

Councillor Question Time

Question from Cr Gross

1. Notes in June during the corona virus first lockdown, some residents erected an “Elwood” sign on the grassy knoll at Point Ormond which was acclaimed by the community. It wittily mimicked the “Hollywood” sign in the Hollywood Hills and was universally welcomed as a fun and uplifting moment in the winter gloom of the pandemic.
2. It apparently had no disbenefits or harm.
3. Notes that part of the pleasure derived from the sign was the frisson of fun caused by the presumed (correctly as it happens) unlawfulness of the unpermitted art work.
4. Notes many residents want it back, even as an ephemeral art piece. We all miss it.
5. I now ask advice from officers about how we can get either the original art work back on site or another version and asks for thoughts on the following issues:
 - Should it be temporal, ephemeral or permanent?
 - How should it be fabricated?
 - Should we use the original art work or a replica?
 - How can we get sponsors?
 - What does it mean for the use of the Point Ormond Lookout for other forms of recreation in hopefully disease free summer months?
 - Are there any health and safety issues we need to think about?

Response

We are currently looking at ways in include the sign into the design for the upgrade for Point Ormond Playground and Precinct Upgrade, which includes upgrades to the path network around the Point Ormond Marker. <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/point-ormond-reserve> .

Any signage or upgrade works are subject to Heritage Victoria approval and DELWP coastal consent. There is a Heritage Overlay covering Point Ormond and the surrounding landscapes. The heritage of the site includes a quarantine station, coastal fortifications in the 1880's, navigation point and Aboriginal heritage place.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, Council is reviewing all capital and operating projects, including Point Ormond Reserve playground. This means funding for Point Ormond Reserve playground and precinct upgrade has been put on hold this current financial year but will be reconsidered in the 2021/22 budget.

**Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*