



## Glen Eira

### The Elsternwick Club Advisory Committee

### Minutes

Wednesday 13 August 2025

6.00 pm – 7.30 pm

Elsternwick Club - 19 Sandham Street Elsternwick

Present

#### Councillors:

Cr Simone Zmood (Chair)

Cr Margaret Esakoff

Cr Sam Parasol

Councillor committee member

Councillor committee member

Councillor committee member (*left part way through meeting*)

#### Community Representatives:

Heather Mallinson

Desiree Lucchese

Sue Pennicuik

Janice Iloni

Tim Ryder

Danielle Hersz

Rosemary Cho

Theodore Della Bosca

Valentine Gnanakone

Community committee member

Community committee member

Community committee member (online)

Community committee member

Community committee member

Community committee member

Community committee member

Community committee member

Community committee member

#### Council Officers

Rosa Zouzoulas

Matthew Barbetta

Alex Leamy

Sue Monagle

Freya Keam

Director Planning and Place

Coordinator Open Space

Manager Public Affairs

Acting Manager City Futures

Community Engagement Advisor

#### Apologies

Andrew Robert

Matt Slavin

Community committee member

Manager City Futures

**Meeting commenced 6.00 pm**

**1. Introduction**

Cr Simone Zmood (Chair)

Cr Zmood welcomed the Committee, noted apologies and acknowledged Traditional Owners and Custodians

**Conflicts declaration**

Cr Simone Zmood (Chair)

Nil

**2. Action items from previous meeting**

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/Closed
Feedback/Design	Officers to commence work on traffic and parking resolutions for Sandham Street	Work commenced and this will work parallel and alongside Elsternwick Club Project	Matt Barbetta	Closed (traffic work remains active)
Concept Revision	Hassell to revise concept plan in light of committee feedback	Presented to committee 13 August 2025	Matt Barbetta	Closed

**3. Summary of meeting minutes from previous meeting** Cr Simone Zmood (Chair)

The previous meeting was held on Tuesday 23 July. The minutes were noted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting.

The committee welcomed improved accessibility along Alison Road and supported traffic calming, with a pedestrian crossing on Sandham Street seen as essential. Indigenous planting and mosaics were well received, with emphasis on acknowledging Traditional Owners. Members supported reducing pavilion hard space and adding terraced seating but suggested relocating seating from Sandham Street to the heritage lawn. Concerns included car parking, elderly access, balancing lawn with planting, and potential noise from a kitchen garden.

**4. Items for Discussion**

**4.1 Presentation on revised concept plans and committee feedback**

Rosa Zouzoulas provided a brief update on the process since the last committee meeting, noting that further revisions to the plans have been undertaken following the

feedback obtained from the committee on 23 July 2025. Committee members were provided with a set of the revised plans and invited to view the plans.

Matt Barbetta then presented the updated schematic design noting that the concept is one that continues to consider the ecology and biodiversity as well as focusing on habitat of the site, and, building on 'the commons' theme, the feedback from the previous meeting has been used to develop the updated concept plans with the following changes.

- The flattening out of the park's interface to Allison Road creating a more accessible, open and welcoming interface which manages level differences better.
- An increase in the size of the children's play space, and the proposal for unique play pieces which integrate with the environment. The larger space will allow for the inclusion of play pieces to cater for a larger play range. The Grove has also been reduced to accord with the increase in the play area however it continues to create service as both a barrier between the playground and the road, and quiet shaded social space.
- Further reduction in the size of the pavilion area overlooking the open lawn area.
- The Sandham Street spill out area reconfigured to allow for increased planting of the nature strip, relocation of seating to the heritage lawn area.
- The wombat pedestrian crossing moved to east away from crossover, and allowing 5-6 car spaces to the west.
- Exploration of material re-use presented with colour palette developed building elements such as the cream bricks from around the kitchen for future paving and other opportunities to be explored.

Councillor Zmood welcomed questions from the committee along the way.

Cr Esakoff suggested incorporating heritage themes into the play space, such as equipment that reflects the era of the building, with a small merry-go-round as one example. Cr Zmood agreed that heritage connections should be embedded throughout the site.

A committee member raised questions about the sculptural style of the proposed play equipment, what age groups it would serve, and whether it would appeal to children, while also querying the future use of the pavilion. MB explained that decisions on the building's use are still to come and will guide how the pavilion is best utilised. He also noted that the design team has been briefed to select equipment that caters for a range of ages and allows children to transition between activities as they grow.

Members also discussed the lack of teen feedback in the early consultation. It was asked whether changes could be made once broader consultation captures this cohort. RZ confirmed there will be opportunity to adjust the plans after engagement if required.

## **5. Presentation of engagement approach**

After a short introduction to the engagement to date by Alex Leamy, Freya Keam outlined the future plan for engagement noting the following:

- Freya confirmed that phase 2 engagement will commence on 26 September running through to the 26 October. The committee will then meet again in November to consider the feedback and any changes to the plans which we may wish to make after hearing from the community. The intention is to finalise the plans by the end of the year.
- Phase 2 consultation will clearly communicate that its scope is limited to the public open space component. The building use component will be identified as outside of the scope of this consultation period.
- Freya identified the key audiences for phase 2 engagement to be local communities, residents, local schools, businesses in Glen Huntly Road. She highlighted that phase 2 engagement will target traders, younger age groups, and aim to connect with carers of those living with disabilities to gather input from their lived experience. The Disability Reference Committee would also be engaged. The broader Glen Eira community was also identified for notification as it was noted that it will be a place for all of Glen Eira residents.
- Council's 'Have your say' page will be utilised including quick polls and single questions being a great way to capture high level sentiment. The idea of a 'social map' where the concept plan is overlayed on the geo-referenced map which respondents can interact with by placing virtual pins on elements of the plan they like/dislike will also be considered, along with online surveys for those wanting to provide more detailed feedback. Ge News will also be utilised.
- Other engagement points will include in person pop up engagements in Staniland Road and Glen Huntly Road as well as Harleston Park and Hopetoun Park. Intercept engagement at Elsternwick Library will also be considered.
- Councillor Zmood added that she would reach out to the schools and potentially childcare centres to organise a Mayoral visit, potentially with pictures of the project. A committee member added that she was a member of the community house and could reach out to creche and preschool

Freya concluded by stating that at the end of engagement, the measure of success will aim for 50% of Elsternwick residents engaged, capturing younger people.

Several comments and questions from community members and Councillors were offered. In particular;

- A community member queried the timing of the decision on the use of the building. Rosa explained that this will involve analysing existing community uses in the area and then using that information coupled with further analysis of community needs to tell us what the gaps in services are, and what are some potential uses for this building which are not already being filled by other buildings in the area. Rosa explained that this work is currently being considered and that Council should be in a position to come back to the committee early next year. The committee will be able to make comment on whether it thinks the identified need is correct – have we got it right? Councillor Zmood commented that the community needs are being considered in parallel to the current

landscaping project but the committee will have a big part in the building use component of the project.

- A committee member asked about the status of works in Staniland Grove and expressed concern about the poor lighting. Freya explained that new streetscape works are proposed to make it more welcoming and appealing and that the lighting was an issue raised in recent engagement. Rosa commented that City Futures are still finalising the plans and that she would feed that information back to the team. (Staniland Grove is a current project)
- Councillor Esakoff suggested the fitness pods which cater to young people through to elderly residents may be a good idea. Matt Barbetta responded that bigger parks generally cater for this type of equipment, noting Elsternwick Park has a loop there.
- Conversation returned to engagement with surrounding schools with committee members suggesting extending notification to Adas Israel School, Caulfield Grammar, Ripponlea Primary, Gandel Besen House.
- A committee member questioned whether we have contacted local indigenous groups and Matt advised that we are engaging on various aspects of the project with Council's Aboriginal Community Officer

## **6. Next Steps**

Matt Barbetta advised that draft concept plans will go to Council on 25 September 2025, with engagement running 26 September–26 October. Findings will be reported to Council on 6 November, and final plans are expected for endorsement in February 2026.

Cr Zmood noted the period before settlement provides an opportunity to advocate for State and Federal funding, with philanthropy also a possible option.

In response to questions on funding, Rosa advised landscaping will likely rely on State support and the LTCWP, delivered in stages due to budget constraints. A member also highlighted the importance of such spaces given shifts to working from home.

Other items mentioned included the naming process which will be presented in coming months – with a formal process exploring indigenous, local and social reference and historical options.

Matt B provided a summary of the committee's feedback from the evening, noting that the project is progressing well and highlighting that there are still meaningful opportunities for further input to shape the project

## **8.0 Next Meeting**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November - 6.00pm meeting at Glen Eira City Council offices**

Brief Agenda – Examine broad engagement findings and review final concept designs.