

RESULTS FROM ONLINE FORUM – HAVE YOUR SAY

Project: New Masterplan for Marina Reserve, St Kilda following meeting no 3 21 September 2011.

All comments received up until 6 October 2011.

Question 1. New Masterplan for Marina Reserve, St Kilda: Marina Reserve, St Kilda: toilet - Do you have any questions or comments on the draft detailed design for the toilet?

The proposed location for this ugly brown building is 280 meters from the already existing toilets at Donovans.

All we keep hearing about is how healthy skating is, so why is it they can't go that distance to a toilet?

It's totally goes against the directive of not impacting sight lines, and I feel absolutely sorry for the owners of 23 and 24 Marine Pde who will have it as part of the view they once enjoyed straight out the front of their properties.

The fact the Council is placing multiple sharps disposal bins in the toilets is an admission that they will likely be used for drug abuse, despite constant pledges that the development won't attract antisocial or dangerous patrons and behaviour.

We don't have anywhere down here currently that people can use as a place to shoot up, and we'd really prefer the council didn't use our rates to build somewhere for them out the front of our homes

Question 2. New Masterplan for Marina Reserve, St Kilda : Marina Reserve, St Kilda: picnic and play space - Do you have any questions or comments on the draft detailed design plans of the picnic and play space?.

Despite the directive to not impact sight lines, the gazebo is still included in the plan for the picnic area.

The whole of St Kilda beach and Marina Reserve have functioned for years without the need for shade structures. Why on earth does the park now suddenly need some unsightly wooden pergola? This is even more questionable than the ludicrous shade cloth installed at great expense to ratepayers in Catani Gardens.

The problem could be solved by not removing and/or destroying a number of the already long existing natural shade structures - you know, those things called trees...

There are two issues of concern that are not addressed within the current draft design plan:

1. The Minister (Ryan Smith) in his letter dated 17/6/2011 approving the master plan application specified a number of conditions, one of which was, "Provision of an additional 300m2 garden bed to separate the active and passive recreational areas". This garden bed is not currently part of the draft design plan.

2. I still don't believe that the current design of skate space adequately caters for the very young (under 8 years) and that the design of the skate space should cater for this group. (as per the original tender issued 3/10/09) They should not be placed in a dangerous situation (risk of injury or harm) and that this issue should be a fundamental design issue and not simply left to an educational consideration.

Regarding your issue 2, I take the viewpoint that a primary motivation of council for the St

Kilda skate space is to provide something for the youth age group, because they are the demographic who are very much under-represented when it comes to providing public facilities. In contrast there are play spaces for the very young in numerous locations including one planned for this Marina reserve.

However the skate space will have something for the very young and older skater too. I was not present at meeting 3 and felt unable to properly assess the online design because it lacked detail such as tranny radius and heights, so what I did was contact Renton Millar who has been working closely with Convic on the design and he gave me an in-depth explanation.

Every obstacle/feature type in the Marina reserve skate space will have an entry level section or variant as well as coming in higher difficulty levels, thus there will be something for every ability level. This is something I advocated in one of the council meetings earlier this year although I believe Mr. Millar and Convic arrived at this design methodology independently. When this level of variation is provided a compromise has to be made on obstacle/feature types, but I think this is a preferable methodology for the needs of the community. The compromise in this situation is the street obstacles, however I explained why a tranny based park made sense in the online forum for meeting 2.

The very young are frequently on scooters and tranny is very conducive to scooter use.

So there is then your question of safety for the very young. Certainly I would expect the very young to be accompanied by parents and they should insist that their children wear helmets. However if it is mixing with the older more experienced skaters that is your concern then the answer is education (e.g. look out before entering an obstacle, wait for turns etc). I have never seen a skatepark that attempts to segregate the different age groups - a beginner is a beginner whether they are 8 or 18. As I explained in my post for meeting 2 entry level obstacles are used by experts too - the experts take the opportunity to perform more intricate tricks on the same obstacle.

What I have seen however is a park that is so limited with only micro-sized obstacles that it attracts mainly the young - an example of this is Jan-Juc skatepark on the surf-coast and this works that way because a couple of kilometres away is Torquay skatepark with a greater variety of difficulty levels thus the youth tend to visit Jan-Juc skatepark - although there is nothing stopping older skaters from using Jan-Juc and I an adult have also used it. Similarly the very young also use Torquay skatepark. Providing something similar to the very limited Jan-Juc park in the hope of limiting its use to the very young at the marina reserve is not a reasonable solution given that St Kilda does not have a skatepark.

Skateparks do get crowded in the afternoon on weekends and school holidays, so a good time for a beginner of any age to go is earlier in the day, however if there is a need for something like Jan Juc then maybe we should have one somewhere else when the Marina park is completed, we do need more skateparks.

Question 3. New Masterplan for Marina Reserve, St Kilda: Marina Reserve, St Kilda: draft operations plan - Do you have any questions or comments on the draft operations plan?

The draft operations plan should be called the draft operations plan. All it repeatedly gives is the solution to call the Police after hours if there is a problem. The Police in St Kilda have enough problems to deal with as it is without Council adding to their workload. As was previously noted, Council is completely sidestepping all issues regarding security in the park and trying to palm the onus off onto residents to become some form of quasi monitoring system.

It does beg the question as to what the purpose of this forum is, as it seems very little if any of the concerns raised up to the September 21 meeting in this forum have been addressed, or

for that matter even acknowledged by Council.

They are the ones who seem determined to steamroll this development through regardless of the concerns of those affected the most - us, the local residents and property owners. As a result they MUST take some form of responsibility for the security of the area, including outside the normal operation hours of the ASSIST phone line.

Marina Reserve Advisory group

Consists

- Councillor officer (or more).
- Ward Councillor (or alternate)
- Resident of Marine Parade in immediate vicinity
- Resident from the broader community (Friends of Marine Reserve and Peanut Farm)
- Representative Skaters
- Representative Dog Owners
- Representative DSE
- Police

Tasks

- Advise Council generally on the Marine Reserve
- Advise Council on the Operations Plan which will cover all day to day use, management and maintenance of the car park, gates, toilet, skateable infrastructure, BBQs and any other areas within the Marine Reserve.
- There should be a single senior Council officer with overall responsibility for the Marine Reserve. That officer should be responsible for channeling matters to the appropriate sections within Council or the state government. The task of the Advisory Group is to assist that council officer.
- Draft a Code of Etiquette for Skaters
- Liaise with similar bodies in other municipalities

The residents could be encouraged to form a broad-based group called the Friends of Marine Reserve and Peanut Farm. Many issues such youth recreation, maintenance, graffiti etc are common to both of these public spaces. A representative of this group could be on the Marine Reserve Advisory Group. This would not be a council-sponsored group, it should be one that the residents control.

There should be 'clear time restrictions' on the usage of the skate park.

Any graffiti should be continued to be immediately removed by Council. If this area becomes a Trash can like most areas of St Kilda + Balaclava + not maintained properly by Council, then the Skate Park should be abandoned.