

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

COUNCIL MEETING 17 JULY 2024



Public Question Time

Question from Justin Halliday:

The Alma Rd entrance to Alma Park, which is adjacent to the train line; this has significant heritage value, is currently blighted by 8 bins, 2 signs, a dumpster and unfortunately, this is where a lot of dog feces is dumped, so it has a pretty rank smell. Has council considered relocating these bins away from the park's heritage entrance, perhaps to the nature strip immediately above the rail underpass?

Response: *Council officers have inspected the site in question and following a review will remove or replace bins as follows;*

- *FOGO bins – reduce from 5 x 120 litre bins to 3 x 120 Litre bins. A reduction of 2 bins.*
- *Glass – replace the large 660 litre glass bin with smaller 1 x 240 Litre glass bin.*

Officers hope this improves the appearance to this entrance.

Question from Justin Halliday:

The heritage listed Park Keeper's Cottage has been fenced off for more than 15 years. What is Council's plan for this significant building?

Response: *The Alma Park - Park Keeper's Cottage is recognised by Council as an historically significant building. Officers welcome your interest in this building, which is presently managed by our assets team. The premises currently are not fit for habitation and thus not in use. Sensitive rehabilitating and repurposing of the site would be a complex exercise. To achieve this, a work plan would need to be developed, seeking to at a minimum:*

- *Identify and consider all viable options for the future of the property;*
- *Consult with stakeholders on any proposed works and future use; and*
- *Carry out works to make-safe and restore the site.*

There are no plans for this project this current financial year, and presently no timeline can be provided for any future works. When reviewing capital works for coming years, officers will consider scheduling rehabilitation and repurposing works for this building.

Councillor Question Time

Question from Councillor Pearl:

Can Officers please provide an update on the development/building permits at 1-7 Waterfront Place? Specifically, can you update Councillors on the development and cleanup at this site? When was the last time Council engaged with the owner/developer regarding the appalling state of the site?

Response: *The last date we contacted the owners was in 2023. On Thursday 18 July 2024 officers conducted a site visit and contacted the owners to remove the bill posting on the hoarding. Bill posters from the Waterfront Place side have been removed, the remaining ones to be removed are facing the roundabout.*

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Question from Councillor Pearl:

Officers might be aware of a billboard that's located on private property on the corner of York Street and Montague Street, South Melbourne, which is adjacent to the Sol Green Reserve. Can officers please take this question and report back if these billboards have valid permits, why these trees have not been replanted in front of these billboards that appear to be on private property, and is there any way Council can get these billboards removed?

Response: *In relation to permits and removal of the billboards, Council officers have completed a review of the planning history and sought legal advice about the billboards at 165 Montague Street. A building permit was granted in 1960 for the display of the advertising signs at 165 Montague Street, South Melbourne, with specified dimensions along York and Montague Streets. A permit in 1998 allowed for the construction of a zincalume building, but it is unclear if existing hoardings were included in this authorisation. In 2012 some small changes were made to the shape of the advertising but not overall size, Planning confirmed no application for amendment was required as the 1960 permit still covered the overall size of the signs. The 1960 permit and 2012 decision support that the advertising signs are permitted to be on the land. Council does not have any basis to require the removal of the billboards.*

In relation to trees, these are planned to be planted in this planting season.

In relation to graffiti and content of billboards, Council has received complaints about the content of the billboards relating to Palestine. We encourage members of the community to direct these types of complaints to the Advertising Standards Bureau which will review if the content is appropriate. The billboard is located on private property, meaning our graffiti removal team is unable to remove the graffiti as part of their daily patrols. The property owner has previously taken action to rectify the vandalism.