

Fairfield Village - Outline of consultation process and communications undertaken

Development of the *Fairfield Village Built form Guidelines, 2017* and the *Fairfield Village Heritage Assessment 2017*.

The process to develop the Guidelines and Heritage Assessment has included a substantive engagement program with the Fairfield community to ensure that key local issues and community expectations around development are addressed.

Preparation of the Guidelines and Heritage Assessment has been informed by key engagement activities as follows:

- 'Our Fairfield Village: Starting the Conversation', October – November 2016 Early engagement (done in collaboration with other Council units starting streetscape masterplan and transport improvement projects in the Centre at the same time) provided a basis for the preparation of the Built Form Guidelines, by both inviting the community to tell Council their priorities for Fairfield Village and confirming the validity of previous community feedback from 2008-9. Gaining a clear understanding of the key local issues and expectations around development in the Centre informed and confirmed the themes and key concepts of the Built Form Guidelines, and provided a useful reference point for the heritage work.
- Fairfield Village Community Reference Group, January 2017 – October 2017 A Community Reference Group (CRG) was formed in January 2017 to enable representative members of the community to work closely with Council officers on projects in Fairfield Village. The CRG has met on four occasions to date and has provided valuable input as the Built Form Guidelines and heritage assessments have been developed from background research stage, to draft concepts, and most recently, full draft documentation.
- Draft Documents on Public Exhibition and Feedback, September – October 2017 Draft Built Form Guidelines and the Heritage Assessment were publically exhibited from 4 September – 6 October 2017. This was accompanied by an engagement program to raise awareness and provide opportunity for land owners, business operators and the broad Fairfield community to consider the proposals and give feedback.
- Activities to promote and raise awareness included addressed letters delivered to around 3,500 land owners and occupiers in the precinct, correspondence to a range of government and community stakeholder groups, and promotion in local newspapers and online, with features on Council websites and social media channels. Scheduled drop-in information sessions in Fairfield Village were held on 13 and 18 September. All information was accessible via the Our Fairfield Village website at yoursaydarebin.com.au and in hard copy at Fairfield Library and Council offices. The community were invited to provide feedback on the proposals using an online questionnaire, direct email or in person at the drop-in sessions

Amendment C161 Statutory Exhibition

Amendment C161 was publicly exhibited from 15 May 2018 to 18 June 2018 and submissions were invited during this period.

In accordance with section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, notice of Amendment C161 was given as follows:

- 1,307 addressed letters mailed to affected owners and occupiers. The letters were accompanied by a statutory notice and a fact sheet to assist recipients with understanding

the Amendment in plain English. The back of the letter also contained a translation of key points in the 5 main non-English languages of the area (Chinese, Greek, Hindi, Italian and Vietnamese).

- Direct notices sent to all prescribed Ministers, local members of parliament, adjoining municipalities (Banyule and Yarra councils), Fairfield Traders Association and all relevant infrastructure and service authorities.
- Advertisement published in the Northcote Leader on 16 May 2018.
- Public notices published in the Northcote Leader, Victorian Government Gazette and on the Darebin Council website on 17 May 2018.
- Posts across Council's social media channels at the commencement of exhibition and again on 6 June 2018 prior to close of submissions.
- Announcements on the Darebin Council website.
- Email to the Our Fairfield Village project subscribers on the 'Your Say Darebin' engagement website at the commencement of exhibition.
- Copies of all amendment documents, fact sheets and other background information were made available for inspection online at the 'Your Say Darebin' engagement website as well as on the DELWP planning scheme amendments exhibition website.
- Hard copies of all exhibition documents were placed at Fairfield Library and at the Planning counter at Council's Preston offices.
- Two informal 'drop-in' information sessions were held between 5.30-7.30pm at Mamma Says Café, 120 Station Street, Fairfield on 23 May and 30 May 2018 to provide the community with the opportunity to talk directly to Council officers about the amendment and clarify any questions about the proposal and the process.

Submissions Received

Following the public exhibition 11 submissions were received. Key issues raised in the submissions included:

- Concerns around the strategic intent of applying the Heritage Overlay and DDO to the Fairfield Village.
- The inclusion specific properties within the heritage precinct.
- Identification of valued street facades in the DDO.
- Rationale for maximum height requirements.
- Impacts of the proposed design controls on the development viability.

On the basis of the issues raised in the submissions, Council resolved at its meeting on 23 July 2018 to request the Minister of Planning to convene an independent Panel to assess and make recommendations on the matters raised in submissions.