

At any one time the Belmont Council is working on a range of projects designed to improve the health & well-being of its residents. Part of this process involves community consultation. It needs an informed and responsive citizenry to do this effectively. Part of our role is to monitor this process and provide feedback.

Urban village or

Metropolis? With an increasing population our council must be clear what their vision is for its residents. As state and federal governments demand higher residential density with urban infill it is important to ensure that future developments are well designed and have a positive impact on existing neighbourhoods. They should not be an easy commercial opportunity for investors and speculators! Nor should the concept of ‘village’ be just a marketing term in a glossy brochure.

Higher density doesn’t have to mean high rise tower blocks; the sort of ‘Modernist’ social public housing built after WW2 which is now considered a failed experiment, with occupants feeling socially and environmentally isolated. ‘Christie Walk’ in the middle of Adelaide City provides a successful, alternative approach to higher density living with a combination of 3-storey town-houses, a 5-storey apartment block and individual cottages. A grouping of 27 homes and gardens on half an acre! Refer to the following site.

<http://www.urbanecology.org.au/> Sub-heading Ecocities > Christie Walk.

Belmont ‘proper’ is bounded by freeways & highways with Belmont Ave & Abernethy Road providing the

major internal linkages. These are the corridors to be used by commercial & commuter traffic travelling from outside and thru the locality. All other roads within should be regarded and treated as local residential streets with lower speed limits and lots of traffic calming infrastructure in place; creating spaces where pedestrians & cyclists feel safe and kids can kick a football. ‘Rat running’ at speed along these routes should be discouraged by council. Streets do not exist just to facilitate the movement of vehicles!



Villages usually have a lot of trees, flowers & bees. They shouldn’t need an urban forest strategy, policy or action plan. In many ways Belmont is an island surrounded by a sea of bitumen & concrete (think airport, freeways & industrial sites). What we don’t want is for it to become an ‘urban heat island’, where the vulnerable feel trapped during summer. A ‘resort island’ feel would be preferable.

In a village the residents are treated as top priority. Council must remember that while small businesses & large corporations must make a profit, it must not be to the detriment of the health & well-being of local neighbourhoods. Mixed development can and should be mutually beneficial, but it does require greater public engagement & participation; not just the ‘tick the box’ consultation. Why not conduct joint business & community workshops for a change?

People in a village know their neighbours and feel safe & secure. They don’t mow the lawn or fly a plane till after 10am on Sundays. They enjoy their streets and are proud of where they live; are grateful for the services provided and feel an integral part of their community. They understand their history and embrace the future.

In case you’re wondering?

According to the Local Government Act 1995, Item 12.7; section 2.10.

Role of Councillors.

A councillor –

- (a) represents the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the district; and
- (b) provides leadership and guidance to the community in the district; and
- (c) facilitates communication between the community and the council; and
- (d) participates in the local government’s decision-making processes at council and committee meetings; and
- (e) performs such other functions as are given to a councillor by this Act or any other written law.

In other words they are there to serve you, the community. So make use of them. I’m sure they would love to hear from you.

Recommended reading:

Doing it Differently – Urban Trends, Kylie Legge, 2012, Place Partners.

Your feedback. If you would like to submit an article that is relevant to the residents of Belmont, or you would like to join our group, refer contact details below.