

30th August 2004

Kew Cottages Coalition (KCC)

Boroondara Councillors: Kew Cottages Survey Questions.

1. On 23rd August 2004 the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria recommended that Kew Cottages be added to the Victorian Heritage Register. Do you support the Heritage Victoria recommendation?

Yes

2. At the meeting of the Boroondara Urban Planning Special Committee held on 4th August 2003, did you vote for or against the amendment that the City of Boroondara advise the State Government it was inappropriate to sell the KRS site for redevelopment?

Against

3. Have you had cause to reconsider your position on Kew Cottages since August 2003?

Yes

4. Would you support a new motion to oppose the sale of the Kew Cottages land and keep the site in public ownership?

Yes

5. Would you support a motion to redevelop land on the KRS site as parkland linking into the adjacent Yarra Bend National Park?

Yes

6. What public facilities if any should be provided on the KRS site as part of its redevelopment?

There has been much talk on what should not go on the site [a Chadstone style shopping centre, a casino etc] but not much as to what **should** because an UDF is merely that, a 'framework which indicates proposed building sites and open space areas!' My thoughts would be more along general community lines...besides housing for the intellectually disabled and relevant support facilities, perhaps a school [Kew State might relocate], Maternal & Child Health Centre, Child & Aged Care, a community facility 'village' if you like which could also include Emergency Services [Fire & Ambulance] which are sorely lacking at this end of the municipality BUT in the real world the State Government would not consider such projects viable as they would certainly not reap revenue by utilising this land for any Government funded facility.

7. Should the State Government succeed in selling the land to commercial developers what is the minimum percentage of publicly owned and accessible green open space that should be provided as part of the development (excluding roads and footpaths)?

Minimum 50%, preferably 75% but we must be realistic, this is what Council determined and the State Government reduced it to 28%. The State Government needs to get money in their coffers, therefore wants as much as possible from the sale of the land.

8. Given that Kew Cottages has been part of the community since 1887, to what extent do you believe it is the role of Boroondara councillors to engage in debate on the issue of how best to house and support the intellectually disabled residents currently living at Kew Cottages?

A difficult question, a b & w response cannot be provided...the residents currently living at KRS are Boroondara residents and as such councillors are concerned for them and their

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residential amenity, however, it is pre-determined that we [Local Government] do not have a say..this is out of our jurisdiction. Local Government also does not have the expertise in relation to how best to house and support them at Kew Cottages. Whether the State Government has that expertise is questionable as well as the direction they are going. My thoughts would be that experts in the field of housing and supporting the intellectually disabled should be the ones providing this expertise in consultation with families of these residents and they should be looking at successful examples from overseas and choosing the best options from each and remodelling to suit Australian requirements.

9. As at December 2003 there were 3155 intellectually disabled people in Victoria waiting for supported full-time accommodation. How will you ensure the needs of intellectually disabled people remain a priority in the redevelopment of Kew Cottages?

Again, a difficult question because I know it is a 'loaded question'...It must be understood that this is not a Local Government area and the State Government will make this determination ie with regard to the number who will remain on the site, and the facilities that are provided for them. Council also does not sell the land to developers and in that we cannot control what their proposal is within their development. We can only determine that their development, whatever the developers choose it to be, sits within the correct zoning restrictions eg Residential A or whatever it is to be re-zoned as, Heritage or Flooding overlays / regulations etc and that the proposed development complies with ResCode and as much as possible, Council Guidelines. The developer and the development will be determined by the State Government. You must understand that we already have enormous trouble as it is dealing with developers anywhere in our city and we continue to hold out as much as laws allow us in dealing with inappropriate development within our municipality.