



24 May 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: **MELVILLE-UJ PRECINT PLAN AND PROPOSED WORKSHOP**
TENDER BID NUMBER DF007/20065 P13877

Since we last met, we formed a Precinct Plan subcommittee of the Melville Residents' Association to deal with concerns and to ease the way forward. Our approach is constructive and transparent and we hope that your body will interact similarly with us.

After a snap survey, the Melville Residents' Association concluded that our residents are not properly informed as to what the proposed but undefined Precinct Plan entails.

While we acknowledge that none of the surveys you or we are doing are scientific, we feel sure that the uncertainty of 82% of our respondents about your team's mandate and intentions is more than coincidence.

As previously conveyed, we believe there is a problem regarding communication and public participation.



We believe that the negative perception of residents and their resistance to your project can be changed if your team is willing to properly engage with the primary stakeholders – i.e. property owners, residents and business owners. Despite putting forward suggestions at our last meeting, thus far engagement with the community has been minimal or invisible.

As the Precinct Plan subcommittee, we would like to see improved communication between your team and the residents and stakeholders of Melville. For example, it came to our attention that just four business owners attended the evening meeting on May 23, but then it emerged that some received two days' notice, others none at all. It was also claimed that at least one restaurant owner conveyed that working hours preclude evening or early morning attendance and that no attempt has been made to accommodate the owners.

The low attendance creates the impression that there is scant interest among the business sector, which we are informed is not the case.

THE WAY FORWARD:

We would like to suggest that the Precinct Plan team review their success to date and we also strongly recommend the following:

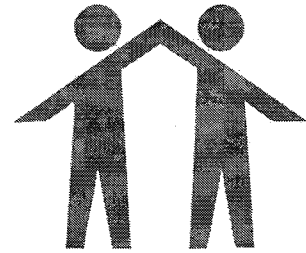
- Have another briefing session with our residents and any other interested parties where the team's scope of work is explained; this session should precede any workshops to ensure that residents' views about the plan - and their participation in the process - are based on understanding and information shared;



- Improve communication and interaction with our constituents by:
 - a. Giving at least 14 (fourteen) days' notice;
 - b. Advertising in the Northcliff and Melville Times (NMT);
 - c. Placing posters in shop windows on 7th Street and at other restaurants or businesses in the area;
 - d. Making use of Facebook, including the "I love Melville" and "Melville Community" pages;
 - e. Circulating notifications via email to the MRA and MSI members with the help of the MRA and MSI;
 - f. Placing flyers in postboxes;
 - g. Inviting business owners to attend another briefing session..

IN SHORT:

The Precinct Plan subcommittee of the Melville Residents' Association wants proper consultation and public participation with our residents and any other interested parties. We would further like to



MELVILLE
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION

extend our offer of help to the Precinct Plan team to ensure proper compliance with what is provided for in the awarded tender.

Kindly provide us with your response hereto by Thursday 25 May 2017 at 12:00, as we need to urgently engage with and update our residents and stakeholders.

Kind regards,



JE DUMINY

PRECINCT PLAN: MELVILLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION