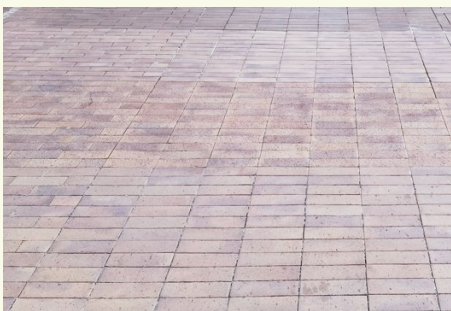


Norwood Matters



August, 2022

Where in Norwood is this?



We have posted the picture above on [our website](#), under “latest posts”. Click on the link to tell us where it is, or to comment on any item featured in this newsletter.

July’s photo was of brick tiles that Council is considering for its upgrade of The Parade footpaths. It is outside the Town Hall on George Street. With all reflections and shadows, it was difficult to distinguished the tiles, so we have posted a new version, which you can see by clicking on the thumbnail to the left.

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Your committee at work

As well as mounting the AGM + presentations, we [commented on the council's Built Heritage Strategy](#).

President Ian Radbone provided input into an [Advertiser article on council rate increases](#) (15 August) and was interviewed on 5AA about this.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM held last month saw Ian Radbone and Tom Smith re-elected as President and Secretary/Treasurer respectively. The committee members from the previous year – Chris Francis, Alison Wood and David Althorp – were also re-elected. Kay Wiggins was also elected to the committee at the meeting. Given that we are still well under the maximum number of positions provided for in the constitution, we were pleased to welcome another new member, Brenda Harris, who offered to join the committee after the meeting.

The meeting adopted a series of minor changes to the Constitution that were mainly designed to bring the Constitution into the age of electronic communication. You can read the draft minutes, which includes a link to the revised Constitution, as well as the President's report and Treasurer's report, [here](#).

The AGM followed a presentation from council staff about all the new capital works projects on which the Council is engaged this year. Thanks to Keke Michalos, Jared Barnes and Paul Mercorella for succinctly covering so many projects in a way that kept us informed and entertained.

Next general meeting

The next general meeting will be another (!) Meet the Candidates session. We will be inviting all candidates for the two Norwood Wards, as well as Mayoral candidates. More details in the next newsletter.

Council elections

Norwood residents are represented by four councillors; two from the West Norwood/ Kent Town ward (which also includes Hackney) and two from the Kensington/ East Norwood ward. Edward Street is the dividing line between the two wards.

At this stage we understand that the two East Norwood councillors intend to stand again, as will Sue Whittington in Norwood West. However Fay Patterson will not be standing for re-election in Norwood West, creating a good opportunity to see new blood on council.

Assuming he runs again, long-time Mayor Robert Bria will face competition. West Norwood/ Kent Town ward resident Sue Litchfield has announced that she will be a contender for the position. Until recently, Ms. Litchfield ran her own legal practice, specialising in the areas of Family Law, Child Protection and some

Criminal Law. Between 2003 and 2007 she acted for multiple victims of sexual abuse in the Anglican Church seeking compensation for them. Ms Litchfield also appeared in the Olsson Inquiry into the Anglican Church and The Mullighan Inquiry into State abuse of children.

Judging by her press release, Ms Litchfield will be running on the issues of heritage protection and financial responsibility. She is also concerned about high rise development along The Parade. [We have posted the full press release on our website.](#)

Planning matters

120 The Parade approved

The State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP) has approved revised plans for a new eight storey development behind the shops on The Parade, opposite Dan Murphys. The images below show the rejected proposal (left) and the approved proposal (right).



Spot the difference!

The [Planning report recommending approval](#) seems to give full marks for effort, noting that the revised plans “*attempted to reduce the perceived bulk and scale of the development when viewed from The Parade by breaking the front façade into two segments*” (emphasis added).

If you don’t think there was much effort in evidence, perhaps you are swayed by the argument that the revised proposal “exhibits a simplified architectural expression and materiality that references the immediate locality”. Or maybe you aren’t.

Planning review

South Australia’s controversial new Planning and Design Code introduced in March 2021 is now under review, with the Malinauskas government seeking to address ongoing and serious community concerns about the Code’s ability to deliver the right building and development outcomes for our state. Issues already publicly highlighted include:

The need to more effectively protect heritage, character and the natural environment within our neighbourhoods

Disallowing without formal approval, the demolition of historic but unlisted buildings lying outside designated protection zones

Far greater Council control over local development decisions/projects

A much better industry and community balance within the State Planning Commission and SCAP (State Commission Assessment Panel)

Restoration of resident appeal rights against inappropriate development

A user-friendly portal with supportive computer software, to satisfy both professional and non-professional applicants

Greater transparency, consistency, fairness and accountability in decision-making processes.

This list is by no means exhaustive, but it's a useful starting point to get us all thinking about what we as residents ultimately want. The current small window of opportunity (roughly until mid/late November, 2022...., with an exact end date still to be advised) to influence existing government policy should not be ignored. Given that Norwood's face is already changing, we need to seriously consider just how far we want that to go!!

Silence is the enemy of change, so contact your politicians to ensure your voice is heard and your grievances/suggested improvements to our system are clear. (Use the following link to access their details)

Feel free to phone Chris Francis (NRA Committee – Mob: 0419 826 918) with any queries.

Are we getting value for money?

The recent increase in Council rates has left us asking, are we getting value for money? In truth, it is very hard to say. While our Council's increase this year is the highest in the metro area, our Council is also undertaking its biggest capital works program in history, and it argues that this increase follows a decade of below average increases. Also, the latest survey of residents and businesses revealed more support for better services than for lower rates.

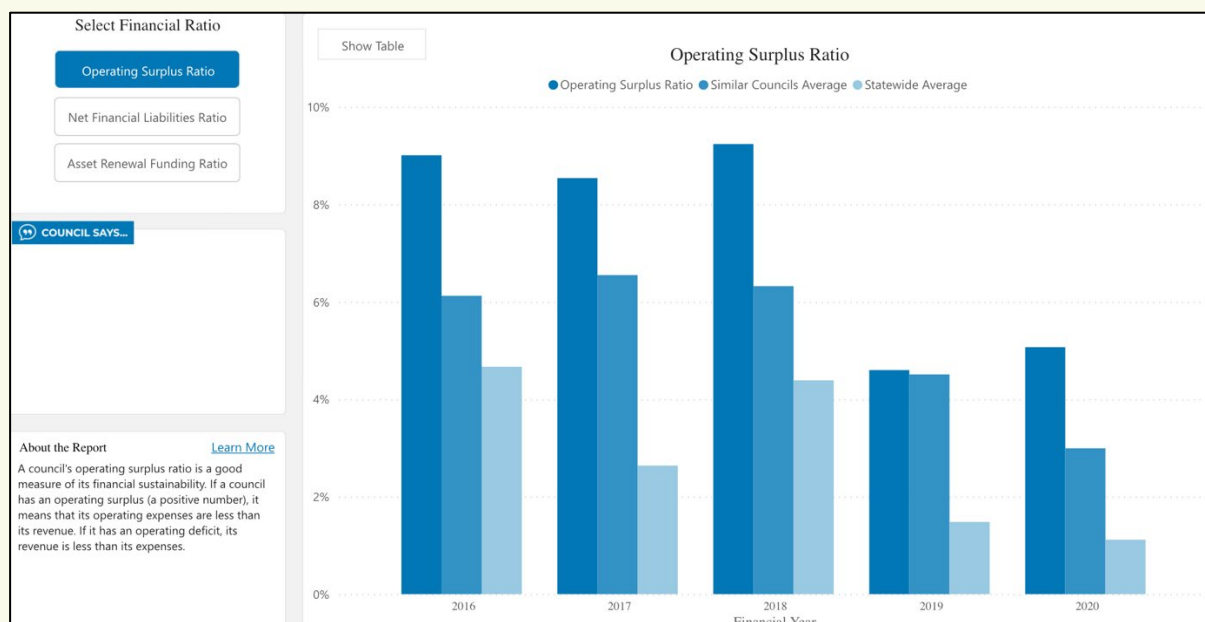
It's more relevant to compare how much we pay compared with residents in other council areas, but even this would only be meaningful if we can say that we have the same services, the same quality of parks, libraries, footpaths etc.

The State government's [Councils in Focus](#) is your best website for comparing Councils. The following figures compare our Council with our neighbours in terms of how much the Council spent per resident on its operating costs, in 2020. The table also includes examples of the big Councils and a country Council.

Council	Operating expenses, 2020	Population, 2020	Expenses per resident
Salisbury	\$117,900,000	144,900	\$814
Campbelltown	\$49,200,000	53,100	\$927
Onkaparinga	\$178,300,000	174,600	\$1,021
Burnside	\$49,000,000	46,100	\$1,063
NPSP	\$43,400,000	37,500	\$1,157
Unley	\$46,700,000	39,400	\$1,185
Walkerville	\$10,600,000	8,094	\$1,310
Cleve	\$5,400,000	1,780	\$3,034

What do you think? [Feel free to comment.](#)

There is a lot of other interesting data on the site. The following graph is an example, showing how our council compares with similar Councils and with all Councils in the state. It suggests that our Council's administration always spends less than what the Councillors budgeted for at the beginning of the year. You might be pleased with this, but note that it is possibly because the administration doesn't do all it was asked to do. For example Councillors have budgeted for a Public Arts Officer for several years, but the position has never been filled.



The State government's Essential Services Commission is required under recent amendments to the Local Government Act to established an "advisory scheme to give ratepayers confidence that the rates they pay are set at the level necessary for their council to provide the services they value." The Commission has recently released a [document that explains the approach that will be taken](#).

The Commission will be reviewing each council on a four yearly basis, essentially to determine whether they are managing within the Council's long term financial plan. While this is pretty limited, hopefully it will enable us to see things like the maintenance costs of Council infrastructure, and whether Councils are meeting these, or are building up unsustainable costs for the future.

Upcoming entertainment

• 26/8	The Ultimate Beatles Experience	Regal Theatre
• 27/8	ARBA Memphis Blues Challenge Final	Norwood Hotel
• 27/8	Paulini Sings the American Divas	Regal Theatre
• 28/8	Broadway Sessions: Our 7th Birthday	Norwood Hotel
• 2/9	Dusty - In Concert	Regal Theatre
• 3/9	Chris Lloyds - "The Hits of the Crooners"	Regal Theatre
• 4/9	Australian Doctors Symphony Orchestra Concert	Norwood Concert Hall
• 4/9	Adelaide Philharmonia Chorus - "Northern Lights"	Wesley Uniting Church
• 10/9	The Locals "Rock the Parade"	Norwood Hotel
• 11/9	Grandeur and Happiness - Norwood Symphony Orchestra	Norwood Concert Hall
• 17/9	Jumpin' Jack Flash	Regal Theatre
• 25/9	Music from Stage and Screen: Adelaide Harmony Choir	Wesley Uniting Church

Plus many bands at the Norwood Hotel, Cue Bar, Robin Hood, Kensi etc. For full details go to the Showbook website (<https://showbook.com.au>) or use the app.

Implementation of the Parking Policy

Last month's Norwood Matters discussed the delay in the implementation of the new on-street Parking Policy. Cr Whittington told those present at last month's AGM that that she thought that the policy was being implemented, giving as evidence a change to the parking conditions outside where she lived.

Checking with staff, we were told that the implementation has not happened yet, but that occasional short-term controls are being installed.

This suggests that if you want action in your area, you should approach your local councillors, or staff, or both, and do it often.

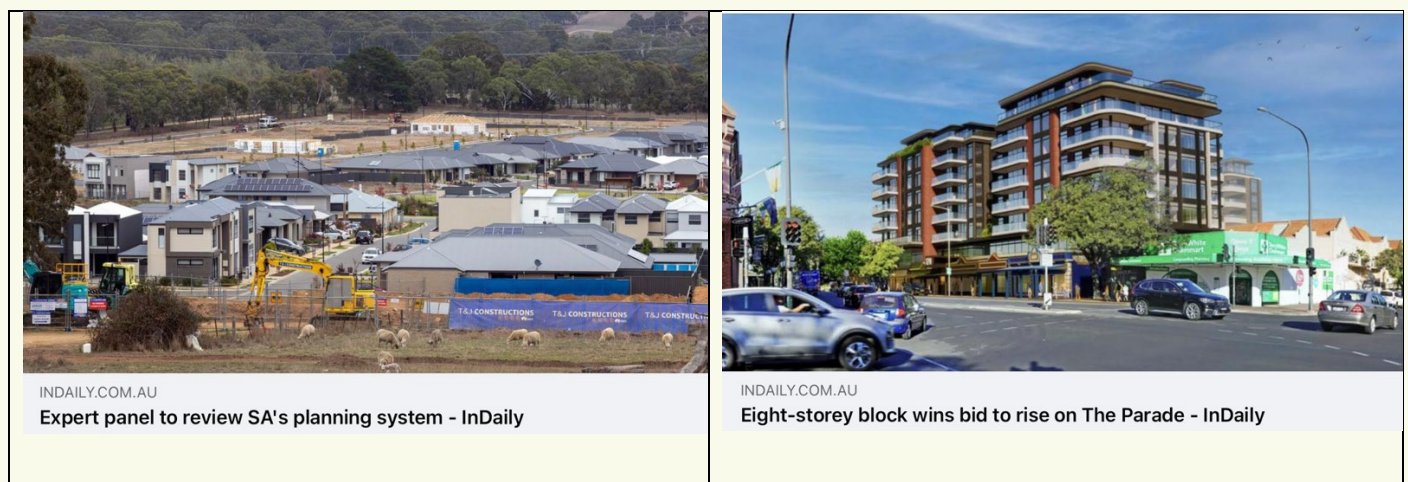
Discussion on heritage controls

Regular readers of Norwood Matters know that the protection of built heritage is a deep concern of ours. But we recognise that the situation is often difficult, expecting owners to maintain the heritage value and live in a house designed for a previous lifestyle, for the benefit of the community.

These issues and more have been discussed in recent “Blueprint for living” item on ABC Radio National. You can hear the item by clicking [here](#).

From our Facebook page

Click on the image to be taken to a recent post on the Norwood Residents Association Facebook page.



If you are reading this as a paper copy (for example, from the library) you can thank the Dunstan Electorate Office for the printing.

Thinking of joining the Norwood Residents Association? Click [here](#) to found out how. Then you will have the newsletter emailed to you every month!

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Our mailing address is:

Norwood Residents Association
7 Coke Street
Norwood, South Australia, 5067



I/we would like to join the Norwood Residents Association

Name(s):

Address:

Email address:

Post to: The Secretary, Norwood Residents Association, 7 Coke Street Norwood, 5067.

Or email: norwoodresassoc@gmail.com