

Members Update May 2018

If you are a Stonnington resident, you will have received your “invitation” to attend the next East Ward meeting which will be held on the **23rd May, 7pm at Phoenix Park.**

We are urging all members, regardless of where they reside, to attend. The fight to save our club and our facilities is not over by a long shot.

Council believe that we have accepted the decision they made in October 2017, to proceed with a Master-plan for all of Percy Treyvaud Park.

Well we weren't given a choice, were we!

The Feasibility Study did not conclude that it was Feasible to put the stadium on the bowls club site - on the contrary. The absolute absurdity of knocking down the bowls clubrooms, bowling greens, etc, only to rebuild them again within the “affected area” is ludicrous *and* wasteful.

We are all aware that there is not enough room for the current users, AND, an indoor sports stadium without encroaching onto open space. Council is well aware of this (see diagram below).

So who are the “potential displaced users” that will need to go - is it the Lacrosse Club, the Cricket Club, the Tennis Club or the Bowls Club?

Or will East Ward residents be pitted against one another - those wanting to keep open space against the current community sporting groups?

Council has manipulated a situation where it will cunningly stand back and watch community and community groups “slug it out” – the end result being Council will be able to say, “ the blood isn't on our hands – the Stakeholder Group made the decision”. This is a disgrace.

At a recent Council meeting, two of our local Councillors, Cr's Klisaris & Atwell, both remarked that the "Community expects us get on with the Indoor Stadium Project" and it was "full steam ahead"!!

This seems to be Council's strategy at every point regarding the Indoor Stadium – push it through at all costs regardless of community feeling, evidence, findings etc. Council's attitude of “Get it through and worry about the details later” isn't good enough.

We believe our community is sick of “full steam ahead” and would like some answers to some very pertinent points **before** Council moves onto the next stage.

For example why are they proceeding with a Masterplan when their own report shows the area that will be affected will take up public open space (see diagram below taken from page 7 - Councils Feasibility Study prepared by Hanson

Partnership Report October 30 2017). Even though Council has continuously ruled out the use of open space and sportsgrounds, this diagram clearly shows otherwise.

“There are just too many significant, mature trees in the inner city that are being lost, so we want to provide more of a guarantee that they will be protected and preserved” Stonnington Mayor Steve Stefanopoulos said (13 March 2018).

There are over **350 trees and shrubs** within the principal area that will be affected, over **66** of them covered under Stonnington’s definition of “**significant trees**” – how will the Mayor “protect and preserve” our trees!

The feasibility study was meant to deliver “detailed concept plan, construction cost plan and identification of any funding options” – these apparently were “key elements”. When Council was asked why they were not included in the feasibility study we were told “the Masterplan will have them”.

The cost has already risen from \$22 million (Nov 2016) – to \$36 million (Oct 2017) without any detailed cost analysis being done –these estimates **do not** include any provision for the bowling club element.

It simply is not good enough to go “full steam ahead” to the next stage without Council doing due diligence – ratepayers need to know how much this project will cost **before** Council commits to it.

The Resident's representatives for the Stakeholders group to develop the Master plan have been announced, they are Bill Grey, Joseph Gianfriddo & Julie Elliott (contact details are yet to be released).

We urge all of you to contact **our** representatives and let them know the residents are not in favour of the project going “full steam ahead” – we want answers to the above questions before anything else is done!

Please come along to the Ward Meeting – East Ward Councillors need to know that we have not accepted their decision, we want answers, we are sick of being misled and treated with contempt and before we go any further we want a firm commitment that the Chadstone Bowls Club will retain its rinks and its facilities!

The site area boundary shown dashed, represents the principal area that will be affected.

