

3 Presentation of officer reports

3.1 Camberwell Green Association Presentation and Next Steps

Abstract

The purpose of this report is to enable the Camberwell Green Association (CGA) to present their proposal to Council and outline potential next steps.

The CGA launched a campaign in early 2018 to partially close Reserve Road, Camberwell and convert the Reserve Road car park to public open space (Camberwell Green proposal). In addition, a petition in support of the Camberwell Green proposal was received by Council on 12 June 2019. Further, Camberwell Primary School (CPS) has submitted a proposal requesting the closure of part of Reserve Road between the two CPS campuses and expressing their support to the Camberwell Green proposal.

The Reserve Road Car Park occupies land known as Allotment 113C Boroondara and part of Allotment 113D Boroondara. These allotments are Crown Land managed by Council. According to the Government Gazette (January 1969), the Crown Land parcel Allotment 113C was reserved for “children’s playground / car park”, and Allotment 113D was reserved for “public gardens”. The current configuration of the subject land reflects a change in layout associated with the 2010 upgrades to the Camberwell Civic Centre and environs, which accommodated permanent car parking for a large portion of the site, with a corner of the site providing for open play space benefiting the former Our Lady of Victories (OLV) Primary School and subsequently CPS.

Council officers sought further information from the CGA on the details of the proposal to better understand the aspirations of providing additional open space on the subject land. Following further discussions with the representatives of the CGA, it was agreed the CGA would present their proposal to the Services Special Committee (SSC). Members of the public who have registered an interest regarding the proposal including CPS and community members who had signed the Camberwell Green petition have been invited to the SSC.

As Council is yet to consider the Camberwell Green proposal and assess its merit, this report does not present any recommendations on whether the proposal should be supported. As previously stated the purpose of this report is to enable the CGA to present their proposal to Council.

It is recommended Council notes the proposal and undertake community consultation on the proposal to seek feedback from the broader community. It is also recommended an independent consultant be appointed to undertake further analysis of the proposal and make recommendations for Council to consider at a future meeting in early 2020.

Officers' recommendation

That the Services Special Committee resolve to:

1. Note the Camberwell Green proposal presented by the Camberwell Green Association.
2. Endorse the proposed next steps in response to the proposal and commence community consultation.

**Responsible director: Shiran Wickramasinghe
City Planning**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Enable the Camberwell Green Association (CGA) to present their proposal to Council to partially close a section of Reserve Road, Camberwell and convert the Reserve Road public car park to a public open space (Camberwell Green proposal).
2. Seek the SSC's endorsement of the recommended next steps in response to the proposal.

2. Policy implications and relevance to community plan and council plan

Council Plan 2017-2021

Council's consideration of the Camberwell Green proposal is consistent with the strategic objective: "Inviting and well-utilised community parks and green spaces: (*Theme 2*).

Boroondara Community Plan 2017-27

The Boroondara Community Plan 2017-27 sets out the 10 year vision for Boroondara's future based on values, aspirations and priorities important to the community.

Council's consideration of the Camberwell Green proposal is consistent with the following strategies:

- *Strategy 2.3 Partner with other land owners to improve and provide further access to open space throughout the municipality.*

3. Background

The CGA launched a campaign in early 2018 to partially close Reserve Road, Camberwell and convert the Reserve Road car park to public open space. Camberwell Primary School (CPS) has also submitted a proposal requesting the closure of part of Reserve Road between the two CPS campuses and expressing their support to the Camberwell Green proposal.

In addition, Council received the Camberwell Green Petition on 12 June 2019, which requested Council work with the Victorian Government to:

- *Restore our historic park in Camberwell Junction with playgrounds and community facilities, by dedicating a segment of Reserve Road, Camberwell and adjacent crown land for this purpose.*
- *Restore the original permanent reservation of crown land allotment 113C for 'public gardens' as it was from 1882 to 1969."*

The Reserve Road car park occupies land known as Allotment 113C Boroondara, and part of Allotment 113D Boroondara. These allotments form two of the five land parcels comprising 370 Camberwell Road, Camberwell. These land parcels are Crown Land, with the Public Land Manager being City of Boroondara, i.e. Council is responsible for managing the land in line with its intended purpose.

According to the Government Gazette, January 1969, the Crown Land parcel Allotment 113C was reserved for “*children’s playground / car park*”. Allotment 113D was reserved for “*public gardens*”. The current configuration of the subject land reflects a change in layout associated with the 2010 upgrades to the Camberwell Civic Centre and environs, which accommodated permanent car parking for a large portion of the site, with a corner of the site as open play space benefiting the former OLV Primary School and subsequently CPS.

The Reserve Road car park currently comprises the following car parking spaces, including:

- two disabled spaces
- 25 spaces allocated to CPS staff, including 10 spaces as part of the area licensed to the school (the current licence commenced in August 2019 and has a three year term till August 2022) and 15 spaces through permits from Local Laws
- 81 two hour spaces (8am-6pm, Monday to Friday; 8am-1pm, Saturday). Council staff parking permits can override the time limits.

Since the launch of the Camberwell Green campaign, Council officers have sought further information on the details of the proposal to better understand the aspirations of providing additional open space on the subject land. Following further discussions with the CGA, it was agreed the CGA would present their proposal formally to Council at a SSC meeting.

4. Outline of key issues/options

The purpose of this meeting is for the CGA to present their proposal to Council. Members of the community who have registered an interest regarding the proposal including CPS have been invited to the meeting.

As Council is yet to consider the proposal and assess its merit, this report does not present any recommendations on whether the Camberwell Green proposal should be supported.

It is also anticipated future development of the site would require support and approval from the Victorian Government (given it is Crown Land). A range of issues will need to be explored to enable Council and the Victorian Government to consider the proposal. Some examples of the issues may include (but are not limited to):

- the benefits of the proposal;
- whether the site is the most suitable location for additional open space in the Camberwell Junction area based on the existing open space provision and future open space demand;
- the traffic and amenity impact of the Reserve Road and/or car park closure on nearby streets;

- the impact of the reduced car parking on Council staff, CPS staff, parents (drop off and pick up), library users and visitors to the Camberwell Civic Centre;
- resource implications of the proposal, depending on the envisaged facilities, including potential funding sources;
- future development and management arrangements to ensure public access is maintained to the land.

It is recommended that Council engage an independent consultant to review the proposal and make recommendations on the Camberwell Green proposal. It is also recommended broader community consultation be undertaken to understand community views on the matter. The recommended notification scope is as follows:

- owners and occupiers of properties within 800 metres of the subject site;
- owners and occupiers of properties within the CPS school zone;
- Camberwell Green petitioners;
- Camberwell Primary School; and
- other registered interested parties.

The consultation outcomes will be analysed by the independent consultant to inform their recommendations on the proposal. It is anticipated a report outlining the consultation outcomes and the recommended approach on the Camberwell Green proposal will be tabled for Council's consideration in early 2020.

5. Consultation/communication

Members of the public who have registered an interest to the proposal including CPS and community members who had signed the Camberwell Green petition have been invited to the meeting.

As noted above, further community consultation will be undertaken to inform Council's consideration on the proposal. Subject to the SSC's support to proceed, community consultation could occur for a period of 4 weeks commencing 25 November until 20 December 2019.

6. Financial and resource implications

The costs associated with further community consultation and the engagement of an independent consultant will be sourced from the Strategic Planning Department's 2019/20 operational budget.

Future design and delivery of an open space and/or road closure at the subject site is subject to funding allocation by the State Government and Council respectively. The financial and resource implications will be further analysed by the independent consultant appointed to make recommendations on the proposal.

7. Governance issues

The officers responsible for this report have no direct or indirect interests requiring disclosure.

The implications of this report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

8. Social and environmental issues

Consideration on the Camberwell Green proposal contributes to the enhancement of the open space network in the City of Boroondara. However, the removal of car parking may potentially have negative local amenity impacts as CPS teachers and parents, Council staff, library users and visitors to the Camberwell Civic Centre search for alternative car parking in surrounding residential streets.

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