



Mt Barker & District Residents' Association Inc

PO Box 494 Mount Barker, South Australia 5251

For the Community

18 Sept 2015

Dear Luke

The Mt Barker and District Residents' Association is pleased to provide feedback to the Gawler Street draft Master Plan.

As with the Mt Barker Showgrounds reports, this report prepared by Jensen Consultants is easy to read, relevant and an informative presentation of the key issues, options and next steps. The consultants have engaged with the community in a variety of ways to ensure there is a broad cross section of feedback informing their findings for this report.

We agree with the 10 Priorities for Change. Our feedback for each of these is noted below:

1. Make the Adelaide Rd/Gawler street entrance a AAA experience.

- In principle a great idea except that the main vacant site is owned by the Gilbert family and would require either Council purchase or extensive negotiation to ensure it became the vision that is suggested.
- Also the car parking that it now provides is used extensively and an easy alternative would be required to replace this. The shops and banks at this end of Gawler Street benefit from this parking and we suggest would be loath to see it removed.
- The safe crossing to Auchendorroch must be a key priority. It is only a matter of time before someone is injured or killed whilst trying to skirt the traffic and get across Adelaide Road safely. It's also difficult to cross from Nonna's or the bank to Millies now so pedestrian access and flow is a key point in this plan.

2. Parklets Trial

- Great idea and working well in Adelaide on various streets. Anyone who frequents any of the restaurants or cafes in Gawler Street would appreciate this.

3. Refresh Seating

- Don't remove the existing seating as Business Mt Barker have funded this and it would be a waste of time and money.
- Put in new and interesting seating, perhaps designed by some members of the community; have different styles and don't have them all facing buildings but have some facing outwards to the movement and people.

4. Improve the intersections

- Yes! Especially the Gawler St/Hutchinson St intersection. Again you take your life into your hands trying to cross this.

5. Extend the Main Street East to Cameron Road

- Yes great idea, and eventually extend down to Dutton Road over the historic bridge as the power is underground, the heritage lighting extends to here too. This will enable a walking/cycling link to the shops adjacent to the Mt Barker Train Station, and onto the Homemaker Centre.

6. Refreshed and consistent landscape

- Good idea but don't make everything the same – allow for some new and interesting designs. Use school children and artisans' ideas too. We would suggest not using landscapers who suggest planting long rows of the one type of foliage (usually non-native). It would be an opportunity to try to create landscapes that attract some of the small native birds that abound in the town. You can create a consistent style (particularly with hardware like kerbing / paving / seating etc) without taking the same approach to planting.

7. Create an interesting night time environment

- This will be up to the traders to create. Right now it's a joke! On a Monday night after 8.30pm you cannot get a coffee in the CBD – not only in Gawler Street but also not at Giovannis or Aqua. It will require one brave trader to start and the others will follow. The Barker Hotel was dead on Monday night too. If Council can develop incentives for the businesses to remain open beyond 5.30pm that would be a good thing but the economic reality with overtime wages etc makes this difficult for a Council to manage. So the emphasis has to be on several traders 'having a go' and perhaps getting some rate relief or something? There has to be some attraction appropriate to the community to invigorate a place at night – East End of Rundle St is easy because there is so much else going on there, with large numbers of restaurants and a local population of young urban professionals who are looking for night life. This is not the population of Mt Barker and the reality is, Australia is not like Europe where the tradition of evening strolling brings people onto the street. It's a vexed issue.

8. Laneway treatments

- Great idea, many good examples in the city.

9. Increase activities through events and small scale activities

- The Jazz Fest and Lounge events were examples where the street was closed off for a certain time to enable these events to be held without traffic interference. Perhaps there could be more of these?

10. Support a Gawler St Trader's group

- This is unclear to us. Is there not already a Gawler Street Traders' group? Or is this Business Mt Barker which runs from the levy that all Gawler St business owners have to pay via their rates? Or is Business Mt Barker a group for all businesses in Mt Barker?
- What about having a Community Reference Group so that the community can be involved in the decisions about this and other aspects of the town?

Other comments

- Ensure the heritage of the street and buildings is always maintained, promoted and considered.
- Ensure this plan links to the Town Centre DPA and Transport Master plan

- Include further emphasis on pedestrian/cycle linkages in and out of the Gawler Street precinct
- Consider traffic flow and parking issues but not in isolation to increased activities
- Include consideration of signage and decorating constraints on existing heritage facades
- Provide owners with incentives to restore their heritage properties
- Consider limiting the amount of Op Shops
- Encourage more restaurants and coffee shops
- Ensure a mixed bag of traders

Thank you for the opportunity to present this feedback to you. We look forward to the next steps in the process.

Kind regards

Dianne van Eck

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Chairperson