



BABBAGE AND OVERTON WARDS COMMUNITY FORUM MINUTES

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2018
CUMBERLAND PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Chair: Cr Dave Munro

Elected Members in attendance:

- Mayor Glenn Spear
- Cr Yvonne Todd
- Cr Nick Economos
- Cr John Sanderson

Staff in attendance:

- Mr Matt Pears – Chief Executive Officer
- Mr Howard Lacy General Manager Engineering and Horticulture
- Ms Joylene Neddermeyer

Other Elected Members in attendance:

- Cr Lindy Taeuber

Community attendees: 33

The meeting commenced at: 7.00pm

The Mayor welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and introduced the Elected Members and staff present. He also acknowledged the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of the land.

The Mayor also welcomed Ms Annabel Digance (Member for Elder) and acknowledged an apology received from Nicolle Flint (Federal Member for Boothby).

The Mayor then handed the meeting to the Chair, Cr Dave Munro

The Chair welcomed attendees and advised them of housekeeping matters in accordance with WHS requirements. A short explanation was given of the procedures for the evening. It was requested that attendees submit their questions in writing to formally record their questions or maintenance requests so that Administration can respond in due course.

The Chair then asked for questions from the floor. Questions received in writing are listed below.

NAME	ISSUES AND COMMENTS	RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE
Mr Neil Baron	A ratepayer requests to know what total amount and percentage of the City of Mitcham budget had been allocated to Babbage Ward for financial years 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15, 2013-2014 and provide a breakdown of areas of expenditure?	Chief Executive Officer
<i>City of Mitcham response: The City of Mitcham does not calculate expenditure by Ward and is required by the Local Government Act to allocate expenditure on the basis of need.</i>		
Mr Neil Baron	What amount and percentage of the City of Mitcham budget will be allocated to Babbage Ward for financial years, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21?	Chief Executive Officer
<i>City of Mitcham response: The City of Mitcham does not calculate expenditure by Ward and is required by the Local Government Act to allocate expenditure on the basis of</i>		
Mr Neil Baron	Ratepayers wish to know how much money is planned for improvements of CC Hood reserve in financial year 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-2021 and what areas will the money be allocated for?	Engineering and Horticulture
<i>City of Mitcham response: Council allocates operating and maintenance funding to all reserves, including CC Hood as part of its “base” operating budget. This includes funding for mowing, irrigation, tree management, drainage maintenance, playground and footpath maintenance. Funding is allocated to programs for all reserves rather than to a specific reserve. Council is currently formulating its draft capital works program for 2018/19 so it is unable to provide advice on which projects will receive funding in 2018/19. Two budget bids will be considered for CC Hood Reserve as part of formulating the 2018/19 Capital Works (New) program being:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New shelter over the BBQ area – estimated cost \$30,000</i> • <i>New public toilet – estimated cost \$130,000</i> <i>The final approval to the capital programs usually occurs in late June each year. Details of new capital funding for 2019/20 and 20120/21 will be known in June 2019 and June 2020 respectively.</i>		
Mr Neil Baron	It has been indicated by Council staff that Boothby St Panorama is scheduled for remedial work in financial year 2018-19 including new curbing, resurfacing and lane marking. What are the timelines and anticipated dates allocated for this work and what is the expected length of time to achieve these outcomes?	Engineering and Horticulture

NAME	ISSUES AND COMMENTS	RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i> The work is currently scheduled to occur in 2018/19 subject to Council approving the draft 2018/19 Renewals Program which typically happens towards the end of June. Once funding has been approved, the Engineering Team will tender the works and schedule constructions. Exact dates are not known at this point.</p>		
<p>Mr Neil Baron</p>	<p>What is the procedure for handling dog attacks on individuals on public property and how and what process is followed to keep those who have been attacked informed of proceedings. Further how does Council ensure that the public is protected from potentially dangerous dogs?</p>	<p>Development Services and Community Safety</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p>Council follows the Standard Operating Procedures as set by the LGA for dog attacks . By following these procedures it allows for continuity amongst Councils. Council's officer investigating the matter will aim to keep all parties involved of their investigation and outcomes where possible. Council's website also provides information on what to do if a dog attacks, useful information to provide when reporting an incident and what happens when a dog attack is reported (copy of information provided below).</p> <p><i>WHAT TO DO IF A DOG ATTACKS</i></p> <p><i>After a dog attack, you should be to seek medical or veterinary treatment as a priority.</i></p> <p><i>When safe to do so, you must report the attack to the relevant council. You can contact our animal management team on 8372 8888.</i></p> <p><i>REPORT THE INCIDENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE</i></p> <p><i>Like all serious incidents, time is a critical factor in dealing with dog attacks. This is especially important if the offending dog is wandering at large and still poses a risk to the public or other animals. To help Council investigators, please try to gather the following information before contacting us:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• the date, time and exact location of the attack. If you're not sure, use your GPS equipped smart phone to check on a map</i> <i>• a description of the offending dog - registration disc, name tag, breed, colour, sex, markings, collar size and colour</i> <i>• a description of the owner - name, address, contact phone number, male or female, age, hair colour, clothing</i> <i>• if a car was involved and the offender drove away with the dog - car registration number, make, model, colour</i> <i>• a description and photographs of any injuries and location on your body or your pet's body.</i> <p><i>You should also keep copies of any medical certificates, vet or doctor bills as evidence.</i></p>		

NAME	ISSUES AND COMMENTS	RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE
<p><i>WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A DOG IS REPORTED?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Authorised Council investigators may take a statement or affidavit from you</i> • <i>Photos may be taken of any injuries to yourself, or your animals or birds.</i> • <i>The dog's owner may be contacted to get their side of the incident.</i> • <i>Investigators could seek witness statements and other evidence</i> • <i>Investigators assess the circumstances and evidence and make a decision for action</i> • <i>Council will then issue legal notices as required, and;</i> • <i>Inform the parties of the outcome.</i> 		
<p>Mr Neil Baron</p>	<p>Further how does Council ensure that the public is protected from potentially dangerous dogs?</p>	<p>Development Services and Community Safety</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i> <i>Council is responsible for enforcing the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. When a dog attack occurs the investigating officer is required to collect all the relevant information from all involved then determine whether a "Control Order" (types are: barking, nuisance, menacing, prohibition, dangerous dog, or destruction control Orders) is required using the "Incident Severity Scale Guidelines" endorsed by the Dog and Cat Management Board.</i></p> <p><i>Once an Order has been issued it remains in place until the dog is deceased or the Order is removed by the Council in which the dog resides. Conditions of all Order are regularly checked by an authorised person to ensure the conditions are being adhered to. If breaches of Orders occur Council can expiate or take the matter before the district court (or similar jurisdiction - SACAT – 1 July 2018). Council does rely on information from its community as to the existence of potential dangerous dogs, as well as undertaking surveillance at parks and reserves to ensure provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act and Council By-laws are being followed.</i></p>		
<p>Mr Neil Baron</p>	<p>In light of public concerns and wide spread condemnation of ratepayer's money being wasted on frivolous and non-essential expenses by Onkaparinga Council, what form of public reporting of Councillors and Senior staff spending of ratepayers money on items exceeding \$100.00 is currently in place in the City of Mitcham? How are ratepayers able to access this information? What time lag is there between the spending and the posting?</p>	<p>Organisational and Community Development</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p>		

The Council is required to maintain a separate Register of Gifts and Benefits for Elected Members and Council Employees in respect of gifts or benefits received that are valued over \$100. These registers are generally updated quarterly and published on the Council's website for public information shortly thereafter. The registers currently published on the website are as at 31 January 2018.

The introduction of the new Code of Conduct for Council Employees commencing 2 April 2018, will require that any gifts or benefits over \$50 received by Council employees be recorded and published on councils website. The value will however remain the same (i.e. \$100) for Elected Members.

The Council also maintains a Register of Allowances and Benefits for Elected Members which is also published on the Council's website and available for public inspection at the Civic Centre during business hours. The register contains information relating to elected members allowances and reimbursements of approved and prescribed expenses.

As a result of a resolution passed by Council on 13 February 2018, this register will include a wider range of expense reimbursements, including interstate and oversea travels. The register will also be reported in the Council agenda on a quarterly basis.

The register is usually updated quarterly once all claims for reimbursements for the relevant quarter have been approved and processed. It is then published on the Council's website shortly after that.

Ms Sandra Bradley	What would be the cost of having a bench at every bus stop? Is this Council's responsibility to place these benches? Can the benches be made from recycled plastic?	Engineering and Horticulture
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City of Mitcham response:

There are 451 bus stops within the City of Mitcham. At present, 159 have bus shelters and 31 have a seat (but no shelter), leaving a total of 261 bus stops without a shelter or seat. The cost to supply and install a seat at a bus stop is around \$2,000 each, so the cost of installing a further 261 seats is around \$522,000. Council and the State Government previously shared the cost of installing seats/shelters at bus stops on a 50:50 basis, however the State funding for the program has now been withdrawn. It is therefore a matter for Councillors to decide if they want to fund a program to install seats/shelters at bus stops. Recycled plastic seats can be used depending on price compared to other products.

Ms Sandra Bradley	What is the ratio of age demographics the Council would like to have?	Chief Executive Officer
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City of Mitcham response:

Council has no preference when it comes to age demographics.

Mrs Sandra Bradley	How many 1 – 2 bedroom homes / units are in the area for 55+ who are independent and looking to downsize	Development Services and Community Safety
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City of Mitcham response:

<p><i>Unfortunately, Council does not collect this information as a matter of course. Information in relation to the number of 1 and 2 bedroom homes/units is available within the Council area from the Office of the Valuer-General, a State Government agency responsible for providing the statutory valuation of every parcel of land in the State.</i></p> <p><i>You may request this information from the Valuer-General but it is likely that they will request a fee for the provision of this information. This is particularly the case now that the State Government has sold the functions of that Office to a Canadian pension fund and is now a business run for profit.</i></p>		
<p>Dr Adrian Geering</p>	<p>Does Mitcham Council (MC) have a masterplan to develop CC Hood Reserve (CCHR) from 2018 – 2022. If yes, when was this developed? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Engineering and Horticulture</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i> <i>A Masterplan was completed following community consultation in 2011. Council resolved in March 2011 to use the Masterplan as the basis for progressively redeveloping CC Hood Reserve.</i></p>		
<p>Dr Adrian Geering</p>	<p>Does Mitcham Council (MC) have an annual maintenance plan and a strategic maintenance plan for CCHR? If yes, please may we have copies? If not, why not</p>	<p>Engineering and Horticulture</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i> <i>Yes. There is a maintenance plan which is based on broad maintenance strategies. The plan is essentially a schedule within a spreadsheet so is not in a form that can be readily provided.</i></p>		
<p>Dr Adrian Geering</p>	<p>1. Please tell us what monies will be included in the budget for the next four financial Years (2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021- 2022) for Maintenance and Capital work for CCHR?? 2. Over the past three financial years (2015-2016, 2016-2017 and current year), how much money has been spent on maintenance and capital works in CCHR??</p>	<p>Engineering and Horticulture and Development Services and Community Safety</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i> 1: Future 4 years <i>Operating budget is dependent on the Council's financial strategy, but operating & maintenance expenditure could be expected on be around \$25,000-\$28,000pa depending on seasonal factors.</i></p> <p><i>New capital investment is allocated annually after Council has considered its financial position.</i></p> <p>Qu 2:</p>		

<p>Past 3 years Operating expenditure 2017/18 – still in progress 2016/17 - \$23,000 2015/16 - \$28,000</p> <p>Upgrade/Capital Expenditure 2017/18 – \$22,000 dog park improvements 2015/16 – Walking path upgrades 2014/15 – Drainage improvements 2014/15 - \$37,000 Gym equipment 2012/13 - \$27,071 Dog park, irrigation & lawn</p> <p>Future expenditure 2017/18 – Council considering funding for new seat (\$2,000) at its meeting on 27 February.</p> <p>2018/19 budget bids have been submitted for: - shelter near BBQ area \$ 30,000 - public toilets \$130,000</p> <p>These bids will be considered as part of the budget deliberations between now and June 2018.</p>																	
Dr Adrian Geering	In the same years, how much money was collected from owners of dogs and cats? How much was spent in the dog park?	Development Services and Community Safety															
<p>City of Mitcham response:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Income from Dogs & Cat</th> <th>Maintenance</th> <th>Improvement on Dog Park</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014-15 \$447,184</td> <td>\$19,660</td> <td>\$36,836</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-16 \$505,482</td> <td>\$28,085</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-17 \$534,008</td> <td>\$22,775</td> <td>\$10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017-18 YTD \$456,981</td> <td>\$5,799</td> <td>\$8,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Income from Dogs & Cat	Maintenance	Improvement on Dog Park	2014-15 \$447,184	\$19,660	\$36,836	2015-16 \$505,482	\$28,085	\$0	2016-17 \$534,008	\$22,775	\$10,000	2017-18 YTD \$456,981	\$5,799	\$8,000
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Dr Adrian Geering	Ratepayers wish to know how decisions are made to upgrade and improve CCHR and how the priorities are determined?	Engineering and Horticulture
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<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i> Councillors typically consider new investment requests (either community, Councillors and/or Administration) annually as part of the budget process which concludes around end of June each year. Priorities are based on a range of issues such as community and EM interest, projects listed in site Master Plans (where these exist) or priorities that arise during the year (egg drainage after storms). Any proposals for CC Hood are considered as part of this process. Ultimately council has to balance available funds against the requests put forward.</p>		
<p>Dr Adrian Geering</p>	<p>Despite a very comprehensive report to Council by CHIME in 2008 and ongoing, most of the items listed by CHIME have been ignored by Council ,such as: basketball hoop; shelter shed covering BBQ; more tables and seating at BBQ; upgrade and have a sun cover for play equipment at North end ; new BBQ and shelter at north end with table and seating ; automatic self-locking toilet ; & remediation of creek on southern end – urgent because it is alleged to have become a health issue because of pollution. What is the expected length of time to achieve these outcomes?</p>	<p>Engineering and Horticulture</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i> Requests for new facilities, including those at CC Hood are reviewed in the context of Council’s likely budget position each year. Budget bids are then submitted annually by Elected Members and/or Administration. In 2018/19 budget bids for CC Hood are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ - shelter near BBQ area \$30,000 ➤ - public toilets \$130,000 <p>Elected Members will consider these bids in context of all requests for 2018/19 and Council forecast budget position. Annual budget is typically signed off in late June each year.</p>		
<p>Dr Adrian Geering</p>	<p>If Mitcham Council (MC) does not have the budget to develop CCHR the Dog park and essential maintenance how is MC going to meet the need for more dog parks and play areas? (e.g. Hills area) when it has failed to deliver and meet ratepayer needs in CCHR (the biggest park in MC area)?</p>	<p>Development Services and Community Safety</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i> The Draft Dog and Cat Management Plan 2018-23 yet to be endorsed by Council currently highlights a number of Key initiatives that could be implemented over the next 5 year life of the plan. Two of those key initiatives are; a proposed second dog park in the hills and; enhancements with seats, dog play equipment, poo bag dispensers, and waste bins (or the like) at other “off Leash” reserves to encourage dog(s) to play and exercise.</p> <p>The majority of the key initiatives would be funded from within the existing budget lines for Animal Management and Reserve Maintenance. The exception would be capital improvements at existing reserves and or a second dog park and Council would need to prioritise this expenditure (if it was to be</p>		

implemented) through Council's normal budget bid process.

Dr Adrian Geering	Past Councillors and the previous Mayor said – we must meet community needs which means we have to borrow money. Does this continue to be the position of MC?	Corporate Services and Innovation
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City of Mitcham response:
Council decisions as part of the Annual Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan, provide for capital investment in new or upgraded community facilities and assets, which may require monies to be borrowed. For 2017/18 an associated \$9.7 million in capital investment was budgeted toward the following:

- *Mitcham Memorial Library Redevelopment*
- *Stormwater Upgrades New / Infrastructure*
- *New Footpaths Construction (Additional Footpaths)*
- *Implementing Brownhill Keswick Creek*
- *St Mary's Clubroom Upgrade*
- *Public Toilets (Mortlock Pk and Windy Point)*
- *City – Belair Bike Route*
- *Way2Go program*
- *Water Sensitive Urban Design Street Features*
- *Sturt Linear Park Trail*
- *Waite Rd and Watahuna Ave Pedestrian Crossings*
- *Pole Rd Black Spot Improvements*
- *Integrated Traffic Plan implementation*
- *Serpentine Traffic Improvements*
- *Minno Creek Retaining Wall*
- *Hawthorn Lawn Tennis Club Toilet*
- *Cumberland Park Community Centre Access*
- *Westbourne Park Memorial Hall Kitchen A/C*

Dr Adrian Geering	There have been grave concerns about ratepayer's money being wasted and misused by Onkaparinga Council and this sentiment is also expressed about MC. What happens in Mitcham Council? Why are supplier costs so high to supply basic items in CCHR?	Corporate Services and Innovation
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City of Mitcham response:
Policies and procedures are in place and are reviewed as required. Internal controls have also recently been reviewed with the implementation of the new corporate systems, with improved automated processes and increased review points in finance and purchasing. Procurement policies and procedures are in

<i>place to seek competitive quotes from the market to ensure value for money and quality work from suppliers.</i>		
Dr Adrian Geering	It is estimated by experts that there is at least 30 % wastage in all organizations. Are you aware that there are the same concerns about MC? When will this be addressed?	Corporate Services and Innovation
<i>City of Mitcham response: The City of Mitcham has an annual programme to identify and achieve financial savings whilst maintaining community service level expectations. \$4.26m in total recurrent savings has been achieved since 1 July 2012.</i>		
Dr Adrian Geering	Who monitors how the bureaucratic activity of MC actually improves outcomes and implementation?	Corporate Services and Innovation
<i>City of Mitcham response: Council's Mayor and thirteen Ward Councillors represent residents and ratepayers. Council provide the direction and authority for Council's ongoing operation through Council and Committee recommendations and resolutions. These resolutions also provide direction to the Chief Executive Officer and are implemented by Council staff. Council publish an Annual Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan outlining the focus for the next twelve months. Progress on implementing the Annual Business Plan and Budget is reported every quarter through council's public meetings. Additionally an Annual Report is prepared outlining councils achievements through the year and progress against strategic initiatives.</i>		
Dr Adrian Geering	Who is responsible for identifying community needs in MC? What processes do they use? How valid are the responses? What determines the outcomes? How is it that those living near affected areas are not contacted? (as happened with CCHR changes and MC report that the community agreed when they were not consulted)	Corporate Services and Innovation
<i>City of Mitcham response: The Mayor and Councillors are elected by the community every four years to represent the community.</i>		
<i>During 2017, Council undertook substantial community consultation in preparing its Strategic Management Plan, which provided the long term direction and aspirations for the Council and Community. A wide variety of engagement processes were undertaken in developing the Plan, including in-depth qualitative workshops with a diverse cross section of the Mitcham community and online feedback from the community.</i>		
<i>Annually building on the direction in the Strategic Management Plan, Council develops the Annual Business Plan and Budget outlining the activities, projects and focus of Council for the ensuing financial year, which the community is invited to provide comment /feedback on during the community consultation period.</i>		
<i>Community consultation is also undertaken in relation to a wide range of strategies and projects undertaken by Council, in accordance with its Public</i>		

<p><i>Consultation Policy and other statutory requirements.</i></p> <p><i>Resident/Ratepayer feedback is also welcome anytime via Website, Phone or face to face to our Civic Centre. Residents can also request a deputation to speak at a Council Meeting, held at 7pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Council Chambers at the Civic Centre.</i></p>		
<p>Dr Adrian Geering</p>	<p>How will MC become more accountable to ratepayers to provide for agreed community needs?</p>	<p>Corporate Services and Innovation</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>Council engages with the community to determine long term aspirations every 4 years in reviewing its Strategic Management Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Annually Council consults with the community in relation to its focuses for the next financial year and how these will be funded and responds to emerging needs through quarterly budget reviews.</i></p> <p><i>Council reports quarterly to the community on the delivery of the Annual Business Plan, as well as annually through the Annual Report.</i></p>		
<p>Dr Adrian Geering</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What report card score out of 10 would you give yourself over the past 3 years in MC? • Two years ago, a question was raised about the Planning Department, and that MCC was one of the worst Councils to deal with. What have you each individually done to change this? • How have staff numbers increased each year over the past 3 years? • How have staff costs increased each year over the past 3 years? • How have rates increased each year over the past 3 years? • What is your position on rate increases? • What is your position on staff and management wage increases each year? • What score out of 10 will you give for the current state of CCHR 	<p>Chief Executive Officer</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>Council has reviewed the service provided by the Planning Department. This has led to both cost savings and reduction in timelines for applicants, this work is ongoing. There is still a need to further reduce the time taken to give a planning approval. This function is in a state of change due to legislative changes at a state level.</i></p> <p><i>Staff numbers have only increased where there are new houses which require servicing (e.g. Craighburn Farm), as a result of a significant increase in our</i></p>		

capital program to fix assets which historically have been allowed to run down and where they are non-rate funded (e.g. improvements to our community centres has led to increased use-age and therefore increased revenue).

Rate increases should be kept to a minimum, over the last 3 years the average rate rises have been 2014/2015 2015/2016 3.80%, 2016/2017 2.75%, 2017/2018 2.90%.

My position on staff and management wage rises is that they should be amounts that ensure the most efficient and effective services to City of Mitcham residents.

There have been improvements to CC Hood Reserve, more improvements are required however this is the case for many reserves across the City. This makes for difficult decisions.

<p>Dr Adrian Geering</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What report card score out of 10 would you give yourself over the past 3 years in MC? • Two years ago, a question was raised about the Planning Department, and that MCC was one of the worst Councils to deal with. What have you each individually done to change this? • How have staff numbers increased each year over the past 3 years? • How have staff costs increased each year over the past 3 years? • How have rates increased each year over the past 3 years? • What is your position on rate increases? • What is your position on staff and management wage increases each year? • What score out of 10 will you give for the current state of CCHR 	<p>Mayor Glenn Spear</p>
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City of Mitcham response:

My score out of 10! I guess that is for residents to decide. If I compare my performance to many of the other Mayors/ Executives that I have encountered in Local Government, I would be confident that I have done better than most. My wife may rate me 5/10 or even less because I don't pick my clothes up and sometimes forget to empty the dishwasher.

The Planning Department still causes me some concerns I think it is improving with a long way to go. I support the initiative to have fewer Councillors on the Council Assessment Panel.

Staff numbers or FTE's have not increased under my stewardship.

Increases in wages have been close to CPI

Staff costs refer previous line

Our rate increases have been less in the previous 3 years than at any recent time

I believe rate increases should be as small as possible but remain within reasonable accounting allocation for on-going maintenance etc.

Staff increases refer above

CC Hood Reserve like all parks needs more money spent on it however of course like all of our assets we are expected to deliver low rates etc. We therefore must plan accordingly we have allocated some resources to CC Hood Reserve this financial year, to some that is not acceptable however a decision for the chamber

<p>Dr Adrian Geering</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you live in Babbage ward? • Why did you wish to serve as a Councillor in MC.? • Are you a member of a political party? • If so which party and how do you deal with this possible conflict of interest? • What is your position on rate increases? • Will you vote to limit rate increases to inflation as many businesses have to do with their staff costs? • What is your position on staff and management wage increases each year? • Will you be standing for re-election? • What outcomes directly have you achieved for Babbage Ward? For CCHR? • What report card score out of 10 would you each give yourself over the past 3 years in MC? • What score out of 10 will you give for the current state of CCHR 	<p><i>Cr Dave Munro</i></p>
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Cr Munro's response:

- Yes
- *Before becoming an elected member in 2010 I noticed that there were a number of processes that were cumbersome and a waste of resources. As an experienced operations manager and as a small business operator I could see that there were a number of improvements that needed to be done. I have a commerce degree and believe that with all these skills I have been able to make administration more accountable in the data and reports provided.*
- No
- N/A
- *Rates should not be higher than LGA CPI. LGA provide a separate figure for councils which focuses on councils costs compared to consumers. I have always opposed high rate rises and advocate for stronger service reviews and process improvements in all areas. I have found it frustrating that other councillors are reluctant to reduce services even when the staff recommendation has been to do so, such as the HACCC program and library hours service review in recent times. Allowing Councillors to have no limit on the rate rise is a dangerous position for ratepayers, regardless of*

the limit there needs to something in place that forces Councillors to be brave enough to make tough calls of what is in or out. Currently the mindset is spend, spend, spend. I hear all too often that it is only X amount

- *As per my Mitcham community news article I have expressed my comments on the pros of rate capping and opposed council contributing to the LGA rate capping campaign. I believe a cap of some sort is important to avoid councillors thinking that they can continue to spend without a ceiling on it.*
- *Yes*
- *You will notice a number of new footpaths in our ward.*
- *I have always prided myself on helping the individual when they were not getting the action they should be.*
- *Stopped the opening of Norman Court proposed by SA Power Networks*
- *Springbank Road redesign*
- *Exercise equipment at CCHR*
- *Water retention at CCHR, strategically placed earth mounds*
- *Sealed walkways*
- *New seats*
- *Watering of oval*
- *Works conducted at dog park*
- *Paving and vehicle access formalised with gates and driveways*
- *7.5, I can always improve.*
- *It has improved since I have been on Council and we have been getting things done consistently over the years. There is more to do, both small and large projects, like BBQ area, toilets, better taps. CCHR is unique with its bush setting so trying to balance the needs of the community and the aesthetics of the reserve is challenging but we are getting there.*

Dr Adrian Geering

- **Do you live in Babbage ward?**
- **Why did you wish to serve as a Councillor in MC.?**
- **Are you a member of a political party?**
- **If so which party and how do you deal with this possible conflict of interest?**
- **What is your position on rate increases?**
- **Will you vote to limit rate increases to inflation as many businesses have to do with their staff costs?**
- **What is your position on staff and management wage increases each year?**
- **Will you be standing for re-election?**
- **What outcomes directly have you achieved for Babbage Ward? For CCHR?**
- **What report card score out of 10 would you each give yourself over the past 3 years in MC?**
- **What score out of 10 will you give for the current state of CCHR**

Cr Yvonne Todd

City of Mitcham response:

Cr Yvonne Todd's response

- *I live in West Eden Hills, within half a kilometre of the ward boundary. I was upfront about this when I campaigned for the position of elected member, and I always represent the ward very strongly.*
- *I wanted to bring my skills, education in public policy, experience in public life, to working with residents to try to improve the amenity of the community we live in.*
- *No*
- *Not applicable*
- *I want to keep them as low as possible. The challenge is how to win support for operational projects and new capital items in Babbage ward, while keeping rates low.*
- *This is a very complex issue and I would like to agree, but there may be special circumstances to be taken into the final consideration. I attend all budget and financial briefings to inform myself and aim to keep rates increases low without jeopardizing services.*
- *Every organization faces the challenge of staff costs. The worry for Babbage is that when projects are proposed or residents ask for work to be done, the answer is often that staff are working on other priorities, and so the request goes on a list. The current priority list for this council is extensive with outstanding work, and can result in long delays in essential infrastructure, for example the Bedford Park egress or the Norman Street water sensitive urban design. I think a CEO needs to have as many staff as is required to get the work done, but should use flexible employment agreements to minimize financial risks.*
- *Yes*
- ***CCHR** – attended all community meetings and raised requests with staff recently to have water quality checked and a clean-up done. Increased seating along walkway by one. Have submitted budget requests for capital works items; toilet and BBQ shelter.*
- *Some of the **recent works in Babbage Ward** that come to mind include:*
- *Springbank Road upgrade and commitment from government to improve Springbank road/Goodwood road intersection; Norman street Water Sensitive Urban Design project; secured council funding and support for St Marys park club upgrade; requested Riverside drive reserve improvements after storm damage, including new fencing, improved playground equipment, extra seat and bins; Bedford park parking issues resolved (for now); participated and provided input into the Development Plan Amendments for Bedford Park and Daws Road Repatriation Hospital site; participated in the Local Area Planning workshops with residents to understand their visions; resolved community issues and secured funding for two Bedford park exits; called special council meeting to request that land (once off sale opportunity) be purchased in Bedford Park to increase the Sturt linear park trail; liaised with DPTI and staff to request the immediate remediation of Ragless reserve; successfully requested that a paved walkway be provided around the courts at Pasadena Tennis club; working with Clapham primary school grounds keeper to secure council support for improving school parking; helped secure the future of Pasadena high school and funding of ten million dollars from State government for improving the school amenity.*
- *Raised profile of St Marys Park by requesting that major council events be held in St Marys Park for the first time, such as the St Marys Multicultural fair and the Ward forum. Secured budget funding for the very successful Community Barbecue events with a local event held in St Marys.*
- *I worked closely with staff to try to have Norman street water sensitive urban design raised on the priority list and completed quickly. Water pipes and*

<p><i>lawn seed have gone in last week.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Worked with residents to prepare applications for the Fund my Neighbourhood grants. Unfortunately, no successful capital projects in Babbage ward but I have included all the unfunded projects in the future funding request list so they can continue to be considered.</i> • Currently an active council Representative on: <i>Darlington South Road Upgrade Community Liaison group, Pasadena High school Governing Council, Bedford Park Residents Association, Springbank Road Community Liaison group, Local area planning group, Southern Business Connections Network, Council Assessment Panel as deputy.</i> • <i>I consistently work hard for improvements our community, some are big changes and some are small. I respond and follow up residents questions to me, quickly.</i> • <i>Residents at the recent CC Hood meeting said that CC Hood is in reasonable condition, but funded capital works improvements are needed. Budget requests have been submitted but they require the support of all other Elected Members. The recent community action for improving CC Hood is welcome, as it strengthens the argument for funding.</i> 		
<p>Mr Peter Reilly</p>	<p>Mitcham has a number of parks that are utilized by the public/rate payers but are lacking in the provision of amenities such as toilets, shade structures, BBQ facilities etc.</p> <p>What if anything is Mitcham Council doing to upgrade and provide these types of facilities to its parks.?</p> <p>When can we expect this to occur?</p> <p><i>(Preamble Mitcham has a number of parks that are utilized by the public/rate payers but are lacking in the provision of amenities such as toilets, shade structures, BBQ facilities and Dog Friendly etc.</i></p> <p><i>What if anything is Mitcham Council doing to upgrade and provide these types of facilities to its parks.? I am a rate payer in Mitcham, however I am regularly using facilities in the Unley Council area, as they seem to recognise that the community not only wants these types of facilities, but will take great advantage of them when provided. It is embarrassing for Mitcham to see how many of Unley's Parks are provided with toilets, quality modern play equipment for multiple ages, and BBQ facilities while being Dog Friendly.</i></p> <p><i>I will look to undertake a count and provide this to the councillors on the evening and will seek a response as to why so many of the Mitcham Council's parks do not have these facilities, they have not upgraded or planned upgrades to these parks and yet its neighbouring council have no problem in providing such amenities.</i></p> <p><i>I also don't expect to hear rhetoric about the new facilities being provided to Mortlock Park through the Fund My Neighbourhood program as this is the community undertaking the responsibilities of the Council by seeking such amenities for this park. '</i></p>	

City of Mitcham response:

Council's forward investment plans are guided by Asset management Plans which establish the level of investment needed to maintain existing infrastructure. Councillors also consider each year what new infrastructure should be constructed. These decisions are taken in context of Council's long term financial plan which balances expenditure, rates and debt. There are many demands on the Council's budget. Recent focus has been on building new footpaths, improving sport clubrooms and addressing long standing stormwater problems such as flooding in Brownhill Creek. Council also recently decided to upgrade and expand the Mitcham Memorial Library. As Council considers its 2018/19 budget, priorities such as new public toilets, playgrounds and BBQ's are being considered within budget constraints.

<p>Mrs Carla Baron</p>	<p>Understanding that it was a Development Panel decision to refuse Bunnings application, I want to know what Councillors sat on that Committee and how they voted. I am very angry that we lost this great opportunity because of perceived complaints by another business. Many of our community have indicated that they did not even think to attend because they thought it would just go through and they are devastated that it did not.</p> <p>Follow-up questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How much money (rates, job opportunities, etc.) did our city lose in revenue as a result of this decision? b. How can the community be aware of such meetings to avoid further disappointments such as this? <p>(Comment- I think transparency is important in these issues so that when we next vote for our Council, we can make an informed choice in knowledge of how our Councillors act on our behalf).</p>	<p>Development Services and Community Safety</p>
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City of Mitcham response:

The Development Assessment Panel is a planning authority in its own right that operates independently from Council. The panel at the time was comprised of three Elected Members and four independent experts. Whilst the Elected Members on the Panel are Councillor's they are performing a planning assessment role which operates independently from Council. The Elected Members of the Panel at the time was Andrew Tilley, Nicholas Economos and Karen Hockley. Individual votes are not recorded rather the overall decision on a majority basis.

Following Bunnings purchasing the property the property converted from a General Rated property to a Commercial Rated property, as a result Council has and does receive rates from Bunnings in the order of \$20,000. It is possible that the additional assessed rates could increase greater or less than \$20,000 depending on the change in capital valuation attributed to the proposed development by the Valuer-General at the time of assessment.

No rate monies have been lost as such as the total rates are set to fund the annual budgeted objectives (Council's Annual Business Plan). The rate share on each rate payer is based on their portion of the total rated city's capital valuation. What has happened is that an opportunity to provide possible rate relief to all other rate payers where the proposed Bunning's site could have contributed a greater portion rates has been missed.

The Applicants Economic Analysis Report accompanying the Development Application suggested the creation of 50 FTE construction jobs over a 12 month period and then up to 190 people in fulltime/part time/casual ongoing employment. This equates to 135 FTE with another 120 indirect flow on jobs using the ABS retail employment multiplier.

Future rate income nor employment opportunities from the site are not known at this stage as the site remains undeveloped. It is clear however that the site enjoys significant future development potential and that employment and rates income will occur.

The Council Assessment Panel conducts its business in an open public meeting which is held 1st Thursday of each month at the Civic Centre. Agenda's and Minutes of the meetings are all viewable on Council's Website. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

<p>Mrs Carla Baron</p>	<p>In a discussion with a CofM Officer about an issue on our street where the bitumen covering work done by another service (Gas works) has left the surface in poor condition, the Officer mentioned that there is a one year window to advise the service of problems to be rectified. How does the City manage this? Are there audits done following work to insure it is satisfactory? Or why does the City not inform residents of such arrangements so they can assist and advise? In our case, the year had come and gone and it is just tough luck!</p>	<p>Engineering and Horticulture</p>
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City of Mitcham Response

Council has a staff member whose role is to manage the reinstatement of Council assets by third parties including the major utility companies.

Council does not routinely contact local residents about reinstatement works in and around their residence.

<p>Mrs Carla Baron</p>	<p>I understand that at least one of our Councilors is currently running in the upcoming State election. In such instances, does the person have to resign from Council or do they just take leave? Follow-up questions: a. Can we assume that if they are unsuccessful in their quest for higher office,</p>	<p>Organisational and Community Development</p>
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	<p>that they will come back? b. And, how can we be assured of their interest in our affairs knowing we are second best to higher ambitions?</p>	
<p>City of Mitcham Response</p> <p><i>Councillor Hockley is a SA Best candidate for the Davenport electorate. There is no legal requirement for an Elected Member who is a candidate in a State or Federal election to resign from Council or take leave. A motion requesting a Leave of Absence for Cr Hockley has been placed on the Council Agenda for the meeting to be held on Tuesday 27th February 2018.</i></p> <p><i>If an Elected Member becomes a member of Australian Parliament (i.e. is successful at the State Election), their office with Council becomes vacant. In this instance, if the Elected Member is not successful, at the end of their approved Leave of Absence they will return to their normal Elected Member role. The general duties and the code of conduct for Elected Members is prescribed in the Local Government Act.</i></p>		
<p>City of Mitcham response:</p>		
<p>Mr David Nimmo</p>	<p>I would like to know why the planned and constructed wetlands adjacent to the water pump station on the corner of Belair and Springbank Roads has never been allowed to fill with water despite significant rain fall on a number of occasions since the facility was established several years ago. If this is not within the Babbage boundaries, it would be nice if the relevant person responsible for this area could supply me with a reason for this situation.</p>	<p>Engineering and Horticulture</p>
<p>City of Mitcham response:</p> <p><i>The reservoir and pumping station complex at the corner of Belair and Springbank Road is owned and operated by SA Water and are not council facilities. It is our understanding that the “wetland” is in fact a storage basin used by SA Water if they need to empty the reservoir or if the reservoir overflows for some reason. On this basis, it would normally be dry to ensure that the maximum capacity is achieved. Council has built a number of stormwater “wetlands” including in Norman St Reserve and at Day Avenue Reserve. In normal circumstances these remain dry, but fill with water during storm events. The water slowly infiltrates to the soil after rain and assist in watering plants and local trees as well as filtering out nutrients.</i></p>		
<p>Mr Brian Triplow</p>	<p>At a public meeting in Hood Reserve recently, people in attendance were asked to nominate what improvements they would like to see made to the reserve. The suggestion I put forward would be to remove the children’s playground from its current position at the northern end of the park and re-install it up near the oval and the BBQ area.</p>	<p>Engineering and Horticulture</p>

	<p>This would enable parents picnicking by the oval to supervise young children adequately and not feel concerned at them being alone far removed from their picnic group.</p>	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response: Thank you for the suggestion.</i></p>		
<p>Mr Brian Triplow</p>	<p>Compliment - Springbank Road The Springbank Road upgrade is now virtually complete, the traffic is moving smoothly, the numerous pedestrian refuges provide much safer crossing points for pedestrians, and dedicated bike lanes cater for cyclists. Congratulations to Council staff for their involvement and persistence which has achieved an excellent and very safe outcome for all road users.</p>	<p>Engineering and Horticulture</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham response: Thank you for the feedback.</i></p>		
<p>Mr Brian Triplow</p>	<p><i>(Preamble) At a meeting at St Therese Primary School on Monday, 27 November 2017, MP Steven Mulligan and MP Martin Hamilton-Smith, together with DPTI representatives, all assured the public in attendance that the money for the realignment of Daws Road with Springbank Road has been budgeted for, and the work is guaranteed to proceed, however, construction timing would be influenced by the South Road upgrade works. I have not seen any reinforcement of this promise in any election material or announcements to date.</i></p> <p>Q.1 Has Council had any communication from DPTI since this meeting to confirm the project status?</p> <p>Q.2 Has DPTI indicated a proposed commencement date for the work to proceed?</p> <p>Q.3 Is Council aware as to whether DPTI has notified or negotiated with any of the affected landowners, in particular Bedford Industries, of what impact compulsory acquisitions would have on their properties?</p> <p>Q.4 Is Council aware of what planning works have been undertaken by DPTI since the meeting of 27 November 2017, and when will the proposed realignment plans be</p>	<p>Engineering and Horticulture</p>

	available for public inspection?	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>Email received from Mr Triplow - Martin Hamilton-Smith delivered an extensive feature insert today in the Messenger newspaper which does confirm that the project is intended to proceed. The other questions relating to time-line and planning process are still relevant however.</i></p> <p><i>1: Council is not aware of any change in commitments from the State Government. Discussions with DPTI indicate that design work is continuing.</i></p> <p><i>2. No</i></p> <p><i>3. We understand that DPTI has contacted and commenced discussions with potentially affected landholders.</i></p> <p><i>4: Design work continues. We do not have a specific date for release of the design plans.</i></p>		
<p>Anonymous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a plan to construct footpaths, even if on just one side of the street, or does Council consider footpaths unnecessary? • Does Council have any liability if someone walking on the roadway is hit by a vehicle? <p><i>(Preamble] I have been a resident of Panorama for over 40 years. About 99.999% of people who walk down our street do so on the roadway because there is no footpath on either side of the street.</i></p> <p><i>This is not an uncommon situation. There are other streets in Panorama with no footpaths.</i></p>	<p>Engineering and Horticulture</p>
<p><i>City of Mitcham Response</i></p> <p><i>Council has been allocating around \$500,000 per annum for a number of years to fund new footpath construction. The location of new footpaths is determined by a range of factors including the potential usage, whether the footpath services a school or aged care facility selection of which streets receive a new footpath is</i></p>		
<p>Anonymous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would be the fuel and time saving if all bins were placed for collection on just one side of each street, and the trucks covered the entire street in just one pass? • Yes, I realise that some residents would have to pull their bins across a road, and for the elderly this might be regarded as difficult, but would the benefits outweigh the difficulty <p>(Preamble I believe I may have raised the following matter before, but nothing has changed, and I think it is worthy of some consideration.</p>	<p>Engineering and Horticulture</p>

	Currently kerbside waste collection vehicles travel down one side of a street, and at some later stage return along the opposite side).	
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for the suggestion. Council has not investigated the potential savings at this point mainly due to the logistics and safety issues residents arising if 50% of residents had to pull 2 bins across to the opposite side of the road and back each week. At this point in time resources are allocated to other issues.</i></p>		
Anonymous	<p>On the Council website there is a "Request for Service" section where some form of Council action is needed. It is possible to record full details of a problem, but it might be useful if Council also recorded against the same item what action was taken, or reasons why action might have been deemed unnecessary.</p> <p><i>(Preamble I reported a "temporary parking" sign that had been left, or dumped as part of a prank, in a local lane-way. Some weeks later it was still there, and I reported it again. Years later it is still there, even though Council employees/contractors have been in the lane-way to cut or poison grass - surely they might have reported back that the sign was there for no apparent reason? No, it doesn't bother me, and I am not going to report it again. It is simply an example of where Council might improve communication with residents, and employees/contractors)</i></p>	Corporate Services and Innovation
<p><i>City of Mitcham response:</i></p> <p><i>The City of Mitcham recently implemented the new system and there will be ongoing work to ensure that processes are improved to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. The new system will be improved in the coming months so that the search capability is available for customers, which will allow them to monitor the progress of their "Request for Service".</i></p>		
Mr Geoffrey Hill	Could Council post us a copy of the yearly rubbish collection calendar and time table please. We have been living here for 20 years and never have received one.	Engineering and Horticulture
<p><i>City of Mitcham Response:</i></p> <p><i>The Kerbside Collection Calendar contains information on the time table and it runs from April to March the following year. The new Calendar will be distributed on/by the end of March 2018. In instances where residents have been missed, it is then posted to them. Further, information on the collection schedule is available through an APP called My Local Service app on www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/mylocalservices</i></p>		
Mr Geoffrey Hill	We only get the occasional Mitcham Council Community News?	Engineering and Horticulture

The Messenger Press is owned by News Limited and is distributed across the City of Mitcham. Residents living in St Marys should receive the HillsValley Messenger Press. Distribution enquiries can be directed to the Messenger Press on 1800 648 591.

The City of Mitcham engages a private distribution company to distribute the Mitcham Community News to all residential properties across the City. Council encourage residents who are not receiving a copy of the Mitcham Community News to contact Council directly on 8372 8888 so we can follow up directly with the distribution company. Council will contact the distribution company regarding the address provided. The Mitcham Community News can also be collected from the City of Mitcham, Libraries and Community Centres and is also available online at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

A number of questions were raised from the floor and discussion followed on the following topics (in addition to the above):

- Speeding restrictions Caulfield Road Melrose Park
- Access to the internet and free Wi-Fi spots
- Hillview Reserve
- The future of the Repatriation Hospital and surrounds
- The future of the old TAFE site, Panorama
- Norman Street Reserve Wetlands
- Gender equality (Elected Members and staff)
- Bike paths throughout the City of Mitcham
- Footpaths – Leila Street Bedford Park

The meeting closed at 9.00pm