

savesunshinepool.com was developed in August 2002 as information about what was happening to the Sunshine Pool site was both cloudy and lacking.

Over the past three years savesunshinepool.com have broadcast regular newsletters about the pool redevelopment progress (or lack thereof) to a growing member base which is now in excess of 400 subscribers.

### Absence of Consultation

- Confusion with what is happening. Council are claiming that they have exceeded the requirements of section 52! Photo of a tall man up to his chest on a bill board above the building permit application and in all Council page 2 ads in The Advocate.



Even Cr Sam David didn't know the depth of pool in November 2005 believing the new pool to be 1.8 metres deep. Peddle Thorpe confirmed with savesunshinepool.com that the deep end of the new pool is in fact 0.9 metres deep. (Three feet!) The replacement pool is about the size of a small classroom. 12 x 12 metres and will cater for 65000 residents.

- The Notice of Application for Building Permit in Sunshine's most popular newspaper was published on page 85 of the local paper buried in the classifieds after the massive real estate section. However the photo of Thorpie caricature chest deep in water with his power swimming cap on was published in full colour on page 2 many times referring to the wonderful new pool redevelopment – only 3 feet deep.
- Community confused and not able assess the building application for what it really is. - even the councilor who was mayor during the pool reference group process.
- There are many other examples of councils consulting and master planning pool centres; why not in Brimbank.
- Councillors have cited the Brimbank Aquatic Strategy as part of the consultation process however at both community meetings attendees were told that Sunshine Redevelopment was not to be discussed.
- Council hasn't meaningfully consulted
- As an acknowledged representative of a large group of concerned residents I was not invited nor allowed entry to the presentation of these plans.
- Council has a consultation charter but hasn't followed it on this major project as it must according to Council Plan. I believe the Council Plan is part of the Municipal Strategy Statement which is guiding the consideration of the permanent application
- Council ran a telephone call pool feedback hotline the week of 03/11/03 Andrew Mitchell 9249 4941. Our members who called and said they wanted to see the outdoor 50 metre pool were told “people do not want 50 metre pools”. That is not consultation.
- Savesunshinepool.com had to place FOI request for the masterplan option. Pool development alternatives were never released to the public for perusal. FOI date received 1/06/05.
- 6<sup>th</sup> option – restoration of the 50 metre pool has never been investigated! No feasibility study, no consultation.....ever.

## **Plan Lacking Information**

- Community is completely uninformed about costs, planning issues and social impact of the advertised plans.
- Brimbank City Council declared that Master Planning for this plan is not required – despite the fact the funding of the pool through the Better Pool Funds are subject to master planning and thorough consultation which Minister Madden declared at the announcement of the funding that has allowed this project to begin. (Listen to audio on website)
- Council suggests that master plans are normally only required for projects scheduled for 'large institutional use'. 65000 current catchment of swimmers – learn to swim classes, health classes – sounds like a large institution to me – approaching 2030 where Sunshine has been identified as a principle activity centre suggests that the expansion is inevitable. Council has said today that master plans are normally only required for projects “where the intensification of the use is likely to result in a loss of amenity to the surrounding properties.” 2030 principle activity centre – expansion is inevitable but not being planned for.
- Despite denying requirement of master planning council referred today to the hidden master plan options stating they demonstrate that the current plan demonstrates that there will no impact on future development. Only a verbal statement – not researched adequately.
- Verbal info about costs of fixing the outdoor pool
- Require information about what is planned to replace the 3 existing pools which are an incredibly important community asset that council has been neglecting over the past decade and now intend to bury.
- The current plan doesn't give any indication as to what will happen to the 2/3rds of the site and how it will replace the existing cultural and social value of the site.
- Without a proper masterplan, we can't be sure that these plans won't do significant damage to the community and our local cultural requirements.
- The current plan does not adequately show what will happen with the existing recreational areas.
- The plans and accompanying documents do not show why the outdoor pool can't be saved.

- Council believes that the proposal to bury the pools will actually result in an improvement of the amenity citing predominately cosmetic reasons! Clutching at straws with these points. A repair of the existing pools will improve the site – it is a proven success story being one of the best pool sites in Melbourne similar to Harold Holt. My belief that the current plan is being pushed through – not for reasons of improving the amenity but as a low cost solution and a pretence that burying the outdoor pools will somehow be beneficial to our community. As Justice Maurice said last month “An existing empty 50 metre pool might be more beneficial to a community than an indoor shallow pool.” An outdoor 50 metre pool can be repaired as we have seen in Fitzroy however this option has not been presented nor sufficiently assessed.
- Why is the pool being downgraded? Never been told why the 50 metre pool must be buried
- Carol Julian - Manager of Human Services – answered at council public meeting that Sunshine Pool had been classified as a 'local pool' as opposed to a 'district pool' and that this decision was made in house by council admin staff – not by consultants - Tuesday, 25 October 2005. In municipalities around Australia pools with a catchment area of 65000 people are classified as district pools – not local pools. The recommendations by consultants employed by council (at high cost) recommended that Sunshine requires at least 3 pools including a large recreational pool. Council 'admin' staff over-rode expert pool consultants recommendations and have classified Sunshine as a local pool only requirement. Why? And How can this happen!
- The Sunshine Pool site is the only site we have, everything else has been sold off, and we need to get it right approaching Melbourne 2030 when Sunshine is earmarked as a Principal Activity Centre

[www.savesunshinepool.com](http://www.savesunshinepool.com)