

Councillor Question Time – answers to questions taken on notice*

Cr Bond advised that he has received many emails from concerned residents regarding crime, violence and anti-social behaviour in and around Little Grey St Kilda. What actions are the City of Port Phillip taking to ensure that the board of the Port Phillip Housing Association and Port Phillip Housing Trust are putting in place an appropriate management plan and security arrangements that will immediately curtail the unacceptable impact on the local amenity by residents and visitors to the Regal Apartments?

(Cr Bond)

Response

Council continue to proactively address to issues impacting on amenity and perceptions of safety in and around Little Grey Street St Kilda. The following actions are currently being undertaken in response to community expectations.

Cleaning

- Inspection of the area are carried out by Maintenance and Operations staff weekly
- Hard rubbish is collected every Friday
- Additional clean-up requests are attended to with 48 hours of notification
- Street sweeping occurs twice a week
- Walk through (manual pick-up) occurs twice a week
- Syringe pick-ups occur within 1 to 2 hours of notification 24 hrs a day (via Assist).

Community Safety

- The Little Grey Community Safety Audit process is underway with two on-site community sessions planned for Tuesday 27 March. The audit will assess how public space is used and seek practical ideas from community and other stakeholders to make the streets and footpaths in the area safer. The approach is based on the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) perspective. RSVP's are currently being received.
- The Community Safety Little Grey Street Services Group continue to meet to ensure all services with a role to play contribute to, and inform response outcomes. Officers provide an update to community members after each meeting. An update from the safety audit will also be circulated.

Housing

- Since the Victorian Government announced the closure and redevelopment of the Regal Hotel, Council officers have met with service partners to enact the Rooming House Closure Protocol. The group (which includes members of Victoria Police) will now meet regularly to develop a shared role in identifying the needs of residents and assisting transition pathways to suitable accommodation. This work continues.
- The group have also worked with DHHS to clarify requirements (including funding) to support transition. Costs include increased security for the Regal Hotel. A security service has been engaged.

Graffiti

- Council officers have now assessed the Little Grey precinct to investigate clean-up options and costings. Current levels of graffiti have been documented for comparative purposes and will be monitored going forward.
- Further discussions are planned to investigate street art solutions possibilities. The Council Graffiti Management officer will attend the Safety audit and explore ideas with community members.

Lighting

- Maintenance and Operations have carried out night time assessments of lighting in the area. Options are being investigated for the introduction additional lighting at the entry point to Little Grey Street (off Grey Street). Council have also reported non-working lighting to CityPower for response.

Criminal activity and anti-social behaviour.

- Incidents of crime are the responsibility of Victoria Police. Council continue to work with police to support enhancement of safety in the area. Police are active on local networks and will partner with Council in delivering the Safety Audit.

CCTV

- Council received the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Year 1 Evaluation Report and resolved that officers liaise with the Victorian Government with regards to evidence based design options to enhance safety in the precinct. This work continues.

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