

Meeting of the Port Phillip Council 2 December 2020

The following statements were submitted prior to the meeting. Submissions made live during the meeting include some variations and can be listened via our live stream webpage:

<http://webcast.portphillip.vic.gov.au/archive.php>

John Sutherland – Item 7.4 Petition Response - Request to investigate alternative options to make the Kerferd Road Crossover at Herbert Street safer:

Hello Madam Mayor and thank you for your time.

I would like to speak to agenda item 7.4 – the Request to investigate alternative options to make the Kerferd Road Crossover at Herbert Street safer.

Councillors, I hope tonight that when an important decision needs to be made about an undeniable safety issue in our community that “Team Safety” has your vote.

That is what this debate is, Team Safety vs. Team Inconvenience.

As a father of three children under-5 who lives in 3 Herbert Street just metres from this intersection, I tremor each time we leave the house.

Cars crossing the median, mostly rat runners, fly into Herbert Street at breakneck speed to beat the oncoming south bound traffic on Kerferd Road.

As a cyclist, it is frightening to ride north or south on Kerferd Road with motorists seemingly in a constant state of confusion at the Herbert Street intersection and not even aware a bike lane exists.

As a pedestrian, it is just not safe. Motorists have too many decisions to make – other cars, blind spots, who gives way? Families on foot are not even considered.

The Council has acknowledged this problem for many years and quoted many accidents.

The safety of the intersection has even made national news via a Herald Sun website story on October 12

I note that the counter-petitioners are not from Herbert Street or Kerferd Road, so it makes sense that inconvenience is their primary concern.

I think it is also worth noting the validity of an online petition as opposed to a physical one. As a digital professional, I could gain 10,000 signatures via an online petition in hours. Could we ask to see all names and addresses from the counter-petition tabled?

An independent safety audit has been done saying that the intersection is unsafe.

This safety issue has been on council’s radar for a decade.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will contribute funds to fix the problem via the Shrine to Sea project.

So, what is the hold-up?

I hope that Council can find it in their hearts to do the right thing here and that we never have to look back after another serious accident or death and say “why didn’t we act?”.

I applaud the officer recommendations for the second time on this topic.

Councillors, safety must come first.

Thank you

Craig Wright – Item 7.4 Petition Response - Request to investigate alternative options to make the Kerferd Road Crossover at Herbert Street safer:

Thank you to the Port Phillip Council and to my fellow neighbours for allowing me to address you this evening on what is an important safety issue for our community.

Unlike many of you present this evening, I have only been part of the Albert Park community for 12 months having been fortunate enough to buy a house there.

Like many of you, due to COVID, I have been working from home since mid-March and have had to make do with a make-shift office which has comprised my bedroom and family room, both which look directly out onto the intersection which is the subject of this consultation.

I've been in a unique position over the last eight months to observe as a driver, a pedestrian and from my make-shift offices some incredibly dangerous road behaviour taking place at this intersection. I have also witnessed two separate car crashes and a cyclist being hit by a car at this intersection, despite reading some of the accompanying literature to the consultation that there have been no crashes recorded here in the last five years. I have previously provided photos to fellow neighbours as evidence of these collisions.

From my observations, the intersection is mired by:

- Delivery vans and work vehicles using Herbert Street as a “rat-run”, often crossing Kerferd Road at dangerous speeds;
- Obstructed visibility due to the flame trees that are planted along the traffic island; and
- Confusion among motorists entering and exiting Herbert Street from the intersection with no coherent signage to direct them or understanding of how to use the intersection

Through this consultation process, we have an opportunity to make our community safer. I agree with the latest officer recommendations and the measures proposed and applaud the officers for recommending safety ahead of convenience. As community members, we must put the safety of others ahead of our personal convenience. Without action here today, one day, there will be a serious accident at this intersection – someone will be critically injured or possibly die. How will we feel living with the knowledge that we had an opportunity to prevent it but decided not to because it was too inconvenient?

Please, let's get behind this.

Norbert Oberholzner – Item 7.4 Petition Response - Request to investigate alternative options to make the Kerferd Road Crossover at Herbert Street safer:

Dear Mayor and Councillors

My question refers to the attempt to close the median crossover on Kerferd Road between Montague and Herbert Streets.

Council is intending to proceed with its closure using the latest Road Safety Audit as its single focus.

All councillors will have received communication on this matter from myself and other concerned local residents.

I have read through in detail the Road Safety Audit and find that its recommendation and conclusion is flawed.

I hope that you have all read the audit as I will now break it down for you and show how flawed and biased that it is.

Section 2 Scope of Audit.

First paragraph incorrectly refers to Kerferd Rd as Herbert St. (shows quality of audit).

Paragraph four data shows that cars are NOT using Herbert St as a “rat run”. This nullifies the first petition that the council is SO intent on upholding and using in discrediting the second petition.

Paragraph five refers to the bicycle count on Kerferd Rd, only specifying morning hours. This does not mean that all pass through said intersection.

Paragraph six does not date crash data, only specifying 10 years.

Whereas the Vicroads crash history data and in councils own writing states “no recorded crashes at this intersection in the most recent five-year period up to December 2019”.

Section 3 Overarching Comments.

Paragraph three and four refers to historical failure to Give-Way and its inherited level of risk. It would be more appropriate to install proper signage than close the intersection.

Final sentence Paragraph four is inappropriate in this case as this is a low-density housing area so traffic volumes should minimally increase. Inappropriate excuse/reasoning.

Paragraph five states that Montague/Herbert Streets are local streets and do not provide a major strategic traffic function. The traffic volume data substantiates this. This should mean that the crossover remains open for local residents’ access to amenities.

Of the 8 options suggested, the first and most severe is planned.

Many of the scenarios suggest improvements to signage, line making, kerb extension, and ramps. These are more in line with low local traffic volumes, which will STILL enable access to local amenities.

Point 1 Closing the median break, states that “the Auditor considers that the amount of permeability across Kerferd Road to be excessive with four within 500m and that a low risk U-turn opportunity exists in close proximity for local access”.

This comment shows that the auditor has not properly thought through the process holistically. One intersection is traffic light controlled which makes it extremely difficult to allow a U-turn.

The furthest away is a roundabout, but the increase in traffic volume due to its increased “local access” use would result in considering this a dangerous, high risk intolerable intersection. Is this what is needed at that intersection?

The third possibility is an uncontrolled intersection with no slip lane and just 100m before the roundabout that would have following traffic able to be at the top of the speed limit.

Also, cycle permeability across the intersection could be maintained. This has obviously not been well thought through as how can a “slow” bicycle be able to “safely” cross with oncoming traffic most likely at the speed limit due to there being “no” impedance of an intersection at that point.

Point 7 shows a design of roundabout that the Auditor recommends.

I have actually recommended this very style but with dual lanes on the Kerferd Road component in all my communication with the council.

I have been to have a look at the Kerferd Road roundabout and also the two "DUTCH" style roundabouts on Moray Street.

A combination of these would be safe and suitable at Kerferd Road.

The excuse of a "long planning process" for this style of roundabout seems odd as they already exist within the boundaries of the City of Port Phillip.

Point 8 Paragraph 2 refers to nothing "being as effective in reducing risk as the intersection closure" and "how the treatment best caters for pedestrians and cyclists". No mention of how local residents in cars travel to their local amenities. Residents in cars have just as much right to the roadway.

The council is proposing to continue with the closure of the Kerferd Road crossover using an audit that is flawed while not taking into consideration all other aspects.

I question why the crossover needs to be closed to perform a thorough and detailed analysis on it.

Could it be performed while residents have access to it?

My concern is should it be closed and then no accidents happen would it ever be reopened (remember none happened in the last five years)?

It would seem logical that there would still be no accidents if it were to be closed.

I again question you all to read and understand all the facts before coming to a conclusion that will affect many of your local residents.

David Gallichio – Item 7.4 Petition Response - Request to investigate alternative options to make the Kerferd Road Crossover at Herbert Street safer:

Councillors, thank you for your time this evening and allowing me to speak regarding agenda item 7.4.

I am a City of Port Phillip ratepayer and live in Danks Street. Previously, I lived in Park Street and I have been a regular visitor to Young Street and surrounds and have therefore used this intersection on many occasions.

My observations of this intersection are that it is:

- Full of blind spots due to trees (which should remain), other vehicles during busy and even non-busy periods
- Extremely dangerous to other vehicles and cyclists due to these blind spots
- At a significant risk of a crash as vehicles try to 'beat' other vehicles and don't see cyclists in the bike lane, pedestrians or obstacles on Herbert Street after making the crossing.

Reading through the safety audit that has been conducted I would wholeheartedly agree with the view that the intersection is unsafe.

Particularly during rush hour times, it is a complete crap shoot for those driving south on Kerferd Road (without knowing it), and those crossing from Montague Street or Herbert Street.

As someone who is a user of the intersection, would it be a slight inconvenience if it was to close? Maybe, but I would also note that there are multiple east-west crossings on Kerferd

Road that could be utilised instead and may would add only a very small period of drive time to someone's journey.

I use Kerferd Road multiple times per week and sometimes per day, and it is a stretch of road that all residents should want to be safe, even if it inconveniences a small minority.

This issue is a known one and I would hope that it does not take a serious accident for change to occur.

Thank you for your time.

Bruce Howlett - Item 7.5 Petition Response - Request to annul the decision to approve planning application 875/2019.

As a petitioner, I'm curious as to how the Determination to approve Application 875/2019 was reached.

In outlining the 'Determination of the Application' the Agenda Item states that "Council officers undertook a comprehensive assessment of the proposal in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Port Phillip Planning Scheme, including the consideration of all objections and relevant policies."

The determination to approve an application for a 300 patron, licensed venue, isn't seem consistent with the Significant Heritage of the area as indicated in the City of Port Phillip Heritage Policy Map July 2020 (maps 6 and 7), nor with the intended use of the area as a Civic and Community Precinct as outlined in Section 4.3.2 Strategic Directions (p.64) of the Carlisle St Activity Centre Structure Plan 2009. It is also not consistent with the Precinct Policies outlined for Precinct 6 of the Activity Centre Policy 2012, which specifically with the intent to: "Discourage licensed premises (bars/taverns, restaurant and nightclubs)".

These points have not been fully considered before the application was approved. On this basis, there appears to be a case for Council to review the application, revisiting these particular aspects of Council policy and planning.

Sergei Yukhnevich - Item 7.5 Petition Response - Request to annul the decision to approve planning application 875/2019:

Madam Mayor, Councillors, Council officers

Thank You for the opportunity to present.

Matt Van Rensburg PM Apartments OC chairperson.

This statement is in support of petition submitted by Louisa Williams item 7.5 on the agenda as well as being specific to PM Apartment residents.

Location of concern

PM Apartments located on the block abounding Tarver Street, Prohasky Street, Plummer Street.

Roads are a throughway to commercial precinct – Tycab, Container shipyard - gates on Prohasky street - truck stop.

Truck routing on Tarver & Prohasky Streets to commercial area & Westgatebridge

Surrounding main/thoroughfare roads – Graham, Plummer, Williamstown, Cook

Background

PM Apartments first of many residential developments as part of Fishermens Bend re-development

PM Preparatory School

Commercial shopping – Woolworths/Dan Murphy's

Increased residents and kids

Major growth in the coming years - transition from commercial to residential

Concerns

- Traffic Management - truck routings/Truck stop/Commercial entries
- Noise pollution – hoons, motor cyclists, suped up vehicles, truck air brakes
- no specific days or times - not limited to weekends/public holidays - although worse
- Safety (lack of street lighting)
- Speeding

Multiple Authorities-different responsibilities. Who do we go to?

Vic Police, Highway Patrol, VicRoads, Traffic Management, EPA, Council.

Requires a co-ordinated plan of attack. Understand that at State level there is some action - what is that action - Communication is important.

Seeking SPOC ownership/responsibility if possible - task force.

What are the plans to progress Fishermens bend project/initiatives specific to the concerns above?

Also, wish to acknowledge and Thank John from PP EPA who has been working with us relating to other matters.

Thank you for your time.

Kaye Hilliar - Item 7.5 Petition Response - Request to annul the decision to approve planning application 875/2019:

The delegation of this decision resulted in a decision that was inconsistent with reinforcing the role and identity of the precinct as a 'civic and community services hub' - a focus for governance, civic activity and spaces, and service delivery to the local and wider communities.

Why does council prepare planning schemes and then allow these schemes to be ignored? As a ratepayer, I purchased my property based on the intended use of the land as per the planning schemes so I am somewhat perplexed by this decision. Also, why do we have elected representatives if they are not involved in the decision making? Currently parking can be difficult in this area? It would appear the decision to forgo normal parking requirements for this business has not considered the difficulties this will impose on residents particularly when returning home after dark.

Kirsty Hillhouse - Item 14.1 Financial Update: First Quarter 2020-21 Financial Review including Live Love Local funding and Budget 2021/22 Rate Capping Consideration:

Independent artists create conversations; they unearth stories and perspectives from across the breadth of communities, sharing ideas that uplift, enrich understanding, creativity, debate, openness and innovation. They bring people together. They create social cohesion and public healing.

There has never been a time where the performing arts were more needed, and there has never been a time where the sector has been so decimated.

People are struggling with the upheaval of the pandemic and the impact and stress of long-term isolation. But no group has been more impacted than the independent theatre sector.

While larger organisations draw on their lobbying power via high profile established artists to achieve significant stimulus packages, the independent sector, composed of multiple individual emerging artists, struggles to find support. This disparate, fragile and high risk sector is the crucial research and development arm of the industry. It nurtures and develops the next generation of artists that will grace our main stages and festivals in years to come.

Organisations such as Theatre Works, provide a much needed creative hub, fostering, supporting and promoting, new creative voices. From within their little home in ST Kilda, they generate national recognition for the key role they play in increasing the diversity of artists and stories shared on Australian stages.

The independent sector is an essential but delicate ecology with limited lobbying power, and we need your help.

Council plays a vital role in the survival of independent artists and the organisations that support them, as we see a continuing trend towards support being channeled to flagship companies at the expense of the independent and emerging sector.

This policy risks us losing a whole generation of artists. The sector is close to collapse. Within the first two weeks of COVID lock down over 450 artists lost their employment at Theatre Works, this was compounded by the fact that hospitality, often the complimentary employment for artists, was also closed. The abrupt shock was further heightened by the fact these artists who were previously employed casually and on contract positions, found that they were ineligible for job keeper.

Artists are in freefall and organisations like Theatre Works who support hundreds of artists annually with production seasons, professional development and creative development find themselves without income, and without stimulus support. I cannot emphasise strongly enough the critical condition of the industry at the moment.

Right when the community needs to be coming together to share stories and heal, the very institutions able to deliver that are in crisis.

For 40 years Theatre Works, an icon in the Australian cultural landscape, has been unearthing hidden stories from LGBTIQ, Culturally diverse, and those with disability to inspire and uplift our community. They are deeply embedded in their local neighbourhood, enriching the lives of locals, and promoting the reputation of the CoPP as an innovative arts hub, and a dynamic, exciting destination to visit. This activates local business, animates our streets and creates a sense of excitement and vibrancy.

But all this will fade to nothing if the industry cannot be resuscitated. Unfortunately, the avenues for this support are being exhausted leaving local council as one of the most crucial and vital to ensuring that this sector survives.

As an organisation Theatre Works, like so many others, pivoted and pivoted and pivoted but our commitment to our artists and audiences never waned.

We are all tired. Exhausted. But we have the talent, the stamina and the ability to weaponize optimism with dynamic creative works which will reignite the city and bring not only Theatre Works and independent artists, but the local community back to life. But we need your help, and we need it now.

Don't let this be the end of Theatre Works' 40-year history. Creating art is a radical act of hope, and we all need that right now.

Brenda Forbarth - Item 14.1 Financial Update: First Quarter 2020-21 Financial Review including Live Love Local funding and Budget 2021/22 Rate Capping Consideration

I particularly wish to support recommendations 3.5.8, 3.5.9, 3.5.10, 3.5.11

Each of these four proposals provides important support for our Arts community at a crucial time. The COVID pandemic has had a devastating impact on Arts workers most of whom work on a short term casual basis and have not been eligible for Federal Government support such as Job Keeper. A great many of these workers live in the City of Port Phillip and we should do all we can to provide work opportunities in the Arts industry. Not only should we help to provide job opportunities, but these enterprises will help to breathe life back into our community. Music and other events will provide a stimulus to our local economy, providing enjoyment for locals as well as luring people to visit our many arts venues. It is money well spent.

I also support the additional proposals at 14.17.2 and 14.14.3

Michelle Nicol - Item 14.1 Financial Update: First Quarter 2020-21 Financial Review including Live Love Local funding and Budget 2021/22 Rate Capping Consideration

I am speaking tonight as a City of Port Phillip ratepayer and on behalf of the St Kilda Live Music Community Committee, as its Vice President. The SKLMC is a not-for-profit organisation whose role in the community is to support the creation, performance and economic development of live music within the City of Port Phillip, for artists, venue and audiences alike.

I'm speaking in support of the recommendations made in point 3.5, to support Live Love Local, to ensure that the City of Port Phillip maintains its long held reputation and brand equity in being an arts and music hub of Melbourne.

Each of the recommendations is supported by St Kilda Live Music Community, as we believe that a considered and thoughtful approach to the range of arts and culture in the City has been taken.

The economic, social and health benefits of a thriving arts, culture and creative sector are well known to Council, government, residents, practitioners and economic experts. Creative industries play a large part in the local economy, and a range of non-economic benefits also flow from the industry, including mental and physical health and wellbeing, social cohesion, community spirit, a sense of identity and a sense of pride and joy in everyday living in the place we call home.

The COVID pandemic has posed an almost existential threat to the creative industries, who, along with the tourism industry, were the first to fall off the economic cliff due to the pandemic. The hospitality industry was only a heartbeat behind these, and all three of these

industries have a co-dependency within the City of Port Phillip, leveraging each other to provide locals and visitors with a unique and compelling experience within the City.

As a result, there will be a long road to recovery for these industries. Creative industries in particular did not attract the scale or immediacy of support of other industry rescue packages, and the industry is very vulnerable and fragile in the short term future. The majority of workers in the industry are short term casuals, who have been excluded from the Federal Job Keeper scheme.

To make matters even worse, the \$250 million package promised by the Federal Government has not been implemented and our local organisations are unlikely to receive any support from that in any case.

Council support of this vital sector of the community will also contribute to the hospitality and tourism industries within Port Phillip. It is the creative sector that provides the added layers of appeal to our venues and businesses within the City, to provide a point of distinction and excitement and vitality to support those businesses too. Without the creative industries, we are just another suburb with parklands and a view.

Deb Stewart - Item 14.1 Financial Update: First Quarter 2020-21 Financial Review including Live Love Local funding and Budget 2021/22 Rate Capping Consideration

Introduction

I impel the Port Phillip Council to approve the recommendation in 3.5 in its entirety

3.5 Approves the re-prioritisation of the \$1.7m budget previously allocated to the St Kilda Festival to the Live Love Local program to support the local economy including the following initiatives in 2020/21 (refer to attachment 3 – Proposed Social and Economic Recovery Initiatives).

I have lived the City of Port Phillip for over 25 years and have immersed myself in my community by volunteering in local groups (e.g. Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation), and having the privilege to participate in the many and diverse artistic and cultural activities that Port Phillip has historically always offered.

I have friends who are wonderful musicians who have suffered greatly during COVID as they have not had the support of Job Keeper or Job Seeker because of the casualized nature of their work. They have been creative by running ZOOM gigs raising money for Beyond Blue and Support Act. What they are really looking forward to is to getting back on that stage and to perform in Port Phillip and elsewhere. We need to support the Arts in our community, and the many artists musicians, actors, dancers, performers and associated organisations. Port Phillip has a rich long history and reputation of being a vibrant, diverse hub for the arts and music of many genres. That is why I live here, that is why a large proportion of COPP residents reside here. I would hate that to change.

The Federal Government promised \$250 million support for the Arts, but this money has yet to be received by anyone. Unfortunately, and most probably, it will never reach local artists and associated organisations.

We have all experienced an exceptionally difficult COVID year. The recovery from this epidemic in Victoria has started but it will be at a slow pace. Recovery at a local level will take much longer without the support of Port Phillip Council. The Council can provide this support by passing the recommendation in its entirety especially those items pertaining to

the local arts and music industry. This will help provide many jobs for local artists and groups who have been struggling for months and months. Personally, I feel the Council could contribute more than is detailed in the recommendation. What we are talking about here is supporting one of the most important industries in our city that is vital for the health and wellbeing of community members and general social and community cohesion.

The Arts is the heartbeat of our rich Port Phillip City. I urge the Council to support this motion and in its consideration consider increasing the financial support outlined in the recommendation to a level that will have a far greater impact and help the city return more quickly to its colourful, vibrant and authentic self.

Fiona Symonds - Item 14.1 Financial Update: First Quarter 2020-21 Financial Review including Live Love Local funding and Budget 2021/22 Rate Capping Consideration

I am writing in support of the arts funding measures proposed for consideration at tonight's Council meeting.

Red Stitch Actors' Theatre has been a proudly St Kilda-based organisation for the past 20 years, producing award-winning, nationally acclaimed contemporary theatre, and developing new Australian stories through our INK playwriting programme.

Each year, we engage over 100 artists and arts workers, and provide cultural and entertainment opportunities to audiences of around 15,000 people.

St Kilda's arts and cultural scene is nationally recognised, helps attract visitors to the region, boosts spending in the area, employs local creatives, and lends vibrancy to the City of Port Phillip. For the past two decades, Red Stitch has been an integral part of that experience.

Over the years, the financial support offered to our company by the City of Port Phillip has been invaluable, helping us to weather some difficult and uncertain times, such as Federal arts funding cuts and the changing media environment.

Never have times been more uncertain, or the arts sector more been in need of support than right now.

The live performance sector, in particular, has been very hard hit by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with job losses, detrimental effects on mental health, and ongoing economic and operational uncertainty. Many of our colleagues are free-lance artists who have been unable to access Federal government support through JobKeeper, and the loss of both income and creative outlets has been devastating.

Local organisations are very unlikely to receive any of the \$250M arts rescue package which is supposed to be rolled out by the Federal government, and the next two years will be precarious for most small to medium arts organisations.

As Melbourne slowly recovers from the impacts of COVID, we need relevant cultural experiences. We need to get out of our homes, and back into theatres, galleries and restaurants. The arts are vital to mental health and social cohesion, and will help our communities to recover financially, emotionally and socially. Our audiences are hungry to return to these cultural experiences. Your support will help to ensure they have something to return to.

Thank you for your consideration.

Philippa Devine - Item 14.1 Financial Update: First Quarter 2020-21 Financial Review including Live Love Local funding and Budget 2021/22 Rate Capping Consideration

Congratulations to our new Mayor and all Councillors on your recent election.

We cannot rely on hope that the CoPP will remain a creative, progressive and inclusive place in which to live, work and play on the other side of this pandemic, and must make conscious choices to support the ecosystem of people and organisations that contribute to the rich fabric of local inner urban life.

My connection to how the pandemic is affecting arts and cultural organisations and artists and creatives in the City of Port Phillip is primarily through my role on the Gasworks Arts Board as Treasurer and more recently as Chair, and also in my capacity as a teacher of full time tertiary level acting students.

An arts student at St Kilda's National Theatre might work as a casual usher at Theatre Works, pay their rent by working in a local bar or retailer, aspire towards a graduate position at RedStich, spend almost every cent they earn locally, and work with other professionals across the creative industries to make their Fringe show, web series or outdoor performance piece.

Adding to the Arts Rescue Grants operational budget to put money directly in the hands of local artists is a no brainer. Local artists typically spend locally, and they are also the prime organisers of community arts participation events (teaching, workshops, tours etc). They need to see the St Kilda Festival budget reallocated directly back into local arts and culture to have confidence that CoPP is a good and fair place to continue being an artist in such economically precarious times. It's vital for the confidence of emerging and established artists and creatives, as well as the traders that depend on their patronage and labour, that the \$1.7m of savings from the cancellation of the 2021 St Kilda Festival is reinvested directly back into the kind of local benefits the Festival is designed to support.

For these reasons I support the approval of recommendation 3.5, with particular attention to those which prioritise funding which will directly reach local artists themselves, and the one off recovery grants proposed for the Australian Tapestry Workshop, The Torch, Red Stitch, Theatre Works, RAWCUS Theatre Company and Phillip Adams BalletLab.

Perhaps even more importantly, the reprioritisation of the Festival funding provides the ideal opportunity to centralise the importance of supporting local Indigenous artists. The Boon Wurrung Language Project mural along the Jacka Boulevard Embankment wall, should tonight be moved from being an 'option' to becoming a formally supported initiative with associated funding security.

Finally, Council should consider providing outdoor event permit support for arts and cultural events in a similar way to how trader permits are supporting hospitality traders. It's the same covid-safe principle of moving indoor gatherings outdoors where possible. Perhaps as part of the \$200K COVID-Safe community event and live music support (3.5.8).

John Turnbull - Item 14.3 Proposed Tenancy Agreement - Port Melbourne Soccer Club Completion of Statutory Procedures

I would like to thank the Gateway ward councillors for meeting with members of the club committee this morning at JL Murphy to hear our concerns relating to the lease agreement that you are voting on tonight.

For the benefit of all councillors, our concerns are as follows:

Section 3.1

We are concerned at the short term nature of the lease. With an end date of June 30 2023, the lease term is effectively just 2.5 years. This severely hinders the club's ability to seek private sector funding for facility upgrades and makes our strategic planning – including the establishment of our junior girls' community pathway – extremely difficult to undertake given what will be the ongoing uncertainty around our continued tenure beyond that date.

Furthermore, the lease is due to end in the middle of the soccer season, and right before the commencement of the 2023 women's World Cup, for which the club is seeking to secure significant funding from the game's governing body to upgrade the pitches and pavilion.

We urge councillors to work with the club to extend the proposed lease term, to alleviate the aforementioned challenges and demonstrate that there is a genuine intention to continue to give soccer a home in Port Melbourne.

Section 3.6

We have concerns at the proposed removal of fencing between pitches 2 and 3 and ask that an alternative solution be found that achieves the desired outcome of increasing the perception of openness, without negatively impacting our members' and fans' training and match day experience.

Section 4.5

We have concerns over having to find up to an additional \$18,000 for ground maintenance on the main competition pitch following changes in the defined minimum service level.

The club has already reduced the participation fees of our community teams, which includes a discount of more than 50% across age groups from U8 to U13. This represents a drop in revenue of around \$70,000 per annum which we will already struggle to replace.

The club has also committed to provide a number of free initiatives for the community, which I outlined at the last council meeting. This represents further significant investment, and should finances be further stretched by increased pitch maintenance costs, I fear our ability to deliver these initiatives would be at risk.

We therefore ask that the council commit to working with the club to ensure that the minimum service level for pitch 1 stay at a level that provides a surface which meets NPL requirements without requiring the club to find significant extra funds.

Thank you.

The following statements were submitted prior to the meeting and a summary of the statements were read out during the meeting by the Coordinator Governance.

Allessando Trevin – Public Question Time

My query goes to the capital construction rates paid by the Council, and also the type of capital projects it undertakes – does the council think it gets fair value for rate payers' money, and does the council spend its money wisely on projects that are actually needed?

I draw attention to two items:

1. The reconstruction of the intersect at Montague Street and Park Street in South Melbourne which occurred in the first half of the 2020 calendar year.
 - a. this intersection was in perfect working order prior to the reconstruction and the works was labelled a 'streetscape improvement.'
 - b. The project essentially involved:
 - i. the raising of zebra crossings on the west and northern sides and repainting the crossings
 - ii. new plants at the North East and South West corners
 - iii. replacement of some curbing, and
 - iv. a storm water pit and associated 'raingarden'
2. Replacement or resetting of perfectly good bluestone street gutters
 - a. I have noticed this occur on several occasions in the South Melbourne area over a few years

The 'streetscape improvement' at the intersect at Montague Street and Park Street in South Melbourne was delivered at a cost of \$250,000 – the cost of materials used in the project would, at my guess, be in the low tens of thousands of dollars leaving the remainder to labour costs and a margin for the contractor. In my experience, capital projects incur a materials and equipment cost roughly half of total cost, and the other half is incurred in the installation. – seemingly totally different to your cost proportions.

With the resetting of bluestone gutters, it seems that these are in perfectly good working order and do not need replacement.

I can understand the importance of keeping the jobs associated with these types of projects, and I think that the teams that physically work on these projects are particularly good at what they do. However, it is difficult to understand and accept the cost associated with these projects.

Does the Council think it is getting a competitive set of offers when tending capital works, undertaking capital works which are not required, and is it spending the rate payers' money wisely?

Angela Lees – Item 7.2 Petition Response - Speeding Vehicles and excessive traffic noise in Port Phillip

I notice that an Agenda Item regarding Traffic Noise and problems with fast cars and motor cycle noise now that the weather has warmed up. I was not aware of the petition that has been submitted but I would like to add my voice to that complaint. Over the last few warm days it has been so frustrating to see our local area taken over by this unwanted element. It is no longer a family friendly environment. There definitely needs to be an increased Police presence in the area to deter this behaviour.

Pete Hennessy - Item 7.4 Petition Response - Request to investigate alternative options to make the Kerferd Road Crossover at Herbert Street safer

I wish to make the following comments relating to the issue of possible changes to the intersections of Kerferd Road and Montague and Herbert Streets.

In my mind, the recommendation:

- 1 Appears to be too heavily influenced by the 'Shrine to Sea' project. I respectfully suggest Council's priority should be on the concerns and wishes of its resident ratepayers rather than simply agreeing to a State Government proposal.
- 2 Seems to place greater weight on a petition by just 26 residents rather than one signed by 258 residents. The fact that ten times as many residents have signed the second petition should, I believe, be given more weight than appears to be the case.
- 3 Seeks to use the safety aspect as a key reason to support its conclusion. However, Council road crash data states that no accidents have occurred at that crossover/intersection in the last 5 years. It seems that the safety issues of Kerferd Rd are elsewhere along Kerferd Rd and not at 'our' intersection.
- 4 Adopts what is probably the approach most likely to inconvenience the nearby residents who live in Herbert St, Young St, and Herbert Place plus Kerferd Rd residents who have rear access to Young St. It appears that the concerns of this cohort have been totally ignored.

It is this apparent oversight – this lack of consideration of those most directly affected by the changes under consideration – which causes me the most grief with the proposal.

This crossover is our main access to and from Young Street. Blocking it off will be of great inconvenience to those of us who need easy access to the Bridport St shopping strip, our local 'go to' place.

The closure will also put unnecessary pressure on smaller secondary streets, as well as accentuating the volume of traffic on the already busy main thoroughfares such as Richardson, Mills and Ferrars streets and Kerferd and Canterbury Roads

A preferred approach, I believe, would be one of the following options:

- to install a roundabout at this intersection. This is one of the long-term solutions suggested by the authors of the Road Safety Audit Report commissioned by Council.
- to build a chicane style of roadworks across the Kerferd Rd plantation, somewhat akin to that already in place at the Kerferd Rd-Danks St intersection
- a new crossover between the Montague/Herbert and Canterbury Rd/Ferrars St intersections thereby allowing cars travelling along Montague St intending to go into Herbert St to access Herbert St, Young St, and the like in a more accessible and acceptable manner.

Regardless, I believe it is incumbent on the Council to seek feedback to the proposal from all residents in the local area of Herbert St (the section between Kerferd Rd & Mills St), Young St, Herbert Place and the Kerferd Rd residents who have access to Young St **before** a final decision is made.

Thank you for allowing me to present to Council.

Brigid Kahanoff – Item 7.4 Petition Response - Request to investigate alternative options to make the Kerferd Road Crossover at Herbert Street safer

My name is Brigid Kahanoff and I have lived in Albert Park since 1981, nearly 40 years.

The Council have been promising to do something about this terrible intersection on my corner for as long as I can remember.

But they never do.

I got something in my letterbox in September saying that there was going to be a trial closure of the median. Finally, some positive action.
But then I hear that that has been put off as well.

If only people could see and hear the things that I do.
I hear cyclists abusing cars because they have nearly been hit.

I hear screeching of tyres.

Tooting of horns.

I see uncertainty with motorists as no one knows who is to give way.
I have seen cars pull out onto Kerferd Road and then reverse back into the intersection.
I have even seen cars going down the wrong side of the road.
I have seen ambulances, tow trucks, police cars and fire trucks.

I have seen cyclists laying sprawled on the road.

Motorists cutting hard round corners to get into Herbert Street

Motorists jumping out of cars to abuse other drivers.

I have even seen a death. An elderly man trying to cross the road was squashed to pieces. I presume that will only be a matter of time before I see another one if action is not taken.

I don't even go out and look when I hear something anymore.
Please, please, please fix up this mess once and for all.
Thank you for listening

Tamara Jungworth – Item 14.1 Financial Update: First Quarter 2020-21 Financial Review including Live Love Local funding and Budget 2021/22 Rate Capping Consideration

I am the Director of Gasworks Arts Park (21 Graham St, Albert Park) and cannot attend the meeting so thank you in advance for reading this statement at the meeting. Gasworks Arts Park is a large local centre for the creation of performing and visual arts and sharing that with our community through our theatres, galleries and outdoor events, and we have become well known across Melbourne because we have been making and sharing art for 34 years. Through the covid-19 pandemic we saw first hand the effect of artists not being able to work. More than half of our staff are casual; we were able to support a few on Job Keeper but the majority didn't qualify due to the intermittent hours common in arts work. The City of Port Phillip is famous for being a vibrant place to live or visit. I have loved living here myself for more than 20 years. The atmosphere is created through a combination of beautiful outdoor spaces, unique local traders, painters, performers, musicians, local theatres and markets. All of these people are small business people who have suffered through the pandemic. The long Melbourne lockdown has sucked the life out of our neighbourhoods and now council has the opportunity to invest in the recovery of our famous local vibrancy. Every dollar allocated to arts recovery programs has a multiplier effect, giving work not to just one person, but to many casual or freelance workers, event infrastructure suppliers, and microbusinesses. A council investment at this time will have great impact in building back the amenity which our local residents treasure – so that when they step out of the house there is once again something interesting happening in our neighbourhoods. I support recommendation 3.5 of item 14.1 tonight particularly those strategies connected to art and artists.

Jacque Robinson – Item 14.1 Financial Update: First Quarter 2020-21 Financial Review including Live Love Local funding and Budget 2021/22 Rate Capping Consideration

The creative and cultural sector has been one of the hardest hit during COVID 19 and will continue to be significantly challenged as our city's recovery slowly begins.

"As a sector, the creative and cultural industry is the second largest employer in the City of Port Phillip" *City of Port Phillip Creative Industries Mapping Project Report Hodyl + Co 2019*

The creative and cultural sector is of vital importance to our city socially, culturally and economically. The City of Port Phillip is renowned for being its vibrant, creative, diverse and inclusive community and place. It is one of the reasons we choose to live and work here and why visitors flock to enjoy our offer.

Our sector offers experiences and activities which foster community cohesiveness, health and wellbeing and reduces isolation.

"Whether experiencing them as an observer or a creator, the arts can help us feel less alone in the world" *International Arts and Mind Lab 2020*

The arts and arts experiences drive economic activity. It is not just the theatre ticket we buy it is also dinner before the show and drinks after. It's our audience members strolling down our main streets (footfall) as they make their way to the many cultural venues, events and places, stopping for a coffee. It's the hires and materials arts organisations source from local suppliers to create arts events. It's the employment opportunities we offer in the making and presenting of art works and events.

Rawcus is an award-winning theatre ensemble of fifteen disabled and non-disabled artists. We have been based in the City of Port Phillip for 20 years and are proud to be a part of our city's creative and cultural sector. We are so appreciative of Council's support throughout the years however, as with all arts organisations, 2020 has presented many additional challenges. We have pivoted and continued to contribute to the community throughout lockdown and now we hope you will support our sectors' recovery so we can continue to contribute to our city.

In these COVID times the sector's contribution could not be more important. As arts organisations, venues, artists and creatives we know that we have a critical role in recovery and beyond. An investment in the arts at this critical time is an investment in the short, medium and long-term health and prosperity of our city.

Ella Caldwell – Item 14.1 Financial Update: First Quarter 2020-21 Financial Review including Live Love Local funding and Budget 2021/22 Rate Capping Consideration

As a resident of Port Phillip, raising my children here, I have always been proud that the council recognises and values the immense benefits offered by the arts. The arts play a central role in how a culture evolves by helping to reflect and shape our identity, building community and cohesion, and fostering self expression, creativity and innovation. Artists and arts organisations bring people together and promote empathy, a task that will be integral to our recovery and renewal following the ongoing impacts of Covid-19.

As one of the industries hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, the arts will be in recovery for a long time. The live performance industry has experienced some of the most significant loss in income, resulting in serious impact on health and wellbeing throughout the industry. These health and wellbeing effects continue to wreak havoc, with job insecurity being a major factor. Many independent arts organisations will not be recipients of the state and federal arts packages, and the majority of arts workers are short term casuals, who were excluded

from the federal job keeper scheme. An investment from the City of Port Phillip Council will have a significant and lasting impact on artists and arts organisations.

As the Artistic Director of Red Stitch Actors' Theatre, I work directly in the arts in Port Phillip, and I have witnessed the support and loyalty local residents have for arts organisations, including our own. Through 20 years of experience, garnering national and international recognition and critical acclaim, Red Stitch employs hundreds of artists annually and we are proud to be a City of Port Phillip organisation. The coming years will be immensely challenging for our organisation, and others like us, as we endeavour to do everything we can to support artists and audiences in Port Phillip.

As a resident and an artist working in the City, I implore the Council to support the proposed arts rescue and recovery grants to help your local arts organisations rebuild our community.

James McCaughey – Item 14.1 Financial Update: First Quarter 2020-21 Financial Review including Live Love Local funding and Budget 2021/22 Rate Capping Consideration

Mayor, councillors

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in support of officer recommendations

It is vitally important that available funds be transferred to programs and organisations in the arts as recommended

The arts are vital to the creation and regeneration of a creative and cohesive community.

Through displays, performances and programs people meet up with each other, learn more about each other and learn more about the many perspectives available on the issues that confront us and the world that we inhabit.

These things are always important but never more so than when the community has been stressed and injured by the impact of COVID lockdowns

By accepting officers' recommendations, you will be taking an important step in the rebuilding of that community and creating foundations on which we can build for future growth.

This will add the life and wellbeing of the city

Thankyou