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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Williamstown's community spirit

Monday, 3 January 2011

Sunday Herald Sun
January 02, 2011 11:23AM
Graeme Hammond

"...Can Williamstown handle more high rise apartments?....."

WILLIAMSTOWN was a quieter place when Deb Robertson's family moved from Richmond 16 years ago:

What makes it so desirable is that it's a peninsula, it's a bit like an English seaside town. It has a history, a sense of place, with some quite distinct areas like the port and the old wool processing plant. We have a street Christmas party here and everyone gets to know their neighbours."

Ms Robertson, a yoga teacher, said she strongly supported the protest movement against plans for a 17-storey residential development in the suburb's heritage precinct.

"It is becoming more difficult to get in and out of Williamstown and until something is done to address the heavy traffic they shouldn't be bringing in more people. The project is being driven by money, not by any thought for a sustainable community."

The development is a long way from the quaint cottage and beach atmosphere of Hannan St, but Ms Robertson said local anger - evidenced by the posters in many front windows in the street - proved the strength of the community spirit.

"Everything that happens in Williamstown affects us all," she said.

KEVIN MURPHY: Suburb's rising status

...Like most others in the street, the Murphys' home is governed by strict heritage protection laws enforced by Hobsons Bay Council, which require any renovations to retain the architectural style. He, like many other residents, holds mixed views on the council's application of its rules, which appear arbitrary in allowing or refusing certain renovations.

"I'm a bit disappointed with the council. They let people get away with things they shouldn't," he said.....

JANETTE DE CESARIS: Once here, no one wants to leave.....

The popularity of the area is also being felt in other ways: the proposed high-rise development in the maritime heritage precinct - which she vehemently opposes - traffic congestion and parking difficulties in town and difficulties in obtaining doctors' appointments....

Comments

Valma J.Davis of Williamstown

Definitely not high rises. Developers see dollars not the beauty of Williamstown. More people means more strain on our infrastructure, schools, traffic congestion, fights over a parking space which is common. roads in and out of Willy which is already chaotic. Justin Madden rushed this through without consultation from the community. Shame on him, the community was given no chance to air their views. We can hardly cope now with the amount of people we have and to

bring many families with two cars it will be a disaster, whilst developers rub their hands with glee. The discomfort of the people who have paid high prices to live there, is of course no concern to them. The developers of course are firing the guns from the people who are willing to supply the money eg. could it be Ron Walker. Think also of Mobile tanks which exists there, heaven help them if there was ever a fire with only 2 crowded roads to get out. They say a clear conscience makes a good pillow, may the people who are at the back of this have many sleepless nights. I am sure you will now understand I am absolutely against building these high rises at Williamstown....”

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/williamstowns-community-spirit/story-e6frf7kx-1225980062507>

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