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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



Nelson Place Village developers 'shocked' by council knockback

Wednesday, 18 July 2012

Hobsons Bay Leader
BY JAMES TWINING

“A DEVELOPER behind the Nelson Place Village apartment development in Williamstown says it has lost confidence in the local council "to manage an orderly planning process".

Nelson Place Village had another planning application refused by Hobsons Bay Council last Friday, this time for its plans to refurbish the abandoned Britannia Hotel, turning it into a display and marketing suite.

The suite would have been used as a marketing tool for NPV's \$200 million-plus apartment and townhouse development, which will include 451 homes, up to 13 storeys.

The proposed 46.5-metre maximum tower height is one of the most controversial aspects of the proposal.

Local residents and nearby companies are also concerned about overcrowding and the site's proximity to a naval shipyard and petrol tank farm.

A Hobsons Bay Council special planning committee last year refused an NPV application to demolish buildings on the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill site in Nelson Place.

NPV spokesman Ashley Williams said the proponents were shocked by the latest refusal by council officers to approve the refurbishment of the former Britannia.

"We thought that was heading in the right direction and we were shocked to hear (the result)," he said....."

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/exclusive-nelson-place-village-developers-shocked-by-latest-council-knockback/>

SW Comment:

Interesting that the developer wants "orderly planning" when we thought it was backdoor planning they were after... Apparently the discussions with Hobsons Bay Council about a master plan for the whole site have stalled because the developer is only interested in height exceeding the advisory heights in C86.

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Old Williamstown pub faces demolition

Friday, 20 July 2012

Hobsons Bay Leader
BY JAMES TWINING

“THE historic Oriental Hotel in Williamstown faces the wrecking ball as part of the \$200 million-plus Nelson Place Village apartment development.

Evolve, the developer behind plans for 451 homes up to 13-storeys, has lodged an application with Hobsons Bay Council to demolish the abandoned 139-year-old pub to make way for six-storey apartments, with shops.

The demolition bid is part of a bigger application lodged recently to begin the first stage of the controversial development on the former Port Phillip Woollen Mills site, which has raised the hackles of Williamstown residents.

Opponents are concerned about the 46.5m height of a central

apartment tower, over-crowding and the site's proximity to a naval shipyard and petrol tank farm.

The latest application lodged is for:

Seven, three-storey townhouses on Ann St, near the corner of Aitken St;

Two shops and 84 apartments over six storeys on the corner of Nelson Place and Ann St; and,

12, three or four level townhouses and 51 apartments over four-storeys fronting Nelson Place.

The developer has also asked for statutory parking requirements to be dispensed with because it says the site is well-serviced by public transport.

The application did not include a 13-storey apartment tower planned for the centre of the site. This will come later in the planning process. Relations between the council and the developer plumbed new depths after the council on Monday refused a planning application to refurbish the abandoned Britannia Hotel as a display and marketing suite for Nelson Place Village.

The council last year refused an NPV application to demolish other buildings on the site.

A new application to demolish buildings at the rear of the Britannia were also sent to the council on Monday.....”

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/old-williamstown-pub-faces-demolition/>

SW Comment:

Interesting that the Construction Management Plan which appears in Hobsons Bay Council Greenlight Planning Applications refers to 790 dwellings - are the developers trying to pull the wool over our eyes with claims of 451 dwellings...

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Developers, residents argue over Williamstown apartment plans

Monday, 23 July 2012

Hobsons Bay Leader
BY Fiona O'Doherty

“TENSIONS are mounting between a developer behind Nelson Place Village plans and opponents.

The developer recently lodged an application with Hobsons Bay Council to demolish the historic Oriental Hotel in Williamstown and build the first 154 of 451 dwellings planned for the site.

The application includes a request that parking requirements be waived.....

.....Save Williamstown spokesman Godfrey Moase said the developer "had displayed utter contempt" for the Williamstown community, the suburb's heritage character, the safety of residents and the community's ongoing economic well-being in pressing ahead with its plans.

He said the group would "ramp up" its campaign against the development including doorknocking other residents and distributing leaflets and flyers.

Opponents have long voiced concerns about the proposed 46.5m height of the development, its density and proximity to fuel storage tanks.

"The developer seems to have not paid any attention to key safety concerns and seems to have not provided enough parking," Mr Moase said.

But NPV spokesman Ashley Williams said high density development of the site was supported by a "raft of State Government and local planning policy".

"Sites like this need to respond to the underlying housing demand in inner Melbourne," he said.

He said Williamstown needed greater housing diversity to enable first-time buyers entry to the market and encourage greater social diversity in turn....."

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/your-say-developers-residents-argue-over-williamstown-apartment-plans/>

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Caltex axes up to 630 jobs with refinery closure

Thursday, 26 July 2012

The Age
BY Chris Zappone
26 Jul, 2012

"Petroleum company Caltex will close its Kurnell refinery in Sydney in a move that will cost up to 630 jobs, with unions claiming the announcement is a "kick in the guts" to Australian motorists.

Caltex said the refinery would be closed in the second half of 2014 and would be converted to a "major import terminal" to supply imported fuel for Australian customers. The closure would eliminate about 330 direct positions, and as many as 300 contracting jobs.

The company's year-long review determined that less profitable Australian refining had a smaller role to play in its future, Caltex managing director and chief executive Julian Segal said. Mr Segal was due to hold a press briefing at the company's Sydney head office this morning.....

.....The closure of the Kurnell facility ends months of speculation about

the fate of the refineries that have hung over employees at both facilities. Caltex has been squeezed by the strength of the Australian dollar and the competition from cheaper and more efficient refining in Asia.....”

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/caltex-axes-up-to-630-jobs-with-refinery-closure-20120726-22sd6.html>

Save Williamstown comment:

The Mobil refinery at Altona is under the same economic pressures but even if production moves to asia from the Altona plant, it is likely that given the existing pipelines and shipping berths, 60% of the Victorian fuel requirements will continue to arrive in large oil tankers at the Port of Melbourne facility at Point Gellibrand. It is predicted that 280m ships will start arriving later this year. These ships carry about 150 million litres of petrochemical (crude oil mostly at present but it could later be petrol). These ships discharge their cargo over 4 days working 24 hours a day. They rise about 25 metres above sea level.

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Steve Bracks: Sir James Gobbo kept Lib lunch club link secret, that's why I axed the Governor

Monday, 30 July 2012

Herald Sun
30 July 2012

"STEVE Bracks dumped Sir James Gobbo as Victorian governor because he did not declare his ties to a Liberal-dominated lunch club.

Sir James's affiliation with the "Rumour Tank" prompted the decision, the former La- bor premier writes in his political memoirs.

"The get-togethers involved a range of people, but included Jeff Kennett and other Liberal Party identities," Mr Bracks writes in his memoirs.

"There's nothing wrong with a lunch club, but the Rumour Tank also discussed state political matters and made some commentary on them."....."

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/steve-bracks-sir-james-...secret-thats-why-i-axed-the-governor/story-e6frf7kx-1226438083555>

Save Williamstown comment:

The danger of influence behind closed doors is a problem Save Williamstown has been dealing with for 3 years. Rational reports get overturned in the Victorian network of who knows who.

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