Draft Balaclava Walk Masterplan

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the draft Balaclava Walk Masterplan?

The draft Balaclava Walk Masterplan aims to upgrade the area around Balaclava Station with key future projects in the area. It sets out a long term vision to improve accessibility, amenity, safety and connectivity between Balaclava Station and the surrounding area. Upgrades to the Balaclava Walk area will include improvements to surfaces of walkways, signs and lighting, new plantings and the use of integrated public art in the area.

Q. What projects are identified in the draft Balaclava Walk Masterplan?

The draft Balaclava Masterplan links key transport and urban renewal projects in the area which are currently being undertaken by external agencies, such as Public Transport Victoria (PTV). Council is working closely with these agencies to ensure projects are consistent with the City of Port Phillip's broader vision for the area and achieve a good outcome for the community.

Balaclava Station: The upgrade of Balaclava Station has been commissioned by PTV. Consultation on the Balaclava Station has recently concluded. To find out more about the Balaclava station upgrade visit www.corp.ptv.vic.gov.au/projects/railway-stations/balaclava-station-upgrade/. To view Council's submission visit www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay.

The station upgrade is currently being designed and is expected to be completed in late 2013. Council will continue to work closely with PTV to ensure integration and coordination of Council's draft masterplan with the new station concept design.

Some mature trees which are located on Vic Track land will be removed to allow for the building of new access ramps to the station as part of the Balaclava Station upgrade. Existing mature trees that are to be retained will be protected during the works. Once work is completed, it is proposed that new trees and ground cover plants will be planted.

Marlborough Street Housing: Marlborough Street mixed private and community housing is a future project earmarked by Council through the Carlisle Street Structure Plan to be delivered by a community housing association. So far, no proposal has been lodged with Council. The community will be consulted on any future proposal through the planning permit process.

Balaclava Walk: There is a partial walkway along the railway embankment between Balaclava and Ripponlea stations. This walkway is on Vic Track owned land. Council is currently investigating the rights of access and retaining wall works required for this project to create a walkway to link the two stations and is keen to hear from the community if you would find this walkway useful.

Tram super stop: PTV have indicated that an accessible tram stop in Carlisle Street may proceed in the future. There is currently no delivery date scheduled for this project. Council is advocating for the prompt funding of this project and will work to ensure the coordination of the tram stop connection to Carlisle Street and the train station.

While the draft masterplan proposes a preferred phasing plan to deliver these key project, these projects are dependent on future funding and implementation decisions.

Q. What is Council's role in these projects?

The City of Port Phillip is working in partnership with the State Government to ensure these projects are coordinated and effectively integrated to increase public benefit.

Council is actively involved in advocating and informing State Government on the surrounding projects to ensure the local community's needs are met.

Q. What are the plans for the Marlborough Street mixed housing project?

The Marlborough Street mixed housing project is identified in the Carlisle Street Activity Centre Structure Plan which was approved by the Minister and is a Reference document to the Port Phillip Planning Scheme. To find out more and follow updates on the Carlisle Street Activity Centre Project visit www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/carlislest_activity_centre.htm

Council remains committed to facilitating the redevelopment of the Council car park and adjoining two lots on Marlborough Street for affordable housing. So far, no proposal has been lodged with Council.

Q. How is the draft Balaclava Walk Masterplan linked to the Carlisle Street Activity Centre Structure Plan?

The Carlisle Street Activity Centre Structure Plan is Council's overarching vision and planning document for the precinct. The Structure Plan was adopted by Council in 2009 after a community consultation process.

The plan outlines how Council intends to integrate each of these projects. Within this structure plan sits the more detailed draft Balaclava Walk Masterplan to resolve the integration of Balaclava station with the adjoining council car park and the Carlisle Street tram stop and walkways between Carlisle Street and Nightingale Street.

Q. What does the draft masterplan propose for Balaclava Walk?

The draft masterplan proposes to develop Balaclava Walk between Marlborough and Nightingale Streets to widen the walkways, improve sightlines and the surface finish. However, Balaclava Walk is on VicTrack land and improvements will need to meet the newly designed station ramps. The use of public art along the walkways and the surrounding area is proposed to enhance the environment.

Q. What is the Balaclava Walk Southern Link?

Council is investigating the development of Balaclava Southern Link; a walkway running along the railway line that will connect Balaclava Station with Ripponlea Station. Council is keen to hear community input regarding whether this walkway would be useful.

Q. How will artwork be used in the area?

The draft masterplan proposes to integrate public artwork along Balaclava Walk and surrounding environs in order to increase the visual appeal of public space. The use of public art will encourage urban art that expresses the identity and the cultural heritage of the area and the local community. It is proposed that management of integrated art throughout the masterplan precincts will be undertaken in line with the City of Port Phillip Urban Art Strategy (June 2002).

Q. How can the community provide feedback?

Council is inviting community feedback on the draft Balaclava Walk Masterplan and is keen to find out whether the plan addresses community concerns regarding safety and accessibility through improve lighting and signage in the area, the planting of new trees and ground cover and the use of integrated public artwork. To have your say www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay.

Q. What are the next steps?

Feedback from the community will inform Council's decisions on whether to adopt the draft masterplan later this year.

For more information visit www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay
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