

# village friends

protecting our Erskineville Village life - part of the City of Villages



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## **Village friends**

### **Community Meeting**

**Thursday, 6 December 2007**

**Holy Trinity Church, Erskineville Road & Rochford Street,  
Erskineville 2043**

Registered Attendance 207

Meeting opens at 1805

Victoria Rati welcomes everybody and thanks them for attending meeting.

### **Opening:**

Councilor Marcelle Hoff opens meeting and acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land.

Establishes ground rules and runs through agenda for the meeting.

Welcomed Councilor Harris to the meeting.

### **Apologies:**

Lord Mayor

Deputy Mayor Pooley (arriving later)

Councilor McInerney

Phillip Black

Verity Firth

Robyn Kemmis

Shayne Mallard (arriving later)

### **Victoria Rati - Who are Village Friends (VF):**

Runs through the genesis of VF. Discusses the original meeting with developer who did not wish to consult with the broad community. Also council's reluctance to inform residents anymore than 75m from site. She lists 3 main objectives of VF.

1. Inform the community of the development and its ramifications.
2. A need for genuine consultation with the neighbourhood and find out community views.
3. Emphasises that VF is not anti development - constructively support development that enhances Erskineville village community.

Discusses the actions of VF. They have distributed flyers to the community, built website, organised petitions, contacted residents using sms and email. For this meeting we made contact with the community through flyers, email and sms (5000 contacts). 90,000 hits on the VF website. This action has resulted in 60 personal letters to the council.

Consideration of proposed developments potential impacts upon Erskineville.

## **A. Amenities.**

3 speakers gave their views.

### **Julie Miller**

Was concerned about the negative impact a supermarket would have on the feel of the neighbourhood. Its lifestyle and liveability.

### **Linda Hansen**

Reminded everybody how unique Erskineville was. It was a genuine village. Locating a supermarket here would generate excessive amount of traffic and create even more parking problems than present. She was not against a development but felt that a different one was needed.

### **Laura Macfarlane**

Stated that there was no proven need for a supermarket and the area was already adequately served. Erskineville Road was under strain with heavy traffic and parking on the streets was already difficult without the extra burden of more traffic generated by the development. Emphasised the Gowrie St load limit that is continually exceeded and trucks get stuck. That the soul and sense of community would be put under threat. Development should be for the benefit of the local community. Questioned how the supermarket in question could be considered consistent with a village.

### **Brett Mason**

Has been living in Erskineville for 2.5 years having moved from the gridlock of Surry Hills and described first hand the congestion problems with the Surry Hills Coles supermarket car park. Reminded everyone that the 27 car spaces was totally insufficient for this size of development. People will drive their cars to the supermarket and felt there were significant flaws with the traffic report. The last thing the village needed is another supermarket.

## **B. Traffic**

### **Paul Howard gave a summary of the points within the DA that were weak or misleading.**

Discussed the trading area of the proposal and emphasized that based on Council advice and confirmed by research. People only walk up to half a kilometer to a supermarket which means there are only 3000 potential pedestrian customers in the trading area compared with 17,737 in Potts Point and 11,500 in St Margaret's. Woolworths St Margaret's now providing free parking and a plan to further increase the free parking. So where will the majority of customers come from? With 81 % of customers coming from more than half a kilometer most will drive. Based on trading turnover and peak shopping times detailed in the DA, expect between 192 and 351 cars per hour trying to park. The planned car park will accommodate only 45 shoppers per hour. 98 part & full time staff will be employed. How will they get to work? 45 plus truck movements are expected daily at all times of day and night with trading planned up to midnight. The developer is presenting this as a boutique corner store. The development is actually two thirds the size of Woolworths at Marrickville Metro. Discussed the negative impact on parking in the area and because of the current train and bus routes, public transport will be of little use to customers. The chair read out the summary of the development from the developer's application verbatim, which included the section "...with a one year trial for trading hours extending to Midnight".

## **C. Shopkeepers - 3 Erskineville shop owners gave their opinions.**

### **Anton Jabbour (Alan's Cakes)**

Is an ex Woolworths store manager, also worked at Tip Top and knows the behaviour of the delivery vehicles from the bakery industry etc. They won't respect curfews as their focus is to deliver as quickly as possible to finish their rounds. They will also pull over wherever they can. Spoke about the quantity of trucks one could expect. Was also concerned about the effect on the small businesses in the Village.

### **Saso Bosevski (Deli Erskineville).**

Was very concerned about the negative impact a supermarket would have on the Village shopping area. The village is the heart of Erskineville and if the shops are forced out of business the soul of Erskineville would die with them. He emphasised that Erskineville is a small community with narrow streets, little parking and lots of open spaces where we can sit, eat and rest. An increase in traffic would erode the amenity of the neighbourhood. Felt the reason it does have a great community spirit is in part because of what it does not have, big retail developments. Felt there are locations which are suitable with wide roads, parking spaces and which do not impact so negatively on the existing businesses. Appealed to preserve what we all love about Erskineville.

### **Kelly Thomas (Floral Shop)**

Was also concerned about the deleterious affect of the development. She has worked hard to build up the business and gain the custom of local people. She started in E because of its unique character and sees that under threat if this development goes ahead. Clients already complain there is not enough parking.

## **Question and answers and opinions.**

7:15pm (approx) Deputy Mayor Tony Pooley and Councilor Mallard arrive and are welcomed by the Chair

A number of people raised issues from the floor and asked questions of VF and the councilors. Councilor Chris Harris was in attendance and made some points regarding the Councilors roles in reviewing the DA. Specifically, that they are obliged to consider the application in light of the requirements of the EPA section 79C.

### **Question 1.**

Q. How do we make our views known?

A. Personal letters to all 10 councilors are best and also Philip Jamieson the planner. Go to website and click on link "email to clover".

### **Question 2.**

Stan, the manager of Franklins in Newtown stated that himself and other business owners were raising a petition and commissioning a planner to review the DA in order to lodge an objection.

### **Question 3.**

Stated, this development was the thin end of the wedge for large commercial developments in Erskineville.

### **Question 4.**

Q. On what ground can we object.

A. Primarily on the 2 areas the council is most able to act. Impact of traffic and impact on amenity.

### **Question 5.**

Q. What are the guidelines by which the council makes a decision.

A. Can be viewed on Council website. Chris Harris made the point that it is an allowable use for that site but if it results in the closing of shops the residents may argue that is a loss of amenity. He suggested that peoples views be made known to Woolworths.

### **Question 6.**

Stated that there would be a long period of disruption caused by the construction of the supermarket.

### **Question 7.**

Stated that the Green Bans Park issue would stand as a good example of how to go about community action.

### **Question 8.**

Q. Questioned the councilors about the status of the Village concept in the Local Action Plan and was the Council going to stand by the local businesses to protect their vision.

A. The Local Action Plan is conceptual and does not have any legal status.

### **Question 9.**

Stated that there are also other ways of objecting to the development other than traffic and amenity such as safety/heritage/waste given the concerns with global warming.

### **Question 10.**

Q. Stated that the councilors and Mayor as the elected representatives should take the lead and oppose DA.

A. Marcelle H responded that the council is listening.

## **Motion proposed by Tim Smyth, Brett Mason, Ivan Kelava, Lisa Coulson, Brian Mylott and Natalie Gould**

That this meeting

1. Opposes the proposed development at Corner of Erskineville Road and Gowrie Street.
2. Calls on Council to uphold its 2007 Local Action Plan/Sydney City of Villages concept and oppose the DA
3. Calls on Council to host a community consultation in Erskineville before the DA goes to committee
4. Calls on Council to require the DA proponent to fund a council initiated independent Social Impact Statement to identify the impact on local amenity and a new independent Traffic Study that analyses peak traffic and parking needs and the impact on surrounding streets.
5. Authorizes Friends of Erskineville to convey this motion to council and to pursue the campaign.

Seconded by Jim Mitchel and the motion was unanimously carried.

Meeting finished at 7.40pm.