

**QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES TO QUESTION TIME
TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2012**

The following questions were addressed to the above meeting. Some questions were adequately responded to at the meeting, however others required a more detailed response in writing.

This document includes both verbal and written responses. In this instance, no written responses were provided as issues were adequately addressed at the meeting.

Ruth Lee asked what is the legal basis for the City of Geelong's possible annexing of parkland that was originally given to the community of Barwon Heads over 50 years ago?

Paul Jane, Acting General Manager Projects, Recreation and Central Geelong, responded that the land in question is Crown Land vested in Council and that Council is working with the Department of Sustainability and Environment to achieve permission.

Cr Richards indicated a letter of response would be forwarded within the next 14 days.

**A subsequent written response was provided by the
General Manager Projects, Recreation & Central Geelong in the following terms:**

Thank you for your question posed at the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Geelong City Council on 31 January 2012. Your question being –

“what is the legal basis for the City of Geelong's possible annexing of parkland that was originally given to the community of Barwon Heads over 50 years ago?”

The reserve in question is Crown Land and has been vested in Council. The land is zoned Public Purposes Recreation Zone and as a consequence of this Council, as the Public Land Manager with Crown permission, may utilise the land for public purposes.

I hope this has been of some assistance.

Russell Mitten asked if Councillors were aware that the Community Arts Garden site is already becoming a community hub for mothers and preschoolers. The facility is currently used as a meeting place every week by three mother and child groups (about 40 mums), as well as a Steiner Kinder. These groups find the site convenient and safe. The provisional kinder plan for the adjacent vacant site shows further development of the service road and parking, enhancing the safety. The area is connected by off-road paths to the popular estates off Sheepwash Road where many likely users of the kinder currently live. The site is large and would allow for any needed future further development.

Paul Jane responded that Council officers have been looking at a number of suitable locations within Barwon Heads to build an Early Learning Centre - the Village Park site being the preferred location.

The Mayor responded the project will be the subject of a public consultation process at which time there will be an opportunity for the public to comment.

Karen Howie asked why is Council voting to have a kindergarten put on a Masterplan for the Village Park when there has been no community consultation about this Masterplan whatsoever. I draw your attention to the report which states and I quote, "Given that the Village Park site option has only recently been developed the community have not had the opportunity to consider it as part of the Masterplan process".

So I ask again, why is Council voting to have an Early Learning Centre placed on a Masterplan in an open space between the tennis club and the oval without any community consultation?

Cr Richards responded that a Masterplan process started some time ago before Council had established that the Village Park may be a site for the Early Learning Centre. The Masterplan was suspended for 4 to 5 months and Council is now trying to get that process going again. In regard to community consultation, Council is going through an Open Space Planning Process and that is where the consultation is to take place.

Sue Filby asked where in Barwon Heads will the Masterplan and Open Spaces Plan be displayed? What is the timeline? When will the plans be displayed?

Paul Jane responded a report will be presented to Council regarding the Masterplan for Village Park within the coming weeks. There will also be a four week public consultation period on the Masterplan which will include the Kindergarten facility. The Open Spaces Planning process will be open during the same time.

Notice of display will be via public notice in both the Geelong Advertiser and local newspaper. A mail-out notifying nearby residents will also be carried out.