, the results of the Council's recent “Residents Survey” will highlight the fact that the “needs” of West Leederville are not being adequately met and the level of dissatisfaction warrants greater awareness and reconsideration of our resources.

We believe that the role of the WLRA is to contribute to that awareness and look forward to highlighting these needs to the Council as they arise. In particular, we will be seeking significant improvements in our parks and recreational facilities, which compare very poorly with the Coastal ward resources.

FUNDING FOR THE WEST LEEDERVILLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Council confirmed that under their policies, operational expenses for Ratepayer Associations are not eligible for funding assistance. Furthermore, our application for funding under the “Financial Assistance to Community Organisations Program” was rejected on the grounds of:

- Having not demonstrated financial commitment to the project,
- Funds are not available for projects that have commenced prior to funding approval.
- The maintenance of equity between similar organizations.

The WLRA feel the Council need to review their policies as under these guidelines no residents associations will receive funding. In the meantime the WLRA will consider liaising with the other residents associations to see if we can overcome the issue of “equity between organisations”.

PARKING AT THE TOWN HALL

The question was raised as to why the parking at the Town Hall seemed to attract greater attention from the Rangers during Subiaco Oval events but during the regular week, illegal parking seemed to go by unnoticed. In response the Council noted that additional resources were provided to protect community amenities during events at Subiaco Oval, otherwise parking was monitored on an “as required” basis. It was also noted that only some of the bays at the Town Hall had parking restrictions. Importantly, if illegal

parking is of concern to anyone, the Council Ranger can be contacted on the following details 9347 6000. It's worth noting that during daylight savings, Rangers are on patrol from 8am to 8pm Mon to Fri, and 8am to 5pm weekends. After those hours, the call will be redirected to a pager service for emergency situations.

NOISE COMPLAINTS

The Council notes that any noise concerns, particularly those of a recurring nature, should be brought to the attention of the Council so that they can determine an appropriate course of action. With regard to the noise from the Leederville Hotel, the Town of Cambridge does liaise with the Town of Vincent when the issue arises, but suggests that residents should also contact that Council directly.

SCHOOL PARKING SURVEY

With the growing population of West Leederville, there is constant demand upon the West Leederville Primary School for student places. As a result, the issue of parking around the school became a hot topic late in 2006 when the Council made changes to the surrounding parking conditions without adequately liaising with the School.

The question as to why the school was not provided with an opportunity to respond to the current parking survey was answered by advising that the survey was for 'residents' and that the outcome of that survey would take into consideration the needs of the school.

Since then we note that the School and the WLRA have endeavored to distribute the survey questions to as many residents as possible. Mr Birch also noted that since the initial changes to the parking, the Council is in close contact with the school to ensure that there will be a better awareness of any changes that may result from the survey.

We would use this occasion to remind you of the need to respond to the current survey if you haven't done so already. If you haven't seen the survey form, please contact the Council or the WLRA.