

Item 7.1 Petition re Victorian Youth Arts Precinct at Gasworks Park

Questions from Councillors Pearl and Cunsolo:

What do we know about what heritage protection pertains to the wall?

If the proposal was subject to Council planning process, how many carparks would be required for this type of development?

Does Council have data on the number of non-permit spaces adjacent to the site after 6pm? If not, what is the process for acquiring that information to better inform community concerns?

Would a bus loading zone be considered as part of Council's response to the development given potential school groups which could be rehearsing from various schools, similar to what happens at Elwood College?

If there are openings in the heritage wall, such as 3-5 small openings shown on the site plan on the VSBA website, near the external courtyard on the Gasworks side, would these openings and similar access/egress points require an extended lease agreement with Gasworks Park?

Responses:

The wall is within the heritage overlay that applies to the Gasworks precinct and is also included within the area on the Victorian Heritage Inventory. The project team has been working with Heritage Victoria regarding any approvals that would be required. We have been told that only the footings on the wall are heritage listed and therefore it can be removed or altered as long as the footings were not impacted.

We are currently working with the VSBA to determine ownership for each section of the brick wall, as it crosses various title boundaries. VSBA have engaged a surveyor to undertake the assessment and will be sharing this with council officers once complete.

The proposed openings will not impact the current agreement for the use of the Gasworks Park. The agreement in place with Albert Park College is for lunch and recess usage only, and the area allocated is the other side of the park. The school have not requested any changes to this agreement. School children may move through the park in different ways once the Arts Precinct is in place and we can look at how we can direct this pedestrian traffic through our upgrade to the park.

There is a meeting set with Councillors, the VSBA and their architects (JCBA) on 7 September.

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