

Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting
Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 6:30 pm

Council Chamber at Civic Centre,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Administrators

Lydia Wilson Chair of Council

Peita Duncan Administrator

Christian Zahra AM Administrator

On 19 June 2020 the Acting Minister for Local Government appointed the Panel of Administrators for the City of Whittlesea and appointed Lydia Wilson as Chair of the Panel. The Panel of Administrators comprises of Lydia Wilson, Peita Duncan and Christian Zahra AM who will undertake the duties of the Council of the City of Whittlesea until the October 2024 Local Government Election.

Senior Officers

Craig Lloyd Chief Executive Officer

Justin O'Meara Director Planning & Development

Sarah Renner Director Customer & Corporate Services

Debbie Wood Director Infrastructure & Environment

Anthony Traill Interim Director Community Wellbeing

Frank Joyce Executive Manager Strategy & Insights

Janine Morgan Executive Manager Public Affairs

Sarah Rowe Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Order of Business

The Chief Executive Officer submits the following business:

1	Opening	5
1.1	Meeting Opening and Introductions.....	5
1.2	Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement	5
1.3	Diversity and Good Governance Statement	5
1.4	Acknowledgements	6
1.4.1	ANZAC Day	6
1.4.2	BIFT	6
1.4.3	Easter	6
1.4.4	EID.....	7
1.4.5	Andrew Mason.....	7
1.5	Attendance	7
2	Declarations of Conflict of Interest	7
3	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting.....	8
4	Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters	9
4.1	Public Question Time	9
4.2	Petitions.....	16
4.2.1	Petition - Nature Strip Trees on Incana Drive Mill Park	16
4.2.2	Petition - Requesting Council allow alterations to nature strip at 605 Dalton Road Epping to remain	17
4.3	Joint Letters	19
5	Officers' Reports.....	20
5.1	Connected Communities	20
5.1.1	Petition - Request to remove trees on nature strips on Harrison Street, Mernda	20
5.2	Liveable Neighborhoods	21
5.3	Strong Local Economy.....	21
5.4	Sustainable Environment.....	21
5.5	High Performing Organisation	22

5.5.1 Thomastown and Lalor Place Framework.....	22
5.5.2 Proposed lease of 1F Ashline Street, Wollert for Affordable Housing.....	23
5.5.3 Proposed Discontinuance and Sale of Road Reserve - Garrong Avenue, Wollert	25
5.5.4 Appointment of Council Representation on Organisations and Committees.....	26
6 Notices of Motion.....	28
7 Urgent Business.....	28
8 Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update	29
8.1 Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson.....	29
8.2 Administrator Peita Duncan	29
8.3 Administrator Christian Zahra.....	29
8.4 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd	29
9 Confidential Business	31
9.1 Confidential Connected Communities	32
9.2 Confidential Liveable Neighbourhoods.....	32
9.3 Confidential Strong Local Economy	32
9.4 Confidential Sustainable Environment	32
9.5 Confidential High Performing Organisation.....	32
9.5.1 Sale of Property under Section 181 of the Local Government Act	32
10 Closure.....	32

1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

“Welcome to this Council Meeting of 18 April 2023 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang and also being live streamed.

I am Lydia Wilson, Chair of Council and I would also like to introduce my Panel colleagues, Administrators Peita Duncan and Christian Zahra.

I would also like to introduce our Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd and ask that he in turn introduce the members of the Executive Leadership Team in attendance today.”

“Good evening everyone, we also have with us:

Director Planning & Development, Justin O’Meara;
Director Customer & Corporate Services, Sarah Renner;
Director Infrastructure & Environment, Debbie Wood;
Interim Director Community Wellbeing, Anthony Traill;
Executive Manager Public Affairs, Janine Morgan; and
Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO, Sarah Rowe.

These members of the Executive Leadership Team will join us during the meeting.”

1.2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson read the following statement:

“On behalf of Council, I recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

I would also like to acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.”

1.3 Diversity and Good Governance Statement

The Chair of Council read the following statement:

At the City of Whittlesea we are proud of our diversity and the many cultures, faiths and beliefs that make up our community. We strive to be an inclusive welcoming City that fosters active participation, wellbeing and connection to each other and this land. We commit as a Council to making informed decisions to benefit the people of the City of Whittlesea now and into the future, to support our community’s vision of A Place For All.

1.4 Acknowledgements

The Chair of Council made the following acknowledgements:

1.4.1 ANZAC Day

Next week is ANZAC Day, a time to gather to remember those who have served to defend Australia. Anzac Day has been one of the most important dates on Australia's calendar since 1916. At first, it gave people a chance to honour the original Anzacs – the Australians and New Zealanders who fought on Gallipoli. Anzac Day has become an occasion to honour all who have worn our country's uniform in service. Today, we reflect on that service. We recognise more than a hundred thousand Australian service men and women who have lost their lives in military operations carried out in our country's name. We honour the values that have been invested in the original Anzacs – loyalty, selflessness, courage – and the ways in which later generations have measured their own achievements against those of the soldiers who fought on Gallipoli. On 25 April I encourage you to remember this sacrifice by attending a local service, supporting the ANZAC appeal or observing a minute's silence to remember the sacrifice of our servicemen and women.

1.4.2 BIFT

We were thrilled recently with the announcement by National Intermodal of the acquisition of 1100 hectares of land to bring the long-awaited Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal (BIFT) a step closer to reality.

The BIFT is expected to deliver an enormous boost to local employment with some 20,000 jobs required for both construction and ongoing operations and it will contribute \$3.5 billion to the economy each year.

A statement released by National Intermodal last month indicated that early planning was under way to support potential interstate rail services at Beveridge as soon as possible with full terminal and precinct warehouse operations by 2028-2029.

We look forward to working with National Intermodal and our neighbouring councils to bring this project to fruition.

Administrator Duncan made the following acknowledgements:

1.4.3 Easter

This month many people in our City of Whittlesea community have been celebrating Easter and Orthodox Easter. Whether observing religious traditions or spending the time with family and friends, we hope it has been a safe and enjoyable time for all. We also extend our warmest thanks to those who worked through the holidays to continue delivering essential services to our community.

1.4.4 EID

This Friday 21 April is a special day for our Muslim community. It marks the celebration of Eid-UI-Fitr – the festival of breaking the fast. Eid-UI-Fitr is the end of the holy month of Ramadan and is celebrated by Muslims around the world.

For those in our community celebrating this Friday I would like to wish you and very happy and blessed Eid-UI-Fitr.

Administrator Zahra made the following acknowledgement:

1.4.5 Andrew Mason

We would like to acknowledge one of our key staff members, our Manager Emergency Management and Regulatory Programs, Andrew Mason and his son Richard Mason on their recent recognitions. Both Andrew and Richard were awarded the National Emergency Medal for their efforts during the 2019-2020 bushfires which devastated so much of eastern Australia, now referred to as Black Summer. They are both volunteers with the Country Fire Authority and we are so proud of the fact that they have been formally recognised in this way which brings them great credit and acknowledge their very significant community service over many years.

Director Planning and Development to ensure that Andrew does receive our sincere congratulations on his achievement.

1.5 Attendance

Members:

Lydia Wilson, Chair of Council
Peita Duncan, Administrator
Christian Zahra AM, Administrator

Officers:

Craig Lloyd, Chief Executive Officer
Justin O'Meara, Director Planning & Development
Sarah Renner, Director Customer & Corporate Services
Debbie Wood, Director Infrastructure & Environment
Anthony Traill, Interim Director Community Wellbeing
Janine Morgan, Executive Manager Public Affairs
Sarah Rowe, Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Apology:

Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Strategy & Insights

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT the following Minutes of the preceding meeting as circulated, be confirmed:

Scheduled Meeting of Council 21 March 2023.

CARRIED

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

Peter Karagianis

I object the administrators plan to increase the council rate. The system must be replaced and needs to be fair and equal to all ratepayers. Given increases to the cost-of-living interest rates and the reduction of property market values as well as inflationary pressures the council must halt any planned rate increase.

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Council is very mindful of the current economic climate, including the cost-of-living pressures on families and we have carefully shaped our draft 2023-24 Budget with this in mind acknowledging that Council needs to fund the delivery of 147 services to the community each year as well as building and maintaining essential roads, infrastructure and facilities.

The proposed budget is currently out for community consultation and feedback until 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023 and we will ensure your feedback is included.

An Advisory Committee of Council will meet to consider community feedback on 1 June before the final Budget 2023-24 and Community Action Plan 2023-24 is considered for endorsement at the Council meeting on Tuesday 27 June 2023.

Despite inflation rising by 7.8% in the 12 months to the December quarter, we are proposing an average rate increase of 3.5 percent in 2023-24 which is in line with the rate cap set by the Victorian Government.

Comparatively, the City of Whittlesea remains one of the lowest rating Councils in Victoria.

Council has been subsidising the actual cost of waste charges for many years and we are proposing to continue to subsidise this coming financial year due to the current economic climate. Our waste charges remain significantly lower than many Councils. The cost to deliver these important services and to build much-needed facilities has significantly increased.

The rating system is the same across Victoria and the value of your individual property is used as a basis for calculating what each property owner will pay, which is an equitable approach. We do offer financial hardship provisions for those who need it and would welcome anyone in our community concerned about the financial impact to reach out to us for further information.

Sophie Mantus - Question 1

Council Administrators across Australia were recently requested to attend a meeting a Canberra regarding the roll out of SMART Cities/ 20-minute neighbourhoods. Is Council aware how this surveillance structure has been misappropriated in other countries. There are many protesting how this proposal is limiting their travel and access to the wider community. We recommend Council research the effects of SMART Cities in places like Oxford and Leeds. While in principle, community monitoring is theoretically useful, in practice it is open to use for nefarious reasons.

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Thank you for your question. I can confirm that Administrators or staff from the City of Whittlesea did not attend any meeting in Canberra in relation to a SMART cities rollout. The 20-minute neighbourhood is a Victorian Government planning framework based on the idea that well-planned and well-designed communities can offer as many services as possible for people at all stages in their life - close to their home.

The 20-minute neighbourhood aims to give people the freedom and the choice to do more things locally and to support local businesses and neighbourhood centres to thrive. It also aims to make it easy for people to travel to different places across the city.

In no way does the 20-minute neighbourhood framework seek to restrict movement. Work, friends and family are often located further away, and Council is advocating and supporting regional road projects and rail extensions to support all our residents to travel efficiently wherever they need or want to go.

Sophie Mantus - Question 2

We have extended an invitation to Council to meet with a small group of concerned ratepayers. This invitation was accepted at the last Council Meeting. Council was to make contact to arrange meeting details. As yet we are still waiting to hear from Council. Is this a stalling tactic? We are keen to share our research and find common ground. When would the Administrators like to meet with us?

Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson

Thank you, we do meet with ratepayers regularly and we are certainly happy to meet. Our office reached out via email earlier this week and we look forward to hearing back from you to finalise the details.

Graeme Conway - Question 1

It appears that Council is set on locking Whittlesea into Liveable Cities. Will residents have an option to vote for or against this agenda?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Council is working to achieve our community vision of *A Place for All* through the delivery of the goals outlined in Whittlesea 2040; Connected Communities, Liveable Neighbourhoods, Strong Local Economy, Sustainable Environment and High Performing Organisation. You can find our W2040 visioning document on Council's website.

Whittlesea 2040 was developed in conjunction with our local community in 2018 and Council received more than 4700 community contributions during the extensive consultation process.

Council regularly asks for community input to help us prepare our four-year Community Plan and then the yearly action plans which articulate how we will bring our Whittlesea 2040 vision to life. A draft Community Plan Action Plan for 2023-24 is currently out for community consultation.

You can visit engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au to learn about all the different opportunities to have your say.

Graeme Conway - Question 2

Should we be locked into a Liveable City model, will Council impose travel restrictions or make residents pay for permits to leave their zone? What assurances and guarantees can the Council provide to ensure our freedom of travel will not be restricted?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Council is not locking into a Liveable City model nor does it aim to lock people within any type of Council is not locking into a Liveable City model nor does it aim to lock people within any type of zone or area; in fact the reverse is true. Council is fully committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.

Council also aims to improve connectivity, accessibility, and freedom of movement for all people whether they are driving, cycling, walking or taking public transport. Council is advocating and supporting regional road projects and rail extensions to support all of our residents to travel efficiently wherever they need or want to go.

Isabel Conway - Question 1

There are many concerns regarding installation of cameras, monitoring our movements and activities. We wish to have a copy of all cameras operating or dormant that have been installed by the council.

Who has access to these images? What organisations do you share these images with (for intended purposes or other reasons, ie. selling of data to 3rd parties)?

Isabel Conway - Question 2

What is the range of your cameras and how clear are the images? Do cameras intrude into the private domain? How can you guarantee the privacy of your ratepayers and residents in their own private properties?

What safeguards have been put in place to provide protection regarding images of those that are especially vulnerable – ie our children?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

As these questions are related I will answer these together.

The use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance for public safety and protecting public assets is now quite common place. The City of Whittlesea does have CCTV cameras located in public spaces, council offices, pools, libraries, performing art centres and waste management facilities.

Council has a CCTV policy which governs the use of these in line with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* which sets out information privacy principles that apply when public sector agencies including councils collect personal information that enables individuals to be identified such as the images captured by CCTV systems.

In relation to obtaining a copy of the location of CCTV cameras, you have the right to request access to documents we hold through the Freedom of Information Act 1982. You can submit an FOI request in person, by email or by post by completing a Freedom of Information Request Form.

Lisa Bootlis - Question 1

Removal of trees at Incarna Drive, Mill Park, these should be removed!

I have a question about all the roundabouts in the shire, the shrubs are too high, and you cannot see oncoming cars indicating. This is very dangerous and needs to be addressed as soon as possible, not to mention the shrubs alongside all your park areas on the footpath also very high and in some areas, there are large rocks on your footpaths, Riverstone is one major area that needs urgent attention and I did forget to mention in there that all your lakes are not safe as far as I'm concerned, they should be fenced off, because any child can walk to those lakes and drown. That's just as far as I'm concerned, not acceptable. Having young grandchildren walking around I'm always holding their hands tightly and I just think that's something that really needs to be addressed.

Lisa Bootlis - Question 2

20-minute cities are part of the WEF and NWO to move men women and children to these 20 minute cities to surveil, monitor, report and technology, additionally in 1974 and 1988 we the people said no to the supply and establishment of local governments. Local Governments do not have any right to exist of demand council rates on land in fee simple. Your land is alienated from the Crown and a business also has no authority to tax your property, Land Tax Abolition 1953. In 1988 Australian Referendum was held on 3 September. It contained four referendum questions, none of which passed. None of those acts have royal ascent as required under the Constitution.

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

In regards to your comment about Incarna Drive in Mill Park, we note that a petition about this is being tabled at the meeting tonight so we will respond as part of that process.

Council currently has contractors working through the municipality to address weed and garden bed maintenance. Our Unit Manager Parks and City Forest, Mark Corea will be in touch to get more details around areas of specific concern so we can address these.

I have addressed the query around 20-minute cities or neighbourhoods already this evening in a previous public question, however I will address the constitution question.

In Australia under the Constitution, the states are granted powers to govern and make laws, this power includes the creation of the Constitution Act 1975 (Vic) (the Victorian Constitution) under which Local Government Councils are established and granted the constitutionally valid power of creating laws.

Council has roles and responsibilities under more than 100 Acts and regulations including the Local Government Act 2020. Rates are charged lawfully in line with the Local Government Act. Local laws can be developed by Council to deal with important community safety, peace and order issues such as public health, management of council property, environment and amenity and are established to respond to local issues or community need.

Eva Moran on behalf of the Outer Northern People's Voice's Group

Recently we are having issues where the bins are left by the bin collecting company on the street and laying across the street. Now we're very concerned because there is two issues.

People first of all should not have to bend down with health issues to pick up their bins or take them off the road and furthermore what concerns us is the danger that this is posing for ongoing traffic that is coming into the street, oblivious that this is happening.

We would like the CEO, management and the head of the department that deals with these matters, to please look into this and resolve this immediately because this is a disaster waiting to happen. We raised this last year via email and unfortunately nothing has happened, they are still doing the wrong thing, the contractors. We have sent in photos to show you what is happening, as you may not know exactly what is going on at ground level. We thank you in anticipation for addressing this immediately and so that this no longer will occur. We unfortunately have to say that for the 40 years we have lived in this area, for 39 years we have never had these issues. All of a sudden these issues have arisen and we cannot deal with this and it has to be resolved for the reasons mentioned. We hope that the contractors JJ Richards and the Council will make sure that this is delivered. Failure to do so we have to notify the police because this is an irresponsible situation that is endangering people's lives including cars that can be damaged.

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

I will refer the matter to our Director Infrastructure and Environment, Debbie Wood who will raise this issue with our contractors and seek to have the matter addressed.

Trinette of the Hunter Family

You are expecting us to keep our pets/cats inside, I don't speak meow so I'm exactly sure how I am actually meant to keep my cat indoors on a permanent basis when he needs to use the toilet outdoors. I don't agree with that policy. That's the first thing that I'd like to ask why and who you asked, I know you put the question out there. I don't know how you can make these rules and expect people to be able to keep their cats indoors all the time. That's just ridiculous.

The second question is on 5G. Both myself and a lot of people in this room, a friend over there is suffering from 5G, your infrastructure that you've put in place without asking us. EMF readings are off the scale, she has actually spoken to somebody at the Council last year and they said they would get back to her and they never did. She contacted again in December, that said it is Christmas it is too busy I will get back to you in the New Year and they never did. Two or three months later, she has contacted the Council again and spoken to the same person, addressed a whole lot of these matters such as the smart cities, they said we are not signed up for that. So we are getting lied to by your people. So can we get an address to that and what you are going to do about 5G and the problems that we are having with radiation sickness. I am losing my hair as a result of the sickness.

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

I will provide a full written response to both your questions as they were raised without notice.

I will address the cat curfew. It was a resolution of Council, extensive community consultation was undertaken as part of our domestic animal management plan consultation some considerable time ago. The restrictions come into play in August this year, we have been providing extensive information to the community on how to comply with those rules and how to keep cats contained and how to make that transition. I will provide more information in the letter as part of that guidance and advice.

In relation to the 5G question. We have been asked this question at previous Council Meetings. Council does not own any 5G infrastructure but when we do consider 5G applications, we consider those in accordance with the ACMA standards and those decisions are made in line with those standards, including regular testing that needs to occur by those companies. I will provide more information in a written response.

Carol Tilley

I request that you send all the information that you are putting out there, instead of us having to use the internet to look at it. How about you send it so we can come to these meetings that you are talking about, that you have elected to make these changes without our consent. I have never received any information to say that you are doing all these changes and I would like to receive them on paper. So everything with the 5G, SMART cities, I think you should be sending it out to the people in the community, so we can vote on it, because I have never heard of anything that we have had an opportunity to speak to you about it. Some people cannot get onto the internet, some people don't have it, some people are older and I think it should be sent out to the community in letter form so that we can all vote.

Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson

I will only respond by simply saying that we put out extensive information through our website.

4.2 Petitions

4.2.1 Petition - Nature Strip Trees on Incana Drive Mill Park

A petition has been received from 49 residents requesting Council remove the nature strip trees along on Incana Drive, Mill Park and replace these trees as part of its Street Tree Renewal program.

Recommendation

THAT Council note the petition from 49 residents requesting Council remove the nature strip trees along Incana Drive, Mill Park and replace these trees as part of its Street Tree Renewal program and write to signatories to inform them that:

1. A report to Council will be prepared for the June 2023 Council Meeting, advising how the petitioners concerns have been addressed.
2. All signatories will be advised of Council's decision following the June 2023 Council Meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the petition requesting Council remove the nature strip trees on Incana Drive Mill Park.

CARRIED

4.2.2 Petition - Requesting Council allow alterations to nature strip at 605 Dalton Road Epping to remain

A petition has been received from 15 residents requesting Council allow the nature strip mulch at 605 Dalton Road Epping to remain and small endemic grasses and wildflowers to be planted.

Samuel Eisen was in attendance and addressed Council:

“A few months ago, we began mulching our nature strip with the intention of planting small endemic grasses and flowers no taller than 30cm as we believed we were allowed under the 2015 guidelines.

Last week we received a notice to remove the mulch, which was fully spread and neat. We learned the Council was in the process of updating the Nature Strip Guidelines and instructed us to remove the mulch and store it until we can comply under the new set of guidelines. This would entail several full days of work and would allow the weeds to grow back.

We sent in an appeal as we believed the nature strip can provide great benefits to biodiversity and aesthetics of the area. We received overwhelmingly feedback from people walking past while weeding and tidying it and many more would have signed the petition if they were available on the days that I was collecting signatures. The issuing officer said that if it was up to him, he would allow it to stay, and we had obtained preapproval from our renting body. These small endemic plants will provide great native biodiversity from the soil microbiome to the pollinators, to the birds, to the entire Darebin Creek Wildlife Corridor.

We request the mulch is at least allowed to stay until we can reapply under the new guidelines or optimally our plans to plant small endemic grasses and flowers is approved.”

Recommendation

THAT Council note the petition from 15 residents requesting Council allow the nature strip mulch at 605 Dalton Road, Epping to remain and small endemic grasses and wildflowers to be planted as per the 2015 City of Whittlesea Nature Strip Guidelines, and write to signatories to inform them that:

- 1. A report to Council will be prepared for the June 2023 Council Meeting, advising how the petitioners concerns have been addressed.**
- 2. All signatories will be advised of Council’s decision following the June 2023 Council Meeting.**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: *Chairperson Lydia Wilson*

Seconded: *Administrator Christian Zahra*

THAT Council extend the speaking time to allow discussion on this report to occur.

CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: *Chairperson Lydia Wilson*

Seconded: *Administrator Christian Zahra*

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the petition requesting Council allow alterations to nature strip at 605 Dalton Road Epping to remain.

CARRIED

4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters.

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Connected Communities

5.1.1 Petition - Request to remove trees on nature strips on Harrison Street, Mernda

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Author: Mark Corea, Unit Manager Parks & City Forest Management

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request a slight amendment to the Council Resolution for Item 4.2.1 carried at the 21 February 2023 Council Meeting.

Recommendation

THAT Council approve the amendment to the 21 February 2023 Council Resolution, Item 4.2.1, point 3 and note that a report to Council will be prepared for the May 2023 Council Meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for the petition requesting Council remove trees on nature strips on Harrison Street, Mernda.

CARRIED

5.2 Liveable Neighborhoods

No reports

5.3 Strong Local Economy

No reports

5.4 Sustainable Environment

No reports

5.5 High Performing Organisation

5.5.1 Thomastown and Lalor Place Framework

Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure and Environment
Author	Jason Cahill Senior Urban Designer
In Attendance	Arashdeep Singh, Manager Urban Design & Transport

Purpose

This report is being presented to Council for endorsement and provides:

- An overview of the Final Thomastown and Lalor Place Framework (Attachment One).
- An overview of the community engagement process which occurred November 2022 (Attachment Two) where the community was able to provide feedback and prioritise opportunities.
- An overview of the 20-minute Neighbourhoods prioritisation tool Department of Transport and Planning partnership findings and recommendations that have been incorporated into the Place Framework.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the Thomastown and Lalor Place Framework (Attachment 1).
2. Write to contributors thanking them for their involvement and feedback throughout the reports' development.
3. Note a copy of the Thomastown and Lalor Place Framework will be provided to all local members of Parliament.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Endorse the Thomastown and Lalor Place Framework (Attachment 1).**
2. **Write to contributors thanking them for their involvement and feedback throughout the development of the Framework.**
3. **Provide a copy of the Thomastown and Lalor Place Framework to all local members of Parliament.**
4. **Provide a copy of the Thomastown and Lalor Place Framework to the Lalor and Thomastown Libraries.**

CARRIED

5.5.2 Proposed lease of 1F Ashline Street, Wollert for Affordable Housing

Responsible Officer	Director Planning & Development
Author	William Fairweather, Social Planning & Policy Officer
In Attendance	George Saisanas, Manager Strategic Futures

Purpose

This report provides Council with an overview of the community engagement processes and outcomes relating to the proposal to lease of land at 1F Ashline Street, Wollert, for the purpose of affordable housing.

It recommends that Council address community concern by amending the proposal and proceed with leasing the land and commences the Expression Of Interest (EOI) process to identify a suitable Registered Community Housing Organisation (CHO) to manage and develop affordable housing on the site.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the outcomes of the community engagement detailed in this report in Attachment 1.**
- 2. Commence an Expression of Interest process to identify a registered housing organization to deliver affordable housing on the site.**
- 3. Include the following selection criteria requirements in the Expression of Interest based on community feedback received as part of the engagement process:**
 - a) ensure a high-quality design that is integrated with, and responds to, the surrounding neighbourhood character**
 - b) the development does not exceed two story's and be single detached, duplex and townhouse style only**
 - c) the development uses similar design features and finishes present in the surrounding dwellings within the precinct**
 - d) establish a comprehensive community development program alongside the development of the affordable housing**
 - e) provision of a flexible community space on the site that would be managed by Council and integrated with the adjacent Community Activity Centre for the benefit of the local community**
 - f) dwellings will be preferentially allocated to local residents or people with local connections in one or more of the following cohorts; young families, older people, women, key workers and people with disabilities.**
- 4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to select the preferred registered housing organisation from the Expression of Interest process to deliver affordable housing on the site in accordance with the selection criteria which includes the requirements outlined in Recommendation No. 3 of this report.**

5. Having complied with Section 115(4) of the Local Government Act 2020, enters into a lease agreement up to a maximum of 50 years with a registered housing organisation identified through an Expression of Interest process (at a nominal rental) in relation to land at 1F Ashline Street Wollert, for the provision of affordable housing.
6. Requires the lease agreement to include the criteria outlined in Recommendation No. 3 above as enforceable conditions.
7. Conduct further community engagement in partnership with the successful registered housing organisation on the design of the affordable housing development and community space should Council proceed to lease the land.
8. Write to all participants in the engagement process to advise them of Council's decision and next steps in the process.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Proposed lease of 1F Ashline Street, Wollert for Affordable Housing.

CARRIED

5.5.3 Proposed Discontinuance and Sale of Road Reserve - Garrong Avenue, Wollert

Responsible Officer	Director Customer & Corporate Services
Author	Elly Michailidis, Property Advisor
In Attendance	George Vassiliadis, Unit Manager Strategic Property

Purpose

The purpose of this report seeks Council's approval to finalise the statutory procedures under the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government Act 2020* for the discontinuance and sale of two road splays in Garrong Avenue, Wollert. The section of the road splays concerned for Garrong Avenue are shown hatched on the road discontinuance plan (Attachment 1) and contained in certificate of title Volume 12262 Folio 901.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note that no submissions were received in regard to Council having given public notice of a proposal to discontinue the two sections of road reserve (splays) in Garrong Avenue, Wollert, shown hatched on the road discontinuance plan (Attachment 1).
2. Note that the two sections of road reserve (splays) are no longer reasonably required for road purposes.
3. Resolve to discontinue and sell the two sections of road reserve and publish a notice in the Victoria Government Gazette, in accordance with section 206 and clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act 1989.
4. Resolve that the land from the two sections of road reserve (splays) be sold by private treaty to the owner/developer of the adjoining estate, pursuant to section 206 and clause 3(b) of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act 1989 and section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020.
5. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or any such other person as the Chief Executive Officer approves, to sign all documents relating to the sale of the land from the discontinued road reserve (splays) to the owner/developer of the adjoining estate.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Proposed Discontinuance and Sale of Road Reserve at Garrong Avenue, Wollert.

CARRIED

5.5.4 Appointment of Council Representation on Organisations and Committees

Responsible Officer	Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO
Author	Sarah Rowe, Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO
In Attendance	Sarah Rowe, Interim Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to review Council representatives to organisations and committees for the period 19 April 2023 to 31 October 2024. This enables ongoing Council representation, participation and contribution to local and strategic organisations.

Recommendation

THAT Council:

- Nominate Administrator delegates to the organisations and committees that have been identified to be of strategic significance listed as follows for the period 19 April 2023 to 31 October 2024 (also highlighted in yellow in Attachment 1):**
 - Audit and Risk Committee (Internal) – Chair of Council, Administrator Wilson and Administrator Zahra**
 - Australian Local Government Women’s Association (ALGWA) (External) – Administrator Duncan**
 - CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC) (Internal) – All Administrators**
 - Business Advisory Panel (Internal) – Chair of Council, Administrator Wilson, substitute Administrator Duncan**
 - Community Awards Committee (Internal) – Administrator Zahra**
 - Interface Councils Group (External) – Chair of Council, Administrator Wilson, substitute Administrator Duncan**
 - Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) (External) – Chair of Council, Administrator Wilson, substitute Administrator Duncan**
 - Northern Councils Alliance (External) – Chair of Council, Administrator Wilson, substitute Administrator Zahra**
 - Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) (External) – All Administrators**
 - Whittlesea Reconciliation Group (WRG) (Internal) – Administrator Duncan**
 - Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board (External) – Chair of Council, Administrator Wilson**
- Nominate Officers to the organisations and committees listed as follows for the period 19 April 2023 to 31 October 2024 (as per Attachment 1):**
 - Australian Local Government Women’s Association (ALGWA) (External)**
 - Business Advisory Panel (Internal)**
 - Community Awards Committee (Internal)**
 - Darebin Creek Management Committee Incorporated (External)**

- Friends of South Morang (External)
- Interface Councils Group (External)
- Merri Creek Management Committee Incorporated (External)
- Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc. (External)
- Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC) (Internal)
- Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive (NAGA) (External)
- Northern Councils Alliance (External)
- Visual Art and Civic History Collections Acquisitions Advisory Group (AAG) (Internal)
- Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group (WAGPAG) (External)
- Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership (External)
- Whittlesea Courthouse Association (External)
- Whittlesea Disability Network (WDN) (External)
- Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council (WMCC) (External)
- Whittlesea Reconciliation Group (WRG) (Internal)
- Whittlesea Showground and Recreation Reserves Committee of Management (External)
- Youth Advisory Committee (Internal)
- Whittlesea Youth Commitment Strategic Advisory Group (WYC) (External)
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board (External)

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chairperson Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Appointment of Council Representation on Organisations and Committees.

CARRIED

6 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

7 Urgent Business

No Urgent Business

8 Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update

8.1 Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson

Chair Administrator Wilson's report was provided verbally at the 18 April 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting. Since the last Council Meeting Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson attended:

- Northern Councils Alliance.
- Coffee with Council at Degani Uni Hill, Bundoora.
- Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Melissa Horne and Member for Yan Yean, Lauren Kathage MP at Mernda Social Support Centre and Whittlesea Skate Park.
- Visit of Council's conservation reserves including Eden Park and Woodstock.
- Sod Turn and Announcement for Hope Street, South Morang.

8.2 Administrator Peita Duncan

Administrator Duncan's report was provided verbally at the 18 April 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting. Since the last Council Meeting Administrator, Peita Duncan attended:

- Visit to Wyndham Aboriginal Gathering Place (Wunggurrwil Dhurrung Centre).
- Lalor Landcare - Community Planting Day.
- Annual Interfaith Ramadam Dinner at Al Siraat College, Wollert.

8.3 Administrator Christian Zahra AM

Administrator Zahra's report was provided verbally at the 18 April 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting. Since the last Council Meeting Administrator, Christian Zahra attended:

- Reconciliation Action Plan – Community Consultation.

8.4 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

The Chief Executive Officer's report was provided verbally at the 18 April 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting:

Mill Park Stadium Forecourt

- The \$3.4 million redevelopment of Mill Park Stadium is complete after works to upgrade the facility's forecourt were recently finished. Works included the installation of accessible paths, improved lighting for safety and wayfinding, landscaping, seating and bicycle parking.
- The forecourt project complements extensive works to the stadium completed last year, including construction of new female-friendly change rooms, accessible public toilets, shower and change facilities and an updated kitchen and canteen.
- The City of Whittlesea contributed \$2.4 million towards the redevelopment, while the State Government made a \$1 million contribution from its Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program.

Kelynack Recreation Reserve

- The new playground at Kelynack Recreation Reserve was opened to the public earlier this month just in time for the Easter holidays.
- The playground features swings, slides, rope climbs, flying fox and a focus on nature-based play.
- Work to install the reserve's final features, including park furniture, barbecues and basketball court, continued this week and will be complete very soon.
- The upgrade was undertaken after a master plan process provided the community with a chance to have their say on what they would like to see at the reserve.
- The reserve's \$1.35 million redevelopment was made possible by a \$675,000 contribution from Council and a matching \$675,000 from the State Government's Growing Suburbs Fund.

Energy Efficiency Program

- The City of Whittlesea is reaping the environmental and economic benefits of its investment in solar power and battery storage.
- The Victorian Local Government Solar Survey for 2022 shows Council's rapid emergence as a leader in the renewable energy space.
- According to the survey, the City of Whittlesea ranks first among the 50 surveyed Victorian councils in battery storage capacity and third for installed solar photovoltaic capacity.
- This investment in renewable energy has helped to reduce our energy consumption and reduce operational costs of community facilities for both users and Council.

Budget

- There's still time to have your say on the Draft Budget 2023-24 and Draft Community Plan Action Plan 2023-2024 with consultation open until 5pm on 25 April 2023.
- We have drafted the Budget being very mindful of the rising cost of living and current economic climate. It is informed by community input gathered last year and we now invite you to have your say. Submissions will be considered by Council.
- You can view the documents on our website engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au or in person at Council, local libraries and community centres.

Community Leadership Program

- We're inviting local people who want to lead community projects, establish personal and professional networks, and learn more about local government through our free Community Leadership Program.
- Expressions of Interest for the latest intake in this popular program are open until 5pm on Sunday 23 April.
- If you're aged over 18 and looking to make a difference in the community, I'd encourage you have a look on our website for more information.

9 Confidential Business

9.0.0 Close Meeting to the Public

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Recommendation

THAT the Chair of Council recommends that the meeting be closed to the public for the purpose of considering details relating to the following confidential matters in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as detailed.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation to close the meeting to the public.

CARRIED

9.1 Confidential Connected Communities

No reports

9.2 Confidential Liveable Neighbourhoods

No reports

9.3 Confidential Strong Local Economy

No reports

9.4 Confidential Sustainable Environment

No reports

9.5 Confidential High Performing Organisation

9.5.1 Sale of Property under Section 181 of the Local Government Act

This report and attachment have been designated as confidential in accordance with sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* on the grounds that it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs. In particular the report and attachment contains information regarding property addresses, property ownership and outstanding property debt including rates and charges.

10 Closure

There being no further business the Chair of Council closed the open portion of the 18 April 2023 Scheduled Council Meeting at 7:58pm.

Confirmed this 16th day of May 2023.



Lydia Wilson
Chair of Council