

Briefing for Kensington Association members – August 5, 2019

Current City of Melbourne collaborative planning projects

1. Kensington-Flemington Community Forum planning group

- Council officers from the City of Melbourne and Moonee Valley have been working together to plan a Flemington-Kensington community forum later in 2019, in response to a motion passed by the City of Moonee Valley.
- Members of the Kensington Community Network (including the Kensington Association) and the Flemington Neighbourhood Advisory Network were invited in late May to express an interest in taking part in a working group to help plan the forum over June – November 2019. Approximately ten community members have expressed an interest in being part of the working group, including members of the Kensington Association who took part in the group's July monthly meeting.

2. Racecourse Road

- The City of Melbourne is progressing a 2019-20 Annual Plan Initiative (API) from Cr Leppert to "*Finalise Racecourse Road Strategic Opportunities Plan and advance discussions with VicRoads and key stakeholders to progress development of a co-funded implementation plan.*"
- The plan is being developed to identify potential opportunities for safety and amenity improvements for the road, and this is being prepared in consultation with the various stakeholders along the corridor. An initial meeting of the Executive Steering Group has been held, and the key next step is to progress the traffic modelling and to understand potential constraints and feasibility in the context of key stakeholder's priorities and funding. Any feasible opportunities identified through this process will be presented to the community for consideration, and this is anticipated to take place this financial year.

3. Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan

- The City of Melbourne are progressing a 2019-20 Annual Plan Initiative (API) to "*Partner with the Victorian Government to commence delivery of the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan.*"
- A draft advocacy document that establishes a vision for the revitalisation of the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor, was endorsed for community engagement purposes by the Future Melbourne Committee on 19 March 2019. Over 300 people and organisations participated in the engagement period, demonstrating strong support for the vision and a desire for action. A summary report was released in late June. The draft Plan is currently being finalised in light of community, stakeholder and Councillor feedback, including investigating additional opportunities that have been identified through the engagement. The feedback and final Plan will be presented to Future Melbourne Committee in September 2019 for endorsement.
- As Council does not own or manage the land adjacent to the creek corridor, ongoing advocacy efforts with the State Government are critical to ensure that implementation of this work is prioritised and that the opportunity is realised. Council is continuing to work closely with the Victorian Planning Authority who are coordinating preparation of an Implementation Plan for the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor.

- In October 2018, fifteen organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to the 'Chain of Ponds Collaboration'. This includes, the City of Melbourne and other local government representatives (Moreland, Moonee Valley, Hume), Melbourne Water, City West Water, Yarra Valley Water, Victorian Planning Authority, Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and the Kensington Association amongst other organisations. Collaboration members meet regularly with a focus on enabling outcomes for the creek through coordination activities and advocacy.
- Further details at <https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/moonee-ponds-creek>

4. Maribyrnong Waterfront

- Area bound by the river, Hobsons Rd, railway parallel to Kensington Rd, and Dynon Rd. Identified in municipal strategic statement as 'potential urban renewal.'
- City of Melbourne is currently preparing a Context, Issues and Opportunities Report and Discussion Paper for the Maribyrnong Waterfront area. These documents are being informed by a series of background studies that investigate identified issues and opportunities for the area, to ensure they are shaped by a strong and diverse evidence base of background analysis.
- Key upcoming work for the 2019-20 financial year will include the finalisation of the Discussion Paper, expected in Oct – Dec 2019 with community engagement and consultation in Jan – March 2020.

5. Kensington Community Recreation Centre redevelopment

- City of Melbourne is planning a redevelopment of the Kensington Community Recreation Centre. We received more than 420 responses to community consultation, undertaken over February – March, to understand community needs and interests in the centre. Community feedback called for:
 - more recreation and fitness programs;
 - a larger gym, more group fitness rooms, additional multi-purpose courts, and a café;
 - flexible spaces;
 - improvements to the pool, including more lanes and water play features for children;
 - environmentally sustainable design;
 - better integration with JJ Holland Park;
 - improvements to the overall building condition.

The feedback received will help inform the concept designs for the redevelopment. We'll be further consulting with the community on the concept designs for the centre, anticipated in September 2019.

- Further details at <https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/kensington-recreation-centre>