Port Phillip is listening

**speak up!**

Saturday 28 April 9.30am-4.30pm
Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre
Aughtie Drive, Albert Park VIC 3206

Hosted by City of Port Phillip and run in conjunction with AmericaSpeaks

*Shape the future > Take action > Work together*
Acknowledgements

Port Phillip Community Plan - Joint Council Community Steering Committee
Janet Cribbes - Chair - Councillor, City of Port Phillip
Karen Sait - Councillor, City of Port Phillip
Gendrie Klein-Breteler - Community Representative
Joanne Prior - Community Representative
Sally Davison - Community Representative
Tass Mousaferiadis - Community Representative
John Pratt - Community Representative
David Spokes - Chief Executive Officer, City of Port Phillip
Geoff Oulton - Executive Director, City of Port Phillip
Sally Calder - Executive Director, City of Port Phillip

Staff assisting the Steering Committee
Wendy Atkinson, Community Planning & Leadership Advisor
Jennifer Stone, Community Governance Advisor
Teresa Parsons, Community Plan Business Support Officer
Anita Lange, A/Manager, Corporate Planning and Performance

Collaborating Partner - AmericaSpeaks
Janet Fiero - Senior Associate
Joe Goldman - Vice President of Citizen Engagement

AmericaSpeaks, a non-profit organisation, engages citizens in the most important decisions that impact their lives. Since 1997, AmericaSpeaks has conducted large-scale 21st Century Town Meetings® across America on a wide range of subjects including healthcare, economic development, redevelopment of the World Trade Centre after 9/11, and the rebuilding of New Orleans. AmericaSpeaks increases citizen voice through its large-scale citizen engagement projects, research, innovation, and collaboration, both nationally and internationally. For more information visit www.americaspeaks.org

Support
The City of Port Phillip acknowledges the support provided by the Department of Victorian Communities (Local Government Victoria); Municipal Association of Victoria, and Microhire for technical assistance.

This document was written by Jennifer Stone (City of Port Phillip) and Greg Day (Education Image) who thank the Council staff and community members who contributed to its development and for their preparedness to debate issues. The views expressed do not necessarily represent Council policy.

April 2007
Table of Contents

Introduction
   Why are we having a Community Summit?  Page 2
   What is expected of participants?  Page 2
   What is a Community Plan?  Page 2
   Where can I find a copy of the 1997–2007 Community Plan?  Page 2
What was the desired vision for Port Phillip back in 1997?  Page 3
   The 1997-2007 Community Plan Vision Statement  Page 3
   What influence did the last Community Plan have?  Page 3
Facts and figures about Port Phillip  Page 4
   Population facts and figures  Page 4
   Community Opinion  Page 5
   Community survey 2006  Page 5
   Qualitative research  Page 6
How is the community summit being organised?  Page 7
   Council Community Joint Steering Committee  Page 7
   What will happen on the day?  Page 7
   Next steps  Page 7
The climate is changing: What can we do?  Page 8
Parking: Our biggest headache or a fact of city life?  Page 10
Building our community: What helps and what hinders?  Page 14
Urban planning and development: Getting ready for 26,000 new neighbours  Page 18
Entertainment and residential amenity: A great place to live, work and party?  Page 22
Public open spaces: Taking more care of the places we share  Page 26
Introduction

The purpose of this guide is firstly to explain why and how The City of Port Phillip is hosting a Community Summit, and secondly, to help people who will be attending the summit think about community issues and possible options for action.

The document is organised into two main sections: the first is an introductory overview about community planning and facts and figures about Port Phillip. The second is a discussion guide to issues of concern within the community.

The issues presented in this discussion guide are based on the most commonly expressed concerns documented in the 2006 community survey and in other consultations undertaken by the City of Port Phillip.

The topics are broad enough to cover issues of relevance to all members of the community and will undoubtedly impact on the future quality of living in, working in, and visiting Port Phillip.

The overall purpose is to stimulate thinking and analysis about future priorities for the City of Port Phillip – and to encourage you to feel comfortable discussing your ideas with others when you attend the summit.

What is expected of participants?
You are asked to try to find some time to read this discussion guide before the summit. If your time is squeezed, focus on the discussion topics in the second half of the guide.

Why are we having a community summit?
Back in 1997, following amalgamation of the cities of Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda, the City of Port Phillip worked with the community to develop a 10-year Community Plan.

It’s now time to develop Port Phillip’s second Community Plan – 2007 to 2017. The community summit on April 28 is a way to bring all sorts of different people together to discuss, listen and learn from others about what the shared priorities for the next ten years will be. We need a new 10-year Community Plan to describe the way we want to see the city develop as its population increases and its popularity to visit also increases.

What is a Community Plan?
A Community Plan is an agreed framework of priorities that helps the Council and community manage change while protecting what is valued most. Having a robust Community Plan in place helps communities learn more about whom and what the community is, what its strengths and challenges are, and how we can all make a difference. Community planning is all about providing opportunities to learn more about local issues, weigh up options to address them, and voice an opinion.

The Community Plan is not the Council Plan – however, it significantly guides and informs the Council’s strategic planning and allocation of resources.

Where can I find a copy of the 1997 – 2007 Community Plan?
The Community Plan and mid-term review documents are available at:
www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/existing_comm_plan
Our vision for the City of Port Phillip is of a city where diversity and harmony are sustained and encouraged. A place where all members of our community feel connected through a sense of belonging and pride in our city. There is a shared responsibility to ensure all people, regardless of age or of cultural and socio-economic background enjoy the benefits of our city and participate in all it has to offer.

We envisage a city where the environment is valued and protected; where our air and water are clean, and our parks and gardens are well maintained for the enjoyment of all. Our foreshore is protected and enhanced and provides a sanctuary for citizens and wildlife alike. We take pride in the responsibility we have for our environment and shall be seen as leaders in the field of environmental management.

Our city will be one in which the needs of residents, businesses and visitors are met through responsible planning and innovative development that is responsive to our unique heritage and identity. Inappropriate and poorly located high-rise development is restricted and a balance is maintained between everyone’s needs.

Traffic and transport in our city shall be effectively managed to improve traffic flow and the benefits to public transport users, pedestrians and cyclists. Parking facilities are balanced to reduce traffic congestion and optimise public transport links whilst encouraging environmentally sustainable modes of travel.

We value a city, which has dynamic neighbourhoods with distinct character and unique identities; a city within which we can move freely and safely. We see our local council as a leader in its field, particularly in the areas of community consultation and communication, strategic planning, financial management and implementing the community’s wishes.

We envisage that our city’s services match the people’s needs, are innovative, responsive and continually improving. Our services are wide ranging and address the needs of our community on a physical, human and cultural level.

Our vision is of a city where the council services provide support to the four key pillars of our community - environmental responsibility, economic viability, cultural vitality and social equity - to create a sustainable and harmonious future.

What influence did the last Community Plan have?
Fourteen priority areas were identified by the community back in 1997 and these have continued to provide Council with a strategic framework for its planning and review of services.

A detailed report on the Council’s response to all fourteen priority areas identified in the Community Plan is available at: www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/attachments/o6717.pdf
Facts and figures about Port Phillip

The City of Port Phillip’s population was estimated to be 88,524 in 2006 (the previous census figure in 2001 was 80,552). Data from the 2006 census is not yet available. However, updated estimated figures are sourced from City of Port Phillip commissioned forecasting.

The following tables show where people live and the spread of age groups. St Kilda has the largest number of residents (22%). St Kilda Road is the smallest but fastest growing neighbourhood and is expected to double its size by 2021.

### Population of Port Phillip by neighbourhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighbourhood</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Port Phillip</td>
<td>88,524</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Melbourne (inc. Garden City, Beacon Cove)</td>
<td>14,626</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Melbourne</td>
<td>8,393</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Kilda Road</td>
<td>6,564</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Park-Albert Park</td>
<td>11,432</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Kilda (inc. West St Kilda)</td>
<td>19,233</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East St Kilda (inc. Balaclava)</td>
<td>14,291</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elwood and Ripponlea</td>
<td>13,985</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Age groups within Port Phillip

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>4,205</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>2,883</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-17</td>
<td>3,410</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-49</td>
<td>45,280</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>12,813</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Port Melbourne has highest number of residents aged between 0-4 and 5-12
- More than half of our population are aged between 25-49
- About 15% are over the age of 60.

1. Neighbourhood groupings as used by the City of Port Phillip.
**Facts**

- 93.8% of residents are employed, 68.1% employed full time
- 50.8% of our residents have lived in the City of Port Phillip for less than 5 years, highlighting a significant transient population
- The 2001 census showed 22,321 people were born overseas (28.5%) The largest group was from the UK (4,285)
- 259 residents (0.33%) identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Greek is the most common non-English language spoken (4.0%), followed by Russian (2.5%), Chinese languages (2.0%) and Italian (1.5%)
- 38.6% of the Port Phillip population are tertiary qualified with a degree or a diploma; 60.5% completed year 12 or an equivalent
- There are 8,500 businesses and 64,400 jobs in the City of Port Phillip
- There are approx. 300 not for profit community managed organisations and groups who provide social welfare services.
- 41.3% in single person households
- 40.2% of the City of Port Phillip own or are purchasing their own home. 47.9% are renting
- 59% of our population live in flats or apartments
- 28.7% of households in 2001 had a weekly household income of less than $600 per week
- 5,939 residents are low-income renter households
- In September 2003, there were 1,220 people living in 62 rooming-houses
- In 2001, there were 696 people living in residential aged care facilities
- In December 2004, there were 21,628 adults who received Government income, such as pensions or unemployment benefits - 26% of the population
- Port Phillip’s unemployment rate in Sept 2006 was 3.6%
- In 2005, total crime (per 100,000 people) was 13,115. This is a decrease of over 7,000 from 2000
- Port Phillip’s health status has improved - men have added almost 6 years to their life expectancy (77.7 years compared to 71.9 in 1999) and women have added 3 years (82.5 now and 79.4 in 1999

**Community opinion**

1. **Community Survey 2006**

   As part of the community consultation process leading to the Port Phillip Speaks Community Summit, the City of Port Phillip designed and implemented a survey for residents, ratepayers, businesses and visitors across the municipality with 2200 respondents. Survey results have been weighted to adjust for differences in age groupings compared to the demographic profile of the community.

   The results reported below are a summary of key findings. To look at the full report on survey results, go to: [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/community_plan](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/community_plan)

**Most valued assets**

The top three most valued aspects of the City of Port Phillip:

- Beaches, foreshore and bay
- Community spirit and atmosphere
- Parks, gardens and open spaces

It is important to bear in mind however that “community spirit” and “atmosphere“ is a subjective idea and for some respondents community spirit and atmosphere is about the diversity of people in the area and the “buzz”, whereas for others it is the quiet nature of their streets and the “village feel” of their local shopping strip.

**Most disliked aspects**

“what don’t you like about Port Phillip?”

The three aspects of the City of Port Phillip that respondents most commonly disliked were:

- Parking - both cost of parking and the provision/management of parking
- Building, planning and development issues
- Cleanliness, rubbish and litter issues
What is most important to people personally?
The issues of individual personal importance that scored measurably higher than other issues provided on a list of 29 were:

- parks and gardens
- beaches and foreshore
- access to public transport
- access to local shops for daily needs

All issues provided in the list were identified by respondents as important to some extent, with the lowest rated score being for large scale festivals and sporting events. It is important to note this issue scored almost equal numbers of respondents who considered this very important to those who scored it very unimportant (representing significantly divergent community views on this issue).

Issues having a negative impact on Port Phillip
The most commonly identified issues having a negative impact were:

- more residential developments over three storeys
- rising commercial rents
- the number of childcare places available now
- aged care places available now
- access to parking
- increasing population density

What should the Council pay more attention to?
The most important issues that respondents consider Council should pay more attention to are:

- cleaning and maintenance of public areas
- community services
- traffic and parking
- community infrastructure

2. Qualitative research undertaken for the Council’s community health plan
The following issues are documented in interviews with a random sample of 700 residents and in consultations with health and community services staff from local service agencies.

- Despite a drop in the local crime rate, 58% of 700 randomly sampled residents across all neighbourhoods felt the level of safety has not changed in the past 5 years.
- An overwhelming majority of residents (84%) believe their community is generally doing well and they were personally happy with their life (95%). 43.2% believe community well-being has improved over the past 5 years.
- Many people live alone and feel disconnected from others in their community. People would like their streets and neighbourhoods to be friendlier and would like to know their neighbours better.
- Many stated that they want the City of Port Phillip to be a home for everyone. People want the City of Port Phillip to be a place that harmoniously accommodates people from very different backgrounds and provides more crisis accommodation and affordable housing for people on low incomes, including those without special needs, such as artists and students.
- Some people say the community is less diverse and more “boring” now and that the municipality is much more expensive to live in – food, housing, entertainment and childcare costs are high compared to options in other areas. Poorer people particularly feel the brunt of this impact and comment they feel like they ‘stand out’ more than they used to.
- People express a desire for genuine opportunities to participate in their community’s life and help shape its future.
- People want to be surrounded by neighbourhood facilities that support their basic living needs (e.g., public toilets, affordable nutritious food, shaded seats, water taps, footpaths and public transport that allow easy access for all people, including those in wheelchairs, motorised scooters and prams).
How is the summit being organised?

Council Community Joint Steering Committee

The Council advertised for community nominations to join a joint Council/Community Steering Committee and five community representatives were appointed in October 2006. Members of the Steering Committee are listed on the inside of the front cover of this guide.

The role of the Steering Committee has been to oversee the planning of the community summit by ensuring the processes and information resources promote community participation and debate on issues facing Port Phillip.

AmericaSpeaks have worked closely with the Steering Committee and staff in the design of the summit, providing planning, logistics and technology advice, and have been appointed to be the independent facilitators for the summit’s proceedings.

What will happen on the day?

The day will focus mainly on roundtable discussion among participants rather than speeches. Participants will be discussing the range of views at the table on a series of topics and possible options for action. But you won’t just be talking – you’ll also be listening and responding to the views expressed by others.

Table discussions will be helped along by a trained volunteer facilitator. Each table’s ideas will be sent to a central coordination group who will collate the results and present them back to the entire room for review and continuing discussion. Participants use individual keypads (just like the audience does in television shows like “Who Wants to be a Millionaire”) to record their opinions on priorities and actions. So everyone gets to know what is happening in the whole room, not just at their table.

Councillors and senior Council staff will be taking part and will respond at the end of the day.

A report setting out what people have agreed to (both in terms of priorities but also next steps to ensure things happen) will be given to participants as they leave.

Next steps - What will happen after the summit?

A series of neighbourhood meetings have been scheduled for shortly after the summit to give residents and traders an opportunity to follow up on local issues raised at the summit.

Some weeks later, a final Community Plan will be completed and distributed with actions, commitments and timelines detailed.

Schedule for neighbourhood meetings – all will commence at 7.00pm

South Melbourne - Tuesday May 15
Community Centre, corner Park Street and Ferrars Place, South Melbourne,
Melways Ref: 2K B4

Port Melbourne - Wednesday May 16
Port Melbourne Soccer Club,
S.S. Anderson Oval, J.L. Murphy Reserve
Melways Ref: 56 K1 (entry off Plummer Street)

St Kilda - Wednesday 16th May
St Kilda Council Chamber
Corner Brighton Road and Carlisle Street
Melways Ref: 2P F9

Elwood/Ripponlea - Monday May 21
St Columba’s Primary School Hall
24 Glenhuntly Road, Elwood
Melways Ref: 67 B3

East St Kilda / Balaclava - Tuesday May 22
St Kilda Council Chamber
Corner Brighton Road and Carlisle Street
Melways Ref: 2P F9

Albert Park/Middle Park/West St Kilda - Wednesday May 23
Mary Kehoe Centre
224 Danks Street, Albert Park
Melways Ref: 2K A10

St Kilda Road - Wednesday May 23
Cato Room, Wesley College
577 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
Melways Ref: 2L C10
There is now very strong evidence that global warming will profoundly change our climate within the next 15-30 years.

While there are a number of suspected causes, a steadily increasing level of carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) in the atmosphere is seen as the major contributor to global warming. Human activity is releasing unprecedented levels of $CO_2$ primarily by the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) for electricity, transportation and industrial processes. Widespread deforestation has reduced natural absorption of $CO_2$.

If globally we continue to emit carbon gases on a business-as-usual basis, it is estimated that $CO_2$ levels in the atmosphere will double by 2050. This could heat the planet by as much as 2 - 4.5°C, with global effects such as reduced rainfall, increased flooding, and reduced agricultural crops.

**Our contribution to climate change**

Port Phillip has increased its per person greenhouse gas emissions by 18% in the past decade alone. Australians emit the highest level of per person greenhouse gases in the world - about 44% more than the average person in other developed nations.

Meanwhile, we have reduced per person water use by 20% over the last 5 years, as has the rest of Victoria. However, Australia’s per person water use is about 33% more than the average person in other developed nations.

A recent Port Phillip City Council commissioned study predicted that climate change could mean a greater risk of beach erosion, storms and floods, reduced water quality in the bay and increased beach debris. It also predicted that reduced rainfall would mean deterioration of local sporting grounds, reserves, parks and private gardens.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who is using greenhouse gas emitting resources and water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse gas emissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity - 72.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport - 14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas - 10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste &amp; Industry - 2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinkable water use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathroom - 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen - 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry - 15-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden - 30-35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**What can we do to make a difference?**

To slow down climate change and stabilise global temperatures, the world needs to significantly reduce carbon emissions in the next 10 - 20 years. Householders, businesses and the Council can all reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Because over 70% of our carbon emissions are from producing electricity, switching to low-emissions and renewable electricity sources (like solar panels) will make a big difference.

We also need to become more ‘climate-clever’ because greenhouse gas emissions live in the atmosphere for a long time. This means the total effects of reducing emissions now will only truly come into effect in a few decades.

We need to use water wisely and adjust our buildings and infrastructure to become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Water efficient fittings, appliances and changing how we use water can save up to 35% of water use at home and in the workplace. Our open spaces, parks, recreational areas and home gardens can become water-wise and drought-proof by changing planting, mulching and watering regimes. Reusing water to flush toilets can make an impact on reducing water use and harvesting rainwater and stormwater can help save our gardens and parks.

What can we do to support each other to reduce our energy and water consumption? What can be done to encourage those who can afford to convert to low-carbon power sources to do so? Is this about education and awareness raising? Are financial inducements needed? Or are more legally enforceable changes required?

---

**The Council provides a range of services and education programs in energy and water efficiency. Improving lower-emissions transport options (cycling, walking, public transport) has been a Council priority, as is examining ways to make local reserves, parks and ovals more water-smart and drought-resistant. Council has recently established an ‘Energy Revolving Fund’ to improve the energy efficiency of Council owned buildings and facilities.**

**Other cities have set stringent reduction targets for municipal greenhouse gas emissions and water use.**

**The summit is an opportunity to think about how policies and practices associated with planning, parking, community services, entertainment and open spaces can all play a role in adapting to climate change and reducing carbon emissions.**

---

**As you read the following five topics, and are thinking about options for action, keep in mind which options can reduce greenhouse gases or help us adapt to climate change – give those options special consideration.**
The 2006 community survey showed the cost of parking and management of parking and traffic is one of the most disliked aspects of living in and visiting Port Phillip. But not everyone agrees on the best way to improve the situation or how to stop things getting worse.

Residents, businesses, and visitors often have different views about who should be able to park where, and what causes parking problems. Port Phillip’s traffic congestion and shortage of parking is caused by many factors: more people living here; households are getting smaller and the numbers of households are increasing; the rate of car ownership per household is increasing; and, we seem to be using our cars more. On top of that, Port Phillip is a destination for many visitors and workers, and must endure high volumes of through traffic.

Much of Port Phillip’s housing stock and network of roads and laneways were laid out before the modern era of the motor car - some of our streets simply can’t accommodate multiple cars per residence.

**The Council’s policy framework**

In February 2000, the Council held a community summit on parking and developed a *Parking Plan Towards 2010* based on a number of core strategies to reduce the number of cars and encourage the use of other transport:

- Parking permits to protect access for residents
- Enforcement of parking laws
- Restrictions and parking meters to ration parking
- Community education about alternatives to car travel
- Increasing transport choices and travel
- Waiving need for parking for some developments

Since 2002, the Council has pursued a policy of not issuing residential parking permits to people living in new apartment blocks – this is a strategy to free up on-street parking spaces on the basis that a new development should cater for its own parking needs on site and not put additional pressure on the street. This approach has provided leadership across Melbourne with other inner city councils now doing the same. The Council is now moving to assess options to waive or reduce the amount of parking provided by new residential and commercial developments in areas close to public transport and shops to reduce the number of cars.

Port Phillip has 65,000 on-street parking spaces - 60% having some sort of parking restriction. In 2005/06 revenue from parking fees and fines was $20.3m - making it the second largest source of income after rates for the Council.

An additional $1m in annual revenue is generated from parking permits which is spent on ‘sustainable’ transport initiatives (walking, cycling and public transport) and parking projects.

---

2. This revenue came from 7,500 paid parking spaces and 175,000 parking fines but doesn’t include revenue from fees for parking permits.
What are our greatest transport and parking challenges?

More people with more cars

Port Phillip is likely to have an additional 16,000 dwellings by 2030 and this could mean over 27,000 extra cars. As the city becomes more affluent, the rate of car ownership grows – the proportion of households with no car is now only 10% and is one of the highest in Melbourne.

Much of Port Phillip’s housing stock and network of roads and laneways were laid out before the modern era of the motor car - some of our streets simply can’t accommodate multiple cars per residence. Is it appropriate or fair for a household without on-site parking, to park two, three, four (or more) cars, trailers, caravans, boats on the street? Is this sound use of public space?

How to get people to use other forms of transport?

How realistic is it to promote alternatives to car travel? Will using our cars less affect our parking problems and rates of car ownership? Does better parking only encourage more driving and create more parking problems? Will future residents be happy to move in without either a car space, or without a car?

How much influence should climate change and car carbon emissions influence parking planning, and solutions?

Balancing the budget

Parking fees provide a “tourism tax” or visitation fee and are designed to reduce the demand for parking and the burden on residents. Many people believe the cost of parking is too high. But if parking costs are reduced, demand will go up, congestion will increase and revenue for the Council will decrease. The choices become either to increase rates or reduce services.

Competing interests – Is parking a ‘right’ or ‘privilege’?

The Council’s parking permit scheme for residents and the regime of parking restrictions and charges seeks to manage the competing needs of residents, visitors and businesses. Most other municipalities don’t have the same scale of commerce, sporting and cultural events, and foreshore attractions that bring visitors into local residential areas.

Is it fair that residents pay to park whenever they visit the beach or go shopping?

What is the right balance between locals and visitors right to park?

What do other municipalities charge for parking?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Council</th>
<th>Resident Annual Parking Permit Fees per car</th>
<th>Resident Foreshore Annual Parking Permit Fees per car</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Port Phillip</td>
<td>$52 (1st), $52 (2nd), $84 (3rd)</td>
<td>$21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarra</td>
<td>$22 (1st), $44 (2nd)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>$20 (1st), $80 (2nd in Carlton)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonnington</td>
<td>Free (1st and 2nd)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayside</td>
<td>Free (1st and 2nd)</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bondi NSW</td>
<td>$20 (1st), $50 (2nd)</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fremantle WA</td>
<td>Free (1st and 2nd)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenelg SA</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parking: Options

What can we do to make a difference?

1. Allow new developments close to public transport and local shops to have reduced on-site car parking (and exclude occupants from receiving on-street parking permits).

   **PROS:**
   - Promotes public transport, walking and cycling to local services.
   - Helps make housing more affordable

   **CONS:**
   - Public transport network can’t get you everywhere at anytime.
   - Occupants with cars will park in surrounding streets.
   - Increases pressure to rort parking permits.

   **YOUR THOUGHTS:**

2. Require all new developments regardless of location to be self-sufficient in car parking (e.g. to provide new parking to fully meet demand).

   **PROS:**
   - Reduces number of cars parking on streets.
   - Acknowledges high rate of car ownership.
   - No financial cost to the Council.

   **CONS:**
   - Increases cost of all new housing stock
   - Doesn’t acknowledge people who don’t want to have a car
   - Accepts high rate of car ownership and use

   **YOUR THOUGHTS:**

3. Significantly increase the cost of additional permits for households with multiple cars

   **PROS:**
   - Encourages people to share cars
   - Encourages alternative transport options

   **CONS:**
   - Expensive for multi car households
   - Encourages rorting

   **YOUR THOUGHTS:**

4. Allow Port Phillip parking permit holders to park for free or at significantly reduced cost in metered foreshore, shopping and entertainment areas.

   **PROS:**
   - Encourages use of local services
   - Reduces carbon emissions because local trips are short trips and visitors will use more public transport

   **CONS:**
   - Loss of parking revenue
   - Reduces available parking for visitors

   **YOUR THOUGHTS:**

Parking: Options
5. Reduce demand for parking with higher parking meter fees and tougher enforcement.

**PROS:**
- Promotes public transport
- Increases revenue to the Council
- Increases parking turnover

**CONS:**
- Deter visitors and customers for local business
- Fees and charges are already higher than many other municipalities

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---

6. The Council to establish a land purchase fund for car parking in high demand areas

**PROS:**
- More parking available
- Funding assisted by revenue from parking charges
- Good for local businesses that need customer parking

**CONS:**
- Significant investment required - land very expensive and rarely available
- Land for parking comes at the expense of other uses (open space or housing)
- Entrenches dependence on and impact of cars

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---

7. Encourage more walking and cycling by improving paths and bike lanes.

**PROS:**
- Promotes health and fitness
- Can reduce car travel and demand for parking
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions

**CONS:**
- Most people are too busy to walk
- Concerns about safety at night and during the day in some locations
- Investment required

**YOUR OPTIONS:**

---
When we talk about ‘the local community’, there are many levels we need to have in our thinking. On the one hand there is the ‘big picture’ idea of the City of Port Phillip as a community – this can feel a bit too big for many people to connect with.

On the other hand, we have many smaller ‘groups’ of people who live in the same block of flats, neighbourhood or suburb, or people with common interests such as sport or work or religion, or people of a similar age, culture or lifestyle. Whatever the nature of the association, it involves sharing a sense of identity, place, belonging and connection – as well as an interest in working together for the common good.

So how do we, as a City, build upon the strengths of our community groupings to foster a shared sense of municipal local identity and connection so we can work together more broadly for the common good? How can we work together to improve access to needed services and provide enriching opportunities for people to participate in community organisations? How can we strengthen community networks and ensure different views are heard in the clamour of heated debates and in the frenzy of modern living?

Today, many of us are so busy we do not know our neighbours nor find space to volunteer our time and talents to local services.

Building our community: What helps and what hinders?

Why bother?

Why involve ourselves in community organisations and issues? One of the best reasons is that it’s good for us - research studies here and overseas show that being involved in community action and networks is good for mental and physical health. Involvement helps provide support when it is needed, and helps protect against the negative effects of social disadvantage. It pays to participate!

Strong communities are often described as those that not only share a sense of place but also share an understanding of the differences within their community (social and cultural issues, environmental challenges, economic well-being). Strong communities also have an ability to come together to make the best use of resources.

Whilst smaller level community groupings (such as book groups and sporting clubs) share similarities that bind, larger communities often have tensions because of differences. Personal views and self interest can get in the way of working through issues that touch on lifestyle choices, cultural customs, recreational pursuits, and the need for community services.
Levels of funding for state and commonwealth programs often fail to keep pace with rising costs - for example, the Council receives $1.32 per meal (meals on wheels) but the meal costs $15. Council currently subsidises 130,000 meals per year to residents needing this support.

There is a lot of variation amongst local councils regarding what they do and do not fund from rates and other sources of revenue. With very expensive land and development costs, plus an increasing population, the Council is required to juggle complex priorities and frequent community disagreement about those priorities.

Participation in community groups and volunteering is declining. Many people report they are too busy to be more involved with the local community. Some people may not be interested in connecting on a community level for various reasons - including they may not plan on living in Port Phillip for long or they have no need for community-based services. About half of those living in Port Phillip have lived here for less than five years – that’s a massive turnover in population.

We know from the community survey that most people agree communities need to look after the young, old, vulnerable and needy. The strength of any community is about relationships and networks and getting involved. The population of Port Phillip has changed and is changing. What can we do to ensure appropriate access to services for all life stages and the lifestyle diversity in our community?

What strengthens communities?
Research findings show a consistent set of activities that build community:

- social networks (through sports, the arts, schools, etc)
- participating in decision making roles and developing local leadership skills (leaders have networks and have knowledge and resources to share)
- volunteering (sharing resources and increasing community knowledge)
- collaborating and partnerships across different agencies and groups to share knowledge and resources (helps develop sustainable programs)

What role do community services play in strengthening communities?
Community services (schools, health agencies, childcare services, aged care facilities, community meeting spaces, public transport, churches, employment assistance, etc) are essential components of what makes communities strong.

We look to government for a helping hand when we need it most – but which level of government? Commonwealth, state or the local council? The community survey (2006) found that many people look to this Council to improve access to childcare, public housing, and residential care for the elderly - services dependent on policy and funding from other levels of government.

How services are funded and what they are funded for is often very confusing – particularly as some services are delivered through local council’s but funded by another level of government. For example, childcare fees are subsidised by the federal government but childcare centres are regulated by the state - neither level providing funding for building and maintaining centres.
**Building our community: Options**

What can we do to make a difference?

1. **Help people in our community share their talents, resources and assets** – with initiatives like a skills database, ‘willing volunteer’ register and innovative uses of community facilities. Match these assets with needs in the community.

**PROS:**
- Promotes active citizenship and brings people together
- Strengthens communities from within, and builds upon existing assets
- Encourages continuous learning

**CONS:**
- Many people are too busy already
- Identifying assets is time consuming

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

2. **Foster community leadership through discussion forums and panels on environmental, social and cultural, and economic issues.**

**PROS:**
- More social interaction and community participation.
- Increase community awareness and knowledge on key topics.
- Better use of skills and resources within our community

**CONS:**
- Not everyone can attend a forum or panel
- Many people are ‘time poor’
- Possibly not best use of funds

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

3. **Fund new neighbourhood projects on a shared basis where the community contributes time and talent while the Council puts in the dollars.**

**PROS:**
- Kick starts new local projects
- Gives people a chance to contribute locally
- Brings neighbours together

**CONS:**
- Joint projects take longer to organise
- Many in the community are too busy already

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

4. **Set up Port Phillip interest-based groups that can champion volunteerism on a wide range of topics like climate change, philanthropy, local history, arts, life-long learning associations, gardening, culture groups, and business/economic opportunities.**

**PROS:**
- Brings like-minded people together
- Increases the potential for public involvement because it builds on individual passions.
- Easy to organise with minimal investment

**CONS:**
- The Council doesn’t need to be involved at this level
- Groups are better when they are autonomous
- Competes with groups that already exist

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**
5. Promote and protect the availability of community meeting facilities within walking distance of every neighbourhood.

**PROS:**
- Makes it easy to organise a group activity
- Promotes local activity

**CONS:**
- Some facilities will be used more efficiently than others
- Investment required

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---

6. Continue to support the disadvantaged, disabled and low-income even as the city grows more affluent.

**PROS:**
- Good to support the most needy
- Diversity is good
- We all need help at some time

**CONS:**
- Can be costly
- Spending can get out of proportion

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---

7. Tackle the acute shortage of both childcare and aged care facilities, by making it a Council priority to increase both government and private sector investment in these areas.

**PROS:**
- Local aged and childcare services are important
- Best solutions involve both government and private sector

**CONS:**
- Set up costs in Port Phillip are very high
- State and federal governments are hard to influence

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---

YOUR OPTIONS:
Melbourne is expected to grow by 850,000 people by 2030. While most growth will be in the outer suburbs to the north and east, Port Phillip's population is likely to increase by 30% - an additional 26,000 residents.

The State Government policy framework Melbourne 2030 is trying to slow urban sprawl, create a more compact city, and improve access to jobs and services. Melbourne 2030 encourages higher residential density close to public transport and shops to encourage walking and public transport use.

Much of Port Phillip already has many of the features that Melbourne 2030 wants to achieve for the rest of Melbourne.

Over 1500 applications are received each year in Port Phillip, one of the busiest municipalities in the state. Over 90% of applications are decided by the Council or by staff on behalf of the Council (formal powers of delegation) with about 10% of decisions ending up in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

The 2006 community survey showed high levels of frustration for people dealing with a planning issue – both the time planning can take as well as dissatisfaction with planning decisions. A sense of powerlessness is common. To contrast this, a survey of applicants and objectors in 2006 provided positive feedback on the quality of service provided by the Council's planning department.

Planning is complex and Council doesn't make all the rules

There is confusion in the community about who imposes what regulations. The Council must comply with state and national planning and building regulations and operates as a 'delegate' of the Victorian State Government in administering these regulations.

To better protect local amenity and neighbourhood character, the Council has developed a number of heritage and design controls – but these have to be consistent with State Government planning regulations. A lot of the judgment required by the planners is made 'on balance' and can be seen by some as subjective.

The Council's local planning scheme interprets state-wide policies and has identified local activity areas around Fitzroy Street, Bay Street, Carlisle Street, and South Melbourne Central as being suitable for increased density. But what happens outside of these areas is important too. Should we be designating more areas for multi-level development to encourage development in preferred locations so that other areas can be identified as 'out of bounds'?

What are our greatest planning and development challenges?

Ensuring the right housing mix

Maintaining diverse housing options is increasingly difficult in Port Phillip where land and housing prices continue to soar.

We see a growing rate of single and two person dwellings – is this the result of increasing supply or is it driven by market demand? Will this trend force out families with children? Are high-rise developments the way to provide more housing? Do we want to preserve houses that provide...
Lower cost accommodation continues to disappear as market forces encourage conversions suitable for higher income residents. The Council has made significant investment in social housing infrastructure, and currently commits $400,000 annually to support social housing programs. Council continues to provide strong advocacy and support for efforts to address housing affordability issues – what does the community think about this?

> Port Phillip’s current population is estimated at 88,524
> Over 50% of our residents live in flats and apartments
> Over 50% of our residents live alone
> 99% of rental accommodation is not affordable for those on or below average incomes (affordability being rent of $230 or less per week)
> Port Phillip’s population to increase by 26,000 people by 2030
> household size to drop from 1.96 to 1.87 people per household
> an extra 16,000 dwellings will be needed by 2030[3]

Achieving a green and sustainable city
Climate change and water restrictions are encouraging water tanks, solar panels and improved thermal design. Residents are choosing parking spaces and courtyards over gardens or lawn. How do we ensure big trees survive and thrive? How do we retrofit environmental sustainability into our heritage properties and commercial buildings?

Retaining thriving local shopping and activity centres
The range of jobs and the vitality they bring is part of the local character and economy of this area. As many people work in Port Phillip every day as live here – even more visit regularly. Maintaining a range of job opportunities close to where people live is essential if we’re going to be able to reduce commuting times and have an interesting mix of people and talents.

How do we make activity centres successful places to live and work in? How do we keep neighbourhood local services such as shoe repairs and dry cleaners? When there is more money to be made in converting buildings to residential developments, how do we keep local services and attract infrastructure like childcare, schools, car parking, and offices when land is so expensive? What will be our industries of tomorrow?

Civic pride.
Urban planning is about what happens on public land too. Council parks and gardens, streetscapes, and public spaces influence how we socialise with our neighbours, whether we shop at the South Melbourne Market or eat out locally. At a pretty basic level it is also about whether or not we feel a sense of civic pride about our city and neighbourhoods.

Who will control our future?
How can a local planning scheme best manage the changes in density and lifestyle that we know are imminent? How can planning deliver a great place to live for more people? Who should decide where the extra development will go and where it shouldn’t go? How can community views be better heard and integrated into earlier stages of planning?

How can we help people better understand the complexity of the planning system and the design principles that help make urban areas great places to live, work and visit?

Urban planning and development: Options

What can we do to make a difference?

1. Lobby the state government to give more power to local planning controls in the final determination of what type of development goes where.

**PROS:**
- Increases local confidence in the system
- Helps the community shape urban design consistent with State Government planning regulations

**CONS:**
- May not be successful
- May be interpreted as a political manoeuvre

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

2. Encourage environmentally sustainable design while advocating for mandatory state government controls to reduce greenhouse emissions and water consumption.

**PROS:**
- Improved energy and water efficiency
- A more environmentally responsible and sustainable city
- Accepts and responds to climate change

**CONS:**
- May increase building and renovation costs
- Too many regulations already

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

3. The Council and community to develop a new urban planning master plan to accommodate increased population while strengthening social relationships, environmental sustainability and quality urban design.

**PROS:**
- Increases community participation
- Promotes high quality and well considered development

**CONS:**
- Time consuming
- People are cynical about their capacity to influence planning
- Participation in planning consultations is low

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

4. The Council to continue to advocate for programs that provide more affordable housing.

**PROS:**
- Affordable housing is crucial for a diverse, vibrant community.
- Public and community housing need and deserve support

**CONS:**
- The responsibility of other levels of government
- Resources could be better used on other social issues

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**
5. Confine high rise developments to clearly defined and identified activity centres.

**PROS:**
- Protects neighbourhoods from inappropriate development
- Reduces objections and appeals

**CONS:**
- Residents in or near activity centres may not want high density development
- Developers may win exemptions at VCAT
- Inflexible approach can deter good developments

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---

6. Educate and communicate about State Government and Council planning processes to encourage greater community understanding and capacity to participate.

**PROS:**
- Increased understanding of planning
- More and better participation in planning
- Fewer objections to planning proposals

**CONS:**
- More objections to planning proposals from a more informed public

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---

**YOUR OPTIONS:**
The 2006 community survey showed that a positive community atmosphere and enjoying the local attractions are some of the most treasured aspects of living in and visiting Port Phillip. The parks, beaches, local shopping strips and heritage buildings were all seen as highly valued features. Live music venues, large scale music and sporting events were valued more by people in younger age groups and by visitors.

Many parts of Port Phillip are synonymous with entertainment and night life. Melbourne has always flocked to St Kilda for foreshore fun by day and edgy thrills by night. South Melbourne has traditionally boasted more pubs than almost any other suburb. Port Melbourne has played host to generations of sailors and settlers. There’s no question that some pretty unsavoury action happens in our streets – but it’s been here a long time and not about to go away.

These days, backpacker accommodation, big events, late night bars and new developments on the foreshore are as much a feature of our city as cafes, bay views and palm trees.

Late night venues near residential dwellings can be an exciting night out for some, but can also mean interrupted sleep for others. What can be done to lessen the impact of noise and litter, public urination and other anti-social behaviours that spill out of some venues?

Hospitality and entertainment is a big employer and many of the workers also live here. The economic, residential and recreational life of Port Phillip is intimately linked – the buzz attracts people, and that attracts businesses, which attract workers who are attracted to live here and so on. The point of contention is how best to make the city great for both businesses and residents.
What are our greatest challenges in balancing amenity and entertainment?

Managing the foreshore

Much of the foreshore area is “crown land” (public land) managed by the Council on behalf of the State Government for all Victorians. There are multiple venues offering multiple entertainment options: dining; rollerblading and cycling on the foreshore paths; yachting and life-saving clubs; Luna Park; big ships at Prince’s Pier; and the forthcoming re-development of the ‘Triangle Site’ in St Kilda. It can get pretty crowded at times and some locals do express resentment about the cost of cleaning up and crowds blocking movement. For visitors, especially young adults, the foreshore is a place to party and cut loose.

The number of events

During summer, it can feel like hardly a week goes by without the foreshore and major roads being used for a public event. Triathlons, beach sports, large scale sporting events, markets and festivals. Participation ranges from 30 to 300,000 people. Scheduling of events is designed to give residents a break between events, but some locals end up feeling squeezed out of their patch.

Mixed use nature of entertainment and tourist areas

Entertainment venues are often close to homes and public spaces. Tensions between residents and businesses erupt frequently in so called ‘hot spots’ What are the costs and benefits of having some venues open till 7.00am?

The Council doesn’t control opening hours for venues serving alcohol – licensing is controlled by the State Government’s Liquor Licensing Commission. What role can the community play in addressing the social impacts and how can businesses take responsibility for the impact of their patrons? What role can the Council play?

Backpacker accommodation is a boon for low-budget travellers but can be on the nose for neighbours who face late night partying, illegal parking and dumping of cars and vans.

What are the differing contributions that visitors, residents, and businesses all make to Port Phillip?

Living in harmony across age and lifestyle groups

Big scale events such as the St Kilda Festival and the Grand Prix attract both heated criticism and enthusiastic support from different quarters. For some, loud music is a joy worthy of public celebration while for others catching up with friends over a coffee or wine in a neighbourhood café, or a game of tennis at a local club is the preferred option. Bowling clubs have become music and drinking venues without public dissent but the idea of a skate park near a school causes significant public debate.

The challenge is to ensure that patron behaviour doesn’t prevent people feeling ‘at home’ in their homes. How can we help both residents and visitors enjoy the entertainment and recreational opportunities in our city?
What can we do to make a difference?

1. Lobby to change State laws on liquor licensing to enable the Council to limit liquor trading hours in response to local amenity and social impacts.

   **PROS:**
   - If successful, the Council could limit hours to reduce social consequences
   - Give the local community more say in liquor trading decisions

   **CONS:**
   - Might hurt the city’s party reputation
   - Discourages self-regulated responsible trading
   - Limits economic activity

   **YOUR THOUGHTS:**

2. More rigorous enforcement of permit conditions for backpacker venues and increased efforts to close illegal backpacker accommodation.

   **PROS:**
   - Enforcement of existing laws
   - Reduction in noise for neighbours

   **CONS:**
   - Might hurt the city’s “party” reputation
   - Reduction of backpacker economic activity

   **YOUR THOUGHTS:**

3. More rigorous enforcement of permit conditions on restaurants, bars and clubs.

   **PROS:**
   - Protect local amenity
   - Give confidence to local community about conditions on permits being enforced
   - Sends a clear message to traders that conditions will be enforced

   **CONS:**
   - Council officers have to take on a tougher enforcement role
   - Takes time and staff away from other areas of work.

   **YOUR THOUGHTS:**

4. Establish trader and resident liaison ‘committees’ in entertainment hotspots to improve communication and develop action plans.

   **PROS:**
   - Brings business and residents together to create solutions
   - Increases awareness of each other’s needs

   **CONS:**
   - Residents don’t want to do the Council’s work
   - Businesses face too many rules and regulations already

   **YOUR THOUGHTS:**
5. **Support cultural events and entertainment opportunities that have broader appeal across age and interest groups.**

**PROS:**

- Greater capacity for all to participate and enjoy what is on offer

**CONS:**

- There’s already something for everyone

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---

6. **Increase community input into the committees that manage crown land (public land) in Port Phillip.**

**PROS:**

- Increases community knowledge and participation
- Better decision making by Committees of Management

**CONS:**

- Can take a long time to get anything done

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---
Some parts of Port Phillip are the most densely populated residential areas in Australia. Many people don’t have backyards to host a BBQ, or a front garden in which to tend roses or sit under a tree.

The lack of private open space is a big part of why the local beaches, parks, playgrounds and streetscapes are seen as sacred sites for many residents. Open space, whether it be a median strip with some play equipment or the expanse of the foreshore, is precious.

Visitors come to be ‘beside the seaside’ but they also come to enjoy the public gardens in St Kilda and St Vincent’s Place, Albert Park Lake reserve, children’s adventure playgrounds and Gasworks Art Park – to name but a few.

These are special places. Many get upset when litter, vandalism, graffiti and crowds affect their enjoyment. It’s easy at times to overlook the benefits that visitors bring – the dollars, the jobs, the energy and activity.

The community survey in 2006 highlighted cleanliness of streets and beaches, litter and dumped hard rubbish as issues of concern for both residents and visitors. No one likes tripping over packaging and syringes on the beach and many of us get fed up when we see over-flowing rubbish bins on shopping strips.

We spend a lot of money on the appearance of public spaces

The Council currently spends more than $10 million each year on parks, street trees, and beach and street cleaning:

- $2.6 million is spent on planting and maintaining trees
- $3.2 million is spent on maintaining parks
- $4 million is spent on cleaning streets and beaches (75% on streets)
- $4 million on capital works upgrades in open spaces
What are the biggest challenges in sharing and looking after our open spaces?

**Competing needs**

Different people with different activities compete for access to our public spaces: people walking with dogs, people playing sport, people on bikes, flying kites, skate boarding, having picnics and birthday parties, participating in group exercise classes, enjoying outdoor cafes, strolling and window shopping, visiting markets and festivals, and attending major events.

Whether it is the Grand Prix in Albert Park, live music at the St Kilda Festival, volleyball competitions on the beach, or triathlon events taking over bike paths, Port Phillip’s open space is always up for grabs. Are there too many events? Has catering to the needs and wants of state or regional events gone too far? Do our open spaces provide suitable activities for all ages?

**Impact on high use areas**

Large numbers of visitors naturally impact on street and beach cleanliness, but also on our perceptions of how well our cleaning services work. We remember the over-flowing rubbish bins we see on sunny days when visitors flock to the foreshore, we notice when people leave litter behind during festivals and other public events. Can any more be done, and if so, at what financial cost? Are our streets and open spaces clean enough given the large numbers of visitors and activities?

**Impact of drought**

With tight water restrictions in place, parks and gardens and sporting reserves are struggling. Sports fields are affected and trees are showing signs of stress. What can we do to help sports clubs look after their reserves? What can we do to keep some of the ambience of previously lush parks? What are the priorities for manual top-up watering?

**Impact of animals**

Animals in public spaces are a contentious issue in many municipalities. However, not many of us would have predicted possums as a divisive topic of debate. We’re familiar with working through dog issues including the rights and responsibilities of owners with on-leash and off-leash areas. However, possums have become a hotter topic than dogs in parks and on beaches. Some argue we need to learn to live with possums while others are distressed by the loss of foliage, damage to trees, and the impact of faeces and odour on their use of open space. Are possums your pest or pleasure?

**Dumped rubbish**

The Council receives 3000 calls each year about dumped rubbish, including old fridges and mattresses lying on footpaths and nature strips.

**Access to public toilets**

Some people believe our open spaces are compromised by an inadequate number of public toilets. Some say the toilets we have aren’t properly maintained. Others claim we shouldn’t have more public toilets because of the sex and drug related activities they can attract. Are these fears reasonable? What can be done to improve public toilets?

**Crowded streetscapes**

Streetscapes are public space too. The popularity of on-street café dining and on-street display of merchandise leads to some streets being a physical hazard for many people. Tables and chairs, outdoor heaters, rubbish bins, and display stands result in congestion, tripping, and difficult access for anyone carrying shopping or using a wheelchair or walking aid, or pushing a pram. Whose streets are these?
Public open spaces: Options

What can we do to make a difference?

1. Increase promotion of good litter practices (take your rubbish home) especially for beaches, parks and shopping strips.

PROS:
- Reminds people to do the right thing
- Promotes recycling and awareness of packaging

CONS:
- Promotion and education may not make a significant difference

YOUR THOUGHTS:

2. Increase the number of litter bins in public places and increase the frequency of bin clearing.

PROS:
- Maximises acceptable disposal of litter
- Reduce overflow from bins

CONS:
- More bins means more rubbish and discourages people from taking their rubbish home
- Bins are already cleaned regularly

YOUR THOUGHTS:

3. Reinstate one annual neighbourhood hard rubbish collection combined with booked household collections.

PROS:
- Neighbourhood collections were popular
- Incorporates advantages of both systems

CONS:
- Less flexible than existing dial up and book collection service
- Less frequent than four free pickups currently offered

YOUR THOUGHTS:

4. Establish neighbourhood ‘green watch’ groups to monitor maintenance and safety in open spaces, including threatened trees and damaged footpaths.

PROS:
- Increases community participation
- Builds on existing volunteer participation in projects such as tree planting

CONS:
- Who will support these groups?
- The Council should already be doing this

YOUR THOUGHTS:
5. Improve quality and quantity of public toilets and change facilities.

**PROS:**
- Improved access for all
- Improved reputation of Port Phillip

**CONS:**
- Requires financial investment by the Council
- Potential for misuse of facilities

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---

6. Convert unused laneways and other small allotments to community managed open space.

**PROS:**
- Community strengthening through participation
- Better than existing practice of selling spaces to individual households.

**CONS:**
- Loss of income to the Council (existing practice is to sell small allotments to private buyers)
- Requires long term community effort

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---

7. Restrict and modify footpath trading guidelines to ensure easy access for all pedestrians.

**PROS:**
- More pleasant for all pedestrians
- Fairer for disabled, those with prams, and pedestrians in general

**CONS:**
- May reduce footpath trading
- Loss of revenue to the Council (charges for permits)

**YOUR THOUGHTS:**

---

**YOUR OPTIONS:**

---