



BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP

25 Main Street, Blackburn 3130

Mr R. Grainger (Sec.) 877 3348

Mrs M. Harrison 877 4351

Mrs A. Taylor 877 4074

BULLETIN No.6

November, 1988

VICTORY FOR BLACKBURN RESIDENTS

AS YOU WILL NOW KNOW, THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT HAS NOT APPROVED THE STOCK CONSTRUCTIONS PROPOSAL FOR A SHOPPING CENTRE AT BLACKBURN.

Mr Roper has listened to the arguments put forward at the Panel Hearing by the BVRG, by other Blackburn resident groups and by many individuals.

This is your victory - made possible only by the support you have given to the BVRG. For this support we thank the people of Blackburn. For this victory you can be proud of those who argued a case at the Panel hearings, and of those who have helped your cause by acting as street representatives, conducting surveys of residents and traffic, and in many other ways.

This was a particularly tough battle to fight. On a shoestring we were able to convince the majority of the Panel that our cause was just. On a budget of many, many thousands of dollars, the barristers and paid 'expert' consultants of the developer and of Nunawading Council could not.

The nature and the magnitude of this victory should not be lost amidst our celebrations. First, Blackburn has had many battles to fight in recent times; but in few of them have the residents been almost completely alone - opposed not only by a developer and his minions, but by the Ministry bureaucracy, Nunawading Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the local press. We have had no support at all - with some important qualifications - other than what you gave us.

We have received much assistance from local councillors Wendy Reid, Peter Allen and John Smith. We have also been assisted by some of our local politicians. But a very special vote of thanks goes to the MLA for Box Hill, Mrs Margaret Ray, whose work on our behalf at critical times has done much to secure this result.

Secondly, the Minister's decision wholly vindicates the policy adopted by the BVRG. He has said that in rejecting the Stock Constructions proposal he supports the Chamber's claim (and, indeed, our own) that the centre needs revitalising. His press release states:

I do not intend to discourage some further retail development at the Blackburn shopping centre.

Mr Roper then calls on the developer, Council, the Ministry, the Road Construction Authority and the residents to discuss "all aspects of any future proposal".

You now have the opportunity to contribute your ideas to the kind of shopping centre you would like to see. The BVRG has already received from Stock Constructions a letter outlining a possible structure for negotiations.

You also have the opportunity to help replenish our depleted coffers. It may well be necessary for us to employ our own technical consultants on your behalf. (Stopping someone else's proposal is one thing; justifying the viability of our own is quite another.) We have only about \$400 left in the kitty. Now is the time for you to affirm your support for what we have achieved so far.

You will find the Treasurer's address below.

On behalf of the Committee of the BVRG and for myself, I thank all of you who have already given us your support and congratulations. You may be sure that we will do our best to realise your wishes and ideas in the future of Blackburn Village shopping centre.

Gordon Taylor
Chairman

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BVRG SUBMISSION

Two copies of the BVRG submission to the Panel Hearing have been lodged with Nunawading Library. One copy is available for reference in the Blackburn branch library.

WELCOME

We welcome a number of new members since our last Bulletin. We learn that some of our new residents who moved to Blackburn because of its distinctive character only found out later that the village atmosphere was under threat.

If you know of others who wish to support our efforts, please ask them to contact Mrs M. Harrison (877 4351) and/or send a family contribution of \$10 to the Treasurer, Mr Greig Brown, 63 Laburnum Street.