

ADDENDUM TO

MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 13 JUNE 2017

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

ITEM 10: QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM PUBLIC GALLERY

10.3 Question received from Greg Leaman

Question: **Questions 1** - When will Point Cook Community Centre redevelopment commence?

Question 2 – Why haven't community groups, whom attend the centre, been updated on progress timelines of finish date so could plan for 2018/2019?

Answer: Question 1 - Jenny McMahon, Director City Life advised the construction of the Community Centre is due to commence in mid-2017, but will advise the resident directly on the actual commencement date.

Question 2 – Jenny McMahon, Director City Life advised that it was her understanding Community groups have been kept informed of the construction end and commencement dates, however will follow-up with Council officers and inform the resident directly.

Additional Information

Question 1

The majority of the preparation for demolition and construction is now completed. Contractors have been on site from early June to prepare for early works. Temporary entrances are being installed from 23 June to 17 July. During the period 23 June to 17 July a number of service changes are in place. The tender for the main works package is currently available and closes on 26 July, with the main works to commence after the successful tender is announced.

The Point Cook CLC redevelopment is part of a larger project to expand the number of Council services being provided at community learning centres. Updates on all the projects are available on Council's website at <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/major-projects/community-learning-centre-upgrades>.

Question 2

Quarterly updates are provided to all centre users through the centre newsletter. For the Point Cook CLC redevelopment project a detailed marketing communications plan has also been developed. This has featured communication to community through Council's website, the local paper, flyers and posters at community centres in Point Cook and Truganina and a schedule of social media posts. This plan has been active since early May to ensure that they community are made aware of construction timelines and service changes and can link back to the projects page on Council's website:

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/major-projects/community-learning-centre-upgrades>.

All groups that have been impacted by the project have been relocated to other venues. These arrangements will be in place throughout the course of the project and placement back into Point Cook CLC will be assessed as part of Council's annual expression of interest process commencing in September this year. Groups that have specific requirements for 2018/19 are encouraged to get in touch with Point Cook CLC staff now to discuss their situation.

10.5 **Question received from Len Waddell**

Question: **Question 1** – What heritage activities principally have been attributed to Council Hooper since his appointment to the Arts, Culture and Heritage portfolio?

Question 2 – There have been a number of heritage item issues lost in recent years from 'old Werribee' eg. Ison House, the Picture Theatre, Kendalls Iron Works, the original hospital, Knights Department store, The Bridge Hotel, The Manor Bunya Pine in Wattamolla Avenue. It is interesting to note that in Yackandandah, the whole main street has been declared a heritage zone. I understand that similar proposals are not all that practical in the municipality but some attempt should be made to preserve our heritage items.

Has there been any consideration to appoint an expert historical consultant to review particular heritage issues for preservation relating to local European history?

Answer: Question 1 and 2 - CEO Kelly Grigsby advised that a detailed written response will be provided, which will include more specific details on what Council is implementing in regards to protecting heritage and promoting heritage in Wyndham.

Additional Information

Question 1

The Arts Culture and Heritage portfolio is broad ranging. It embraces the local arts community to support and encourage creativity in the community. Public art projects, community art education and skill development are covered by this portfolio together with conserving and celebrating local heritage. A committee of local representatives with knowledge and experience across these areas has been established to support this portfolio. One of the initial priorities developed with the Committee has been celebrating Wyndham's culture and heritage.

Question 2

Wyndham currently has a Heritage Conservation Policy within its Planning Scheme relating to sites/buildings of significance which have been identified in Heritage Studies or through heritage advice provided by Council's consultant (external). This provides a level of preservation for identified heritage sites in areas subject to development applications, and when required, historical consultants are engaged to assist with the revision of these documents and other heritage projects.

10.6 **Question received from Geoff Rogers**

Question: Does the Council appreciate the tourism potential in many historic and natural areas of Werribee currently underdeveloped and unrecognised eg. The Manor environs?

Answer: CEO Kelly Grigsby advised the question will be taken on notice and a formal response will be provided.

Additional Information Wyndham has many historic and natural areas which have enormous potential for future development, including the Regional River Park and Werribee River accessed by our shared path network.

In particular we recognise there are locations along the Werribee River of historic and environmental significance. Discussions have begun within Council regarding the need for a Heritage Policy to enable a shared understanding with all stakeholders. Several departments across Council are all working in this space including:

- Libraries and Community Learning
- Community Planning & Development
- Economic Growth & Tourism
- Vibrant City Centres
- Urban Futures

It is important for our community, and Council, that a holistic approach be taken when capturing and documenting Wyndham's heritage. A Policy will support a coordinated approach outlining aims and objectives. These objectives will include potential to increase visitation through marketing and promotion.

With limited infrastructure (interpretative signage/toilets) along Werribee River outside the Werribee Park Precinct the ability to provide a positive visitor experience is challenging.

Whilst sites across the municipality may hold significant cultural and heritage value these sites do not necessarily translate to a tourist destination that will attract a mass market of visitors. Typically visitors seek out interactive experiences or structures, either man made or natural which are unique to anywhere else in the state or country.

To ensure best value when promoting Wyndham as a visitor destination the Tourism team focus our destination marketing on key unique drawcards and then work on dispersing visitors once they are at the destination.

Visitors are defined as someone who has travelled more than 25km from their home to the destination.

Council appreciates and recognises that there are many sites within the City that are of historic, cultural and environmental significance.

10.7 **Question received from Julie Rogers**

Question: What financial provision has been made for the preservation of our heritage both Aboriginal and European as well as historic artifacts both man-made and natural eg. The Manor and its surrounds the former residence of Percy Chirnside one of the pioneer families?

Answer: CEO Kelly Grigsby advised the question will be taken on notice and a formal response will be provided.

Additional Information Council currently makes provision for the protection of heritage sites and Collection items through its Heritage Conservation Policy in the Wyndham Planning Scheme. At times Council's Planning scheme and Strategies require amendments which are funded through the Strategic Planning Department's budget.

While Council does not currently have a specific budget allocation for preservation of heritage sites, it will consider the funding of **works** on a case by case basis through its Capital Works program. These projects will typically appear through Council's maintenance of public spaces and tourism attractions.

10.9 **Question received from Amanda Ma**

Question: It is our understanding that around 5 years ago an amount of \$40,000 was set aside for the purpose of preserving, recognising and showcasing 'The Manor House' original columns and the remnant vegetation of its European garden, for example, the fig and elm trees in Wattamolla Avenue, which are believed to be over 100 years old. What action was taken as a result of this allocation of funds?

Answer: CEO Kelly Grigsby advised the question will be taken on notice and a formal response will be provided.

Additional Information A review of Council budgets from 2010 – 2013 was unable to identify a specific allocation of any funding for the purpose of preserving, recognising and showcasing 'The Manor House' original columns and the remnant vegetation of its garden.

It is understood that in 2011 an in principle agreement was made to undertake some minor landscaping works and provide interpretation regarding the history of the site in Wattamolla Avenue, Werribee.

During the 2017/18 financial year Council, will undertake landscape works and develop and install the columns on a gravel bed and develop appropriate signage regarding this site's history.

10.10 **Question received from William Strong**

Question: The heritage wooden grandstand in Chirnside Park was deconstructed as part of the Planning Permit WYP8743/15, Conditional Clause 19.c.

Could Council please advise what are the current time-lines for the reconstruction of the old wooden grandstand?

Answer: Jenny McMahon, Director City Life advised the timelines were not available to her at the Council meeting and will provide a response to the resident.

Additional Information The current timeframe is that reconstruction will be completed as per the planning permit at certificate of occupancy. At this stage the builder is working toward this date being 20 December 2017.