

**DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes.

Deputations received:

**(i) Deputation: Valley Gardens Phase 3**

This deputation relates to the concerns of our residents group over Phase 3 of the Valley Gardens project. Our group is made up of residents of the streets situated close to the old Amex House site.

Although rooted in the issue of the 'Edward Street Quarter' development we have gradually become a vibrant neighbourhood association devising initiatives and holding events. We have found ourselves looking at a range of issues affecting neighbourhoods beyond our own. The struggle of Milner/Kingswood/Morley Street council tenants in relation to the Circus Street development is one recent and shocking example. Air quality/child asthma is already an issue here. Additional N02/PM2.5 arising from Phase 3 will entail immediate danger to families in this community and to nearby Carlton Hill School. We trust that the council takes its duty of care seriously and will provide this community and this primary school with reassurance. Many feel that the knock-on effects of air pollution due to congestion on Grand Parade (caused by Phase 3) require the council to share its assessment of potential health impacts with these communities.

Air quality has become a constant discussion point in all our neighbourhoods and it's regrettable that plans for such major alterations have only recently come to our attention. Promoted as a solution to rising pollution and congestion (a "green lung" for our city) Phases 1 and 2 are welcome innovations in the direction of creating a people-friendly 'valley' corridor of accessible green space from St Peters Church southward. However, it is striking to learn of the growing chorus of voices (shopkeepers, event's organisers, residents, taxi drivers, other nearby community groups like ours and many more) who raise objections to phase 3 (i.e. Edward Street to seafront). It is clear that they are united in their plea for the council to pause and listen to what the people of this city are trying to tell it. We gather it is not too late for the council to do this and trust that it will.

We are sure that you are aware of the inadequate public consultation and the highly questionable features of the scheme itself. Funnelling five lanes of traffic on to the east side will surely witness already blighted neighbourhoods around St James Street and those situated to the north and east becoming blocked off by shunting traffic (even obvious innovations like a 'green' footbridge providing people on the east with a vital human link to the proposed Valley spaces seem not to have been considered). Removal of the roundabout and creation of a one-way route east on Madeira Drive to Dukes Mound seem to lack diligent assessment of (a) traffic flow consequences (increased vehicle stop/start and resultant rise in N02, PM2.5 and childhood asthma) and (b) increases in 'rat-runs' criss-crossing through St

James/Edward Street and Kemptown's residential side roads (also with resultant deterioration of air quality).

It would be a tragic irony if the original Valley Gardens vision for cleaner air and safer movement of pedestrians and cyclists ends with the exact opposite. The vision was to restore "*a balance between these important priorities and the dominance of the motor car*" but as it stands the rationale for phase 3 appears blinkered. If the rationale is to nudge people from car use by making things worse the council should not only make this strategy explicit but first invest in affordable, efficient public transport alternatives while providing impact data estimating *how much worse* and for *how many years*. We feel certain that this committee would not sanction a project that altered car driver behaviour at the cost of potentially fatal spikes in child asthma. We therefore urge committee members to pause the Phase 3 process, listen to the community and not allow the plan to proceed unless you are completely satisfied with a full and open consideration of the environmental impacts of the scheme.

**Signed by:**

Adrian Hart (Spokesperson)

David Sassons

Annie Hill

Jan Norris

Rick Hurst

Sarah Gillson

Sharon Sando-Newman

Tara Lenehan

Tony Adams

Paul Simmons

Abha Aggarwal

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