



7.1 Joint Letter – Requesting installation of a Gate to restrict public access to Lane

A Joint Letter containing Six signatures, was received from local residents.

The Joint Letter states the following: -

Dear City of Port Phillip Council members,

We are writing to bring to your attention a matter of increasing concern that affects the residents of Princes Street and Station Street, Port Melbourne. Our request is regarding the installation of a gate at the entrance of the lane adjoining our properties.

We have been advised the current cost of purchasing the lane from the council is \$245,070 plus GST. This is far too expensive for something that none of the residents adjacent to the lane are interested in developing or building on. All the existing utilities and services are located there as well and it is also a dead-end lane that terminates at the gate used solely by one resident.

As long-term residents living adjacent to the lane for up to nearly 60 years, we have witnessed an increase in incidents that unfortunately necessitate this letter and the implementation of additional security and safety measures.

The dead-end lane, which is exclusively used by the undersigned residents and their families to store their bins, has unfortunately become a hotspot for undesirable activities such as the illegal dumping of rubbish, drug use, and public urination.

These activities not only pose a threat to the safety and well-being of our families but also create an unsightly and unsanitary environment. Immediate action must be taken to address these issues and ensure the lane remains a safe and clean space for all neighbouring residents to utilise as needed.

To improve our safety and security, we have already taken independent measures such as installing movement-activated lights on our residences, to light up the lane due to poor visibility at night, and security cameras around the perimeter, including the wall that runs along the lane. These actions were necessary in response to the rising incidents of verbal abuse, vandalism, and threats being directed at us. But they are no longer adequate.

Furthermore, we feel it is important to highlight the vulnerable position of an elderly resident who regularly uses the lane to access the rear of their property. They have been the target of some of the verbal abuse mentioned earlier. As a cherished member of the neighbourhood their safety and well-being are of utmost importance to us. Restricting public access to the lane will contribute significantly to their peace of mind and allow them to continue using the lane to access her property without fears of distress, which we strongly believe is her right.

Our primary motivation behind this request is to ensure the safety of the residents of the neighbouring properties. By erecting a communal gate, we aim to prevent unauthorised individuals from accessing the lane and engaging in these unlawful activities. We believe that this proactive step will help maintain the cleanliness and integrity of the lane and surrounding area, thereby preserving the quality of life for all residents concerned.

The residents that use the lane, take pride in maintaining and cleaning the lane regularly. However, without proper restrictions on public access, our efforts are often undermined by individuals who are not invested in the local area and community.

We kindly request your consideration and support in installing a gate at the entrance of the lane. Such an addition would provide all the adjacent residents with a sense of security, reduce incidents of illegal activities, and safely maintain the lane's original intended purpose. Which was to provide access to the rear of the property for elderly resident.

MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 2 AUGUST 2023



We understand that the local council plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and welfare of the community. Therefore, we would appreciate it if you could assess the feasibility of our request and help us in addressing the concerns raised.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We eagerly await your response and hope for a positive outcome that assists us in keeping our families safe.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1 Receives and notes the Joint Letter and provides a response to a future Council meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil