



BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP

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BULLETIN No.11 February 1993

BLACKBURN OFFICE ZONE--COUNCIL'S DECISION

Council has reached a compromise on the proposed office zone (Amendment L26)--but only after a struggle.

You will recall that the independent Panel recommended rezoning for offices only along Whitehorse Road and between Chapel and Albert Streets--much less threatening to Blackburn's character than the original proposal.

With startling disregard for its planning obligations, Council in committee initially ignored the Panel's recommendations and opted to return to the original proposal, for office development of the whole area between Queen and Chapel Streets. We strenuously opposed this. And fortunately, good sense finally prevailed among Council: it now has adopted a slight expansion of Panel's recommendation, with the office zone taking in both sides of Albert Street.

Before the office zone can become part of the planning scheme, it must be submitted to and approved by the Minister. Council must consider parking, landscape, and streetscape improvements for the zone and a housing policy for the balance of the area. We will watch to see that these proposals are fully costed--and that the zone does not become too intrusive.

BLACKBURN TRAFFIC

Plans are afoot for traffic changes in the Gorden Crescent /Blackburn Road area, for better pedestrian crossings in South Parade, and for a roundabout at the Main Street/The Avenue intersection (approved in 1986). We welcome the renewed interest. But we are concerned that not all measures may conform to the Draft Structure Plan and that *ad hoc* actions may require further, expensive adjustments.

SOUTH PARADE DEVELOPMENT

Restoration of housing is proceeding in Gardenia Street. We have had informal conversations with the developer, Trevor Hoyle, on possible expansion of the existing retail centre. We will strive to gain you a chance to comment on any plans for such expansion.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE....

While the BVRG is concerned with strategic planning, you may have individual concerns about other issues--:

- * Council's draft policy for higher-density housing continues to generate heated debate. Those wishing more information on State and Council proposals should contact: Mike Challenger, Convenor, Nunawading Committee for Responsible Development, 52 Sandy Grove, Nunawading.
- * There are continuing threats to relocate the Blackburn Library outside central Blackburn. Those concerned should contact: G. Harant, Secretary, Friends of Nunawading Libraries, 878-4088.
- * There also are constant threats to Blackburn's characteristic natural environment. To express your views, contact: Ann Clayton, Secretary, Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society, 878-6585.

SUPPORTERS' SURVEY

The response to our survey was good but not spectacular. We were pleased to receive several offers of assistance. Most who replied indicated interest in attending a general meeting, and we will arrange one as soon as there are specific issues to discuss.

We are grateful for the many financial contributions received. Those who have not yet donated may send their cheque (suggested \$10 family, \$5 pensioner or student) to our Treasurer, Malcolm Anderson, 3 Railway Road, Blackburn 3130. Please be sure to include your name and address.

The BVRG looks forward to your continued support in 1993, and the Executive Committee extends you best wishes for the year.