

SOUTH-EAST CITY NEWS – EDITION 9 – JANUARY 2007

A **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all our members.

The focus of this Edition is on the issues surrounding the Victoria Park Masterplan, announced by Deputy Premier Foley, just before Christmas.

The Masterplan

Many of you will have received the glossy brochure in your letterboxes. The major elements of the plan are: a 'new multipurpose building' on the site of the existing 'pit straight'; a horse racing track to the west of this and a car track to the east, with a proposed sporting ground/events arena in the middle of the car track.

If you haven't seen this brochure you can access it via the Office of Major Projects and Infrastructure website at www.dtei.sa.gov.au/vicpark or by contacting the project information line on 1300 728 116. There is also a link on our own website at www.secra.asn.au

SECRA (with members of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association) was given a special briefing on the Masterplan, at the same time as Mr Foley was making his announcement to the media. We were unhappy with the sketchiness of the plans and have asked for more detailed plans, and what of the social, environmental and economic impacts of the plan? Not a word!

We have arranged a **MEETING WITH ROD HOOK**, Office of Major Projects and Infrastructure, with SECRA members on **February 13 2007 at 6pm** at the Ladies Auxiliary Room, TPI Hall, corner of Hutt Street and South Terrace. This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions about the Masterplan. After Mr Hook's presentation, your committee will be looking for clear directions from you as to how we can work together to overturn this deceitful plan.

This meeting is for members only and we remind you that subs for 2007 are now due and can also be paid on the evening of the meeting. New members will also be welcome to join.

Mark Parnell, Greens MLC, a former environmental lawyer, has called this consultation process a 'sham' (*Messenger Press*, January 11 p5) and he also considers that any planning process may turn out to be equally tokenistic. We are getting advice from a planning expert about this which we will share with you at the meeting.

Even if it does prove to be a 'sham' we must take part. At the very least it may be possible to wrest some concessions from the Government for the good of our neighbourhood and the benefit of future generations of Parklands users.

Below left Foleys Grand Plan and right we can see what the Victorians built in Albert Park!



Your committee has always been puzzled as to why the Government (and the Opposition) are so keen on this outrageous plan:

- Mike Rann in 2002 and again in 2006 promised to protect the Parklands. He said 'The Parklands will remain a park, not a car park.' Were we duped or were we just naïve to believe him?
- His government gave up the Major Projects power to ram projects through against the community's wishes; but that is exactly what he is doing.
- Rob Kerin, before the 2006 election, wrote to us promising that, if elected, he would not build a permanent grandstand in Vic Park
- Adelaide has a surfeit of entertainment venues. Wayville Showgrounds, Morphettville Racecourse, the Convention Centre, Hindmarsh Stadium will all be competing with this new facility.
- Surely such things as replacing our crumbling infrastructure should take precedence over yet another entertainment/sporting complex
- Open space lost, is lost for ever. The argument that this new building will increase open space is fallacious as the 245 metre long, 3 story high building will effectively cut the existing open space into two smaller areas and floor area in the Parklands will be doubled, not reduced.
- We cannot believe that it will not be fenced off. And the trees shown on the glossy brochure will take two generations to screen the building and of course can never be allowed to limit spectator views
- This facility is for the 'top end of town'. During the car race the ordinary race goer will still be sitting in temporary stands. Does this sit well with Labor Party policy? How do people feel about paying for a facility they will never use?
- The car race set up will still take four months and still treat Victoria Park as an industrial hell-hole during that period.
- How can the SAJC justify (and pay for) the use of a \$55 million dollar facility especially given its record of occupation of precious Parklands over recent years?
- Why is the Adelaide City Council remaining silent on this? They are the custodians of the Parklands. We Adelaide ratepayers may well end up paying \$10 million for a facility that will devastate Victoria Park while increasing traffic, noise and anti-social behaviour in an established residential area.

We are preparing a flyer to letter-box the south-east of the City of Adelaide following our meeting on February 13. In this flyer we will reflect your views and be asking people to express their concerns by emailing Mike Rann and Adelaide City Councillors. We have been led to believe that if the Adelaide City Council rejects this proposal then it will not go ahead.

We are not alone. Commentators like Peter Goers (*Sunday Mail*), Tim Lloyd (*The Advertiser*) and Diana Carroll (*The Independent Weekly*) are helping us get our message across. Opposition is mounting. We are being approached with offers of help, including financial help. If you are able to help in any way please contact any of the committee members listed below.

CLIPSAL 500 SET-UP. Ms Jane McDonough, the Community Relations person with the Clipsal 500, began work on Monday 15 January. Her phone number is 82128500 if you have any complaints, concerns or questions. You can also ring the Adelaide City Council on 82037203 during or after hours or the Police on 131 444

Mr. Hadaway, of the Motor Sport Board has assured us that (unlike last year) the testing of the public address system and screens will happen during daylight hours. We are also working with the Federal Member for Adelaide, Kate Ellis to require CASA to impose restrictions on joy-riding helicopters during the race. Many residents regard the intrusive and incessant noise of the helicopters to be more distressing than the noise of the V8s.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Because of the need to concentrate our efforts on responding to the Victoria Park Masterplan, the committee has decided to defer our first AGM to a little later in the year. The Constitution requires that it be held within 18 months of our incorporation which takes us to June. Fixing a date for the AGM will be discussed at the meeting in February.

Heather Nimmo, Secretary, SECRA

Committee: David Plumridge, 8232 0515, Heather Nimmo, 8223 4458, Doug Sweet, 8232 4654, Jan Davis, Anne Melrose and Michael Henningsen
Email: comments@secra.asn.au website: www.secra.asn.au Postal: PO Box 7017, Hutt St