

Public Question Time – answers to questions taken on notice*

Question regarding the possibility of Council reviewing the drinking problem on beaches and in Parks. Will outside dining (outside cafes, restaurants and pubs) be policed? (Adrian Jackson)

Response to Question/s

The current controls over public consumption of alcohol were developed as a result of extensive consultations with the Police and the community. That led to the more stringent controls being put in place this last New Years Eve and New Years Day and also an increased overnight spread of hours during which controls over public drinking are in place. Council continues to regularly liaise with the Police and receives community comment to assess the effectiveness of the local law. There is a level of drinking, in parks and on beaches at barbecues or picnics, that does not offend community standards. It is not proposed to relocate those activities to licensed premises.

The current kerbside trading policy allows drinking without dining, provided Liquor License conditions are met. That policy will be reviewed this year. In the meantime council officers regularly patrol kerbside dining areas and act to enforce in the event of breaches of permit requirements.

Matters relating to intoxication of patrons leaving venues are managed by Victoria Police

Question regarding the St Kilda Festival Funfair (Julianne Bell)

Response to Question 1

Council does not guarantee that the St Kilda Festival Funfair will not be located in the Catani Gardens or any other park/gardens in the municipality in future.

Council does not have any record or knowledge of providing an assurance that the funfair amusement rides were only to be located in Catani Gardens in 2008.

Response to Question 2

Council is not currently considering the relocation of events from Catani Gardens.

The City of Port Phillip Planning Scheme allows both passive and active recreation in the Catani Gardens, under strict guidelines.

Question regarding the St Kilda Festival Funfair & Possums (Rod Quantock)

Response to Question 1

Catani Gardens is for use by all people and Council supports both active and passive uses.

On average, there are six programmed events held in Catani Gardens, per year, which occupies parts of the Gardens for an average of nineteen days in total. For the remainder of the year, Catani Gardens is open for general, public, passive uses.

Also, while the events are occurring, the gardens are spacious enough to accommodate authorised active functions and still have substantial areas remaining for passive use.

The events held in the Gardens, enable over 3,000 children and 12,000 adults to participate in active recreation, in addition to the St Kilda Festival and Pride March community celebrations.

When these events are held, the organisers are required to ensure that the park is protected.

Response to Question 2

Catani Gardens are essentially, as originally designed and any works in the Gardens require a permit from Heritage Victoria.

Further, Council is committed to community consultation for any proposed works.

Council is not exterminating ringtail and/or brush tail possums in Catani Gardens.

The City of Port Phillip is following the process outlined in the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment Guidelines for Management of Brush tail Possums in Municipal Gardens.

As per requirements of these guidelines, Council has facilitated a Management Plan for Brush tail Possums at Catani Gardens, which has been endorsed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, in the interests of maintaining a sustainable number of possums in the Gardens.

**Note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*