

Flemington Consultative Committee

Meeting Minutes – Friday 30 October 2020

Date and Time	Friday 30 October, 2:30:3:30pm
Location	Online (Microsoft Teams)
Chairperson	Minister Danny Pearson MP
Attendees	<p>DHHS: Holly O'Connell-Paladino, Mark Corbett, Tanya Balchin, Yeminda Weerasekera, Andrew Hockley, Jason Stewart, John Kuot, Hannan Al Daqqa</p> <p>CC Members: Mark Feenane (VPTA), Carol Espinoza (MVCC), Colin Harris (MVCC), Cathy Connop (Farnham Street NLC), Les Potts (Flemington Residents Association), Rachel Rasmussen (Debney Park Primary School), Abdi Bahja</p> <p>Other: Caroline Sorrell (Victoria Police)</p>
Apologies	Edith Chen (Chinese Seniors Community)
Purpose	Establish an effective communication forum to gain ongoing feedback to support the successful implementation of the project
Papers	Meeting presentation slides

Meeting Agenda

Item	Description	Presenter
1	Welcome and Introductions	Chair
2	Renewal Project updates	Holly O'Connell-Paladino
3	Car park improvement works	Yeminda Weerasekera
4	Council update	Colin Harris
5	Security Update	Caroline Sorrell
6	Discussion	All
7	Close	Chair

Meeting Summary and Actions

1. Welcome and introductions – Chair

Minister Danny Pearson welcomed all members to the online meeting and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

Holly detailed the online meeting protocols for all members. Holly introduced a colleague from the department who will be co-ordinating the Flemington Consultative Committee – Vittoria Tsam. Holly will remain a project contact for this site but moving forward will be more involved in the procurement process.

2. Project update – Holly O’Connell-Paladino, DHHS

Site testing

A notice was distributed to the community regarding site testing. The site testing will provide a better understanding of soil conditions, the findings will enable the design to be better informed. The flyer was:

- distributed to consultative committee members, council, Hopetoun Children’s Centre and Debney Meadows Primary;
- letter dropped to neighbours on Victoria St.

A3 posters were also placed in high-rise towers. The works were low impact and required an excavator on site.

Procurement update

Holly advised the group that the procurement process is continuing, with three consortia invited to submit proposals under a ground lease structure where the consortia will be required to design, build, operate the development, and then all buildings revert to the Director of Housing after 40 years (the Director of Housing retains ownership of the land). The design will be aligned with the approved Development Plan Overlay. At Flemington it will include 218 social housing dwellings in the first stage of redevelopment. The site will be redeveloped in stages due to the size of the site. Bids will be received in November 2020.

Q: Engagement of residents

Ahmed asked about engagement of residents in the project. Holly noted that the Consultative Committee is a key group the project consults with and it is the project’s connection to the community. Andrew Hockley noted the communications team is working to strengthen engagement with community over the next six to twelve months.

3. Car park improvement works – Yeminda Weerasekera

Yeminda Weerasekera explained the car park improvement works will occur in four stages and take approximately six months. The project team will work in partnership with the Client Engagement Team. Stage 1 will include: blocking off the Holland Court side of the carpark area, working on the main entrance, commencing on site and setting up the sheds. Colin requested a meeting with Yeminda to understand the plans. Yeminda offered to go into further detail in a follow-up meeting.

Action: Yeminda and Colin to meet and discuss the car park plans.

Q: Will tenants lose car park spots during the project?

There will be a reduction in spaces, the project team will work with the housing office and relocations team. The process will be worked through in further detail. Carpark user eligibility will be worked through. Danny noted prior work completed by the Department found that numerous cars were not registered to residents or the cars were not being used.

Q: Loss of car park spots

Les asked if anyone will lose their car park spot. The car park project will need to align with the parking overlay. Mark and his team will work through the allocations and eligibility process with affected residents through further engagement.

Ahmed requested information on whether there will be a loss of car park spots during the next meeting. COVID has impacted the team's ability to conduct in person community engagement to review car park eligibility.

Action: Next meeting provide an overview of the process that will be worked through as part of the car park project.

4. Council update – Colin Harris MVCC

Colin Harris provided an update on council items. A couple of projects are underway – Macauley project and transport projects. Council is promoting the Public Housing Renewal Project to ensure other projects are aware of it. Council are ensuring that the Department is aware of Council's thoughts of the site.

Ahmed indicated approximately 50% of residents are unemployed. He is keen for council and the Department to play an active role in addressing tenant unemployment. Council have recently employed residents from the Flemington site. Proponents are required to demonstrate employment of tenants via the Public Tenant Employment Program and consider employment of tenants during the life of the project.

5. Security update – Victoria Police

Caroline Sorrell provided a security update –

- patrols are still ongoing and are occurring daily
- an information sheet is being prepared to assist residents to identify what to do if they need immediate help and answer frequently asked questions. It will be distributed in due course to residents.

6. Questions and discussion – all

Q: Timing

Mark Feenane asked about timing of the redevelopment and likely timeframe. Danny noted the project team is working through the procurement process, this may influence timelines. This project is likely to create jobs. Holly noted it is the intention to commence construction as soon as possible to enable residents to return to the site. Submissions are being returned and a detailed evaluation will take place, after which the project team will work through negotiations and towards contract close. Once the contract is executed the planning approvals process will commence. Working towards construction commencing by end of next year. Mark noted the need to try and expedite the creation of additional social housing stock. Holly agreed and noted the delivery model for the project incentivises the completion of dwellings as soon as possible.

7. Meeting close by Chair

Danny closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation.

Summary of actions from the meeting

Action	When	Responsible
Yeminda and Colin to meet and discuss the car park plans	By next CC meeting	Yeminda / Russel
Next meeting provide an overview of the process that will be worked through as part of the car park project	By next CC meeting	Yeminda / Russel