

The 4551 meeting of the Brisbane City Council Tuesday 13 March 2018

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Madam Chairman. My question is to the Chair of the Lifestyle and Community Services Committee, Councillor BOURKE. Council has unveiled plans for a brand new kids aqua park at Ferny Grove. Can you give the Chamber an update on this Administration's commitment to create new lifestyle and leisure opportunities in Brisbane?

Chairman: Councillor BOURKE.

Councillor BOURKE: Thanks very much, Madam Chairman, and I thank Councillor TOOMEY for the question. As everyone in the Chamber knows, Madam Chairman, this Administration has 22 fantastic Council pools right across the city, and we went to the last election to build some aqua playgrounds as well. So Runcorn, Langlands Pool, up at Sandgate, Ferny Grove as well, and it was great to see the LORD MAYOR and Councillor TOOMEY out there on Thursday of last week announcing the site and the design for the new Ferny Grove aqua playground, Madam Chairman.

Obviously this \$1.5 million project will have a fully accessible splash pad area; it will have elevated water play including overhead tipping buckets, a spray tunnel, water cannons, overhead spray features, arch sprays, stream jets, bubblers, misting ground sprayers, an interactive water table which will provide wheelchair access, Madam Chairman, as well as toddler play.

It will have tiered seating as well as new shade trees for viewing the water play area, as well as, Madam Chairman, while we're doing the work with the aqua park, we're also upgrading some of the existing facilities in the park with new picnic facilities and an electric barbeque and reconfiguring the car park as well, Madam Chairman and, most importantly, making sure that we provide accessible pathways from the car park to the new water play area and the other facilities in the park.

Why are we doing this? Why are we making this investment into lifestyle and leisure options across the city, Madam Chairman? Because we continue to see record numbers of people coming to our pools and aqua parks across this city, when 1.6 million people between September and January visited a Council pool. That's a 17% increase on last year, Madam Chairman, a fantastic endorsement of what this Administration is doing in investing in our leisure and lifestyle opportunities, upgrading our pools, not closing them like those opposite did, Madam Chairman, providing the options that our residents want to see across this city when it comes to pools.

Of course, Madam Chairman, we're doing massive upgrades in our pool network, whether it is upgrading existing pools or building new pools. We opened Parkinson and Bracken Ridge in recent years, Madam Chairman; we're upgrading Langlands; we're doing Musgrave Park pool as well. We continue to invest into this vital network that we have right across the city.

Madam Chairman, just to take a bit out of the Leader of the Opposition who was just asking questions about not being able to turn up to Committee on time, Madam Chairman, there was a petition in this morning's Committee about the aqua park at Wynnum, Madam Chairman, that came to the Committee today. But could not be bothered—the Leader of the Opposition could not be bothered to reply to the two emails he got about whether or not he supported the recommendation for the new aqua park at Wynnum, Madam Chairman, which is pretty slack, pretty lazy, pretty slack, you know. Two emails, couldn't be bothered actually replying to say whether or not he supported the recommendation.

This Administration instead, Madam Chairman, is getting on with the job of delivering these important facilities and upgrading these facilities across our city so the residents of Brisbane can take their family, their friends, their visitors, Madam Chairman, out into our wonderful parks and open spaces, with the lifestyle and leisure opportunities that they want to see in this city. We will continue to invest, Madam Chairman. We will continue to invest in pools, in aqua parks, in our parks, to make sure that we have all the appropriate facilities right across this city, Madam Chairman, whether it's in the north, the south, the east or the west, for all of the residents of Brisbane to enjoy.

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I rise also to speak on The Gap neighbourhood plan. Madam Chairman, as we know, this neighbourhood plan began its journey under the previous Councillor, Councillor Knapp, through the commitment of the LORD MAYOR to develop a neighbourhood plan that would, pardon the pun, fill the gap of neighbourhood plans in my area.

Madam Chairman, this journey that my community has been taken on has had a number of firsts. Along with the CPT meeting, we had an increase of community representation within our CPT meetings, and also the number of CPT meetings that we held. One facet of the CPT membership that I paid attention to was the demographics of the members chosen to make sure that they actually represented my community in a thorough way. Madam Chairman, on the CPT meetings, during the CPT meetings that we had, we had a low attrition rate, so the interest in The Gap neighbourhood plan remained fairly high all the way through the process.

One other area that was worth particular note was the innovation that Council actually used in the neighbourhood plan. There was an open map that was used where residents could drop pins and pass comments on particular sections of The Gap, and everyone could see them. So the transparency within people's thoughts and ideas was particularly high. Madam Chairman, that was one of the things that, during the community kiosks, that the Council officers actually pushed in terms of educating residents on how to do that, and it was quite successful.

Madam Chairman, there's a very, very low growth expected in The Gap area over the next 10 to 15 years. It's between 700 and 900 residents moving into the area.

Councillors interjecting.

Chairman: Councillor JOHNSTON, please do not call out across the Chamber. You've already been warned twice before. I hereby caution you that, if you continue to interject and be disorderly, you may be warned in relation to your behaviour.

Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Also, one particular note is the areas of land within The Gap, as small as they are that are still developable, Council went to some lengths to define what is possible on those parcels of land.

Madam Chairman, I believe this plan achieves a balance for my community and what they were looking for. It provides opportunities for various housing types for young families and for residents of The Gap during their ageing years to remain in the community. The neighbourhood plan will, from this place, pass onto the State Government for their interest checks, and I know the member for Cooper wished to have the neighbourhood plan fast-tracked, but I would like to assure her that good things come to those who wait.

I would like to thank a few people; initially Councillor COOPER as the previous Chair for neighbourhood planning, the current Chair, Councillor SIMMONDS, for his support through the process. I'd also like to thank the LORD MAYOR for his commitment, not only to

developing a neighbourhood plan but also to my community. I would also like to thank Chris Taylor from The Gap Residents' Association and for his support in developing this plan for The Gap. Finally, I would like to thank the Council officers who went, again, above and beyond their level of engagement with my community to ensure that the people of The Gap receive a fantastic plan, and I commend this neighbourhood plan to the Chamber.

Chairman:

Councillor TOOMEY.

Councillor TOOMEY:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. I also rise to speak on item C. Madam Chairman, to mirror also what Councillor WINES said and also to add some additional background information on the petition, this Ferny Grove TOD (Transit Oriented Development) had the potential to effectively jam Samford Road, not only Samford Road, but also the train stations along the line. During the consultation that I undertook with Councillor WINES, it became very clear that train stations along Ferny Grove line from the end of Ferny Grove would severely be impacted by any traffic from commuters coming to catch the train.

What we had determined in our consultation is that residents who were coming in, say, from Samford or Ferny Hills, would actually bypass the Ferny Grove railway station, because of the development that would be undertaking and therefore impact further stations down the line. Madam Chairman, to give a bit more background to this petition, Councillor WINES and I actually visited all the train stations along the line and did consultation with those residents that would actually use the train station and also residents who lived nearby the train station.

As Councillor WINES has said, the developer has changed elements of his proposal, which would see additional car parking added to the Ferny Grove train station and also the intensity of residential units on the site reduced. This is what Councillor WINES meant when he said there's been an outcome; an outcome that the residents will see in terms of impact on the site. There are still some questions over the playground and park that the developer wants to use in the short term to provide parking for the displaced commuters.

That is still up in the air and the residents of Ferny Grove, specifically in my ward, are very concerned about a parkland being turned into a carpark. Conversations are still going on around that and I will ensure that the residents of Ferny Grove and the commuters from Upper Kedron who use the Ferny Grove railway station will not have their amenity impacted by this development. Thank you, Madam Chair.