

Office of the Mayor,
Councillor Jami Klisaris

28 February 2017

Dear Mr Arnott,

I am writing in response to the questions that you submitted in writing for the Council meeting held on 20 February 2017. The responses have been prepared by Council Officers.

Question 1

Could you please provide me with the criteria that you judged the proposed sites on and explain how this site satisfied all of the criteria?

Response

In March 2015, Officers commissioned a Needs Assessment into the demand for additional multi-court indoor sports stadiums in Stonnington.

In conjunction with the needs analysis, a preliminary site assessment of all government owned land (local, state and Crown land) was undertaken to identify a site for a four-court stadium with basic support features, using the following assessment criteria:

- A building site measuring 5,000 square meters with additional space for car parking.
- Accessibility – on a main road and easily accessible by public transport
- Amenity – the amenity of the nearby residents or the environment would not be compromised
- Open space – the development would not result in the loss of open space
- Displacement – current sporting users would not be displaced
- Prahran Netball Association (PNA) catchment – within PNA catchment area

Officers identified 49 Council-owned sites as well as two other sites within the municipality that could meet some of the required criteria. No site was able to meet all of the criteria.

The results of the preliminary assessment of all sites was presented to Councillors on 31 August 2015. Councillors considered that no site was able to meet all the selection criteria and recommended that officers further explore opportunities on private land and encumbered open space. Consistent with the Strategies for Creating Open Space policy and desire to increase the amount of open space available to the community, Councillors agreed to rule out the use of open space and sportsgrounds from further consideration.

An investigation of all privately owned land and opportunities to use existing encumbered open space was subsequently undertaken and has resulted in the current project proposal and recommendation to complete a detailed feasibility on the nominated location.

Question 2

Could you please tell me the criteria that would need to be satisfied to abandon the feasibility study – surely it is in Council's interest to provide this, as surely they want to know if there is overwhelming weight to not go ahead with the development and save on the \$100,000 cost of the study. The reason I ask this is that I am confident there is overwhelming support to keep the bowls club in place from all sorts of groups.

Response

Council is committed to finding a suitable site for a four court stadium and has endorsed the site of the lawns bowls facility within Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park for further investigation through the feasibility study.

The findings of the feasibility study will be presented to Council as a proposal to determine whether the project proceeds past the initial concept stage, is amended or abandoned.

Question 3

Could you please tell me why Malvern Valley Golf club (vacant space and spaces adjacent that could be freed up) would not be a better option per reasons outlined below?

Response

Much of the golf course is on land subject to inundation from flooding from Gardiner's Creek or Scotchman's Creek.

Question 4

Could you please provide me with access to your processes and procedures/policies/charter, as the decision to make this the preferred site without any community consultation, behind closed doors, mystifies me. I put in a written complaint to the Ombudsman's office, and they advised me that it was in my right to ask for access to these documents so that I can see Council has followed their policies and procedures. The ombudsman's office told me that if you do not make them available, they can force you to make them available. They said that if it can be proved that the Council has operated outside its own rules, the Ombudsman's office can then act.

Response

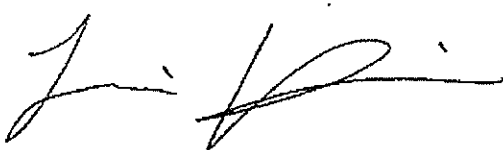
It was appropriate for Councillors to consider the nomination of Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park as the site for further investigation as an item of confidential business on 21 November 2016 consistent with Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, before communicating the decision to the current occupants of the site and making this decision public on 5 December 2016.

At this stage the only decision Council has made is to complete a feasibility study into the proposed development of an indoor stadium at Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park. The findings of the feasibility study will be presented to Council as a proposal to determine whether the project proceeds past the initial concept stage, is amended or abandoned.

The decision that will be made by Council will take into account many considerations from all areas within the community following a process of community consultation consistent with Council's Engagement Policy 2015-2018.

A copy of Council's Engagement Policy can be found at
<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-Policies>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jami Klisaris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cr Jami Klisaris, GAICD
Mayor of the City of Stonnington
Councillor for East Ward