


24.10.13	<p>Met with Cr Azzi, Hawatt, Robson and the GM to discuss the RDS report on the Council agenda. There was a lot of discussion regarding the site at 443-457 Canterbury Road. Cr Azzi insisted an increased height limit of 25m. I said that this would be difficult for residents living nearby, especially those sharing a common boundary. I said that it was difficult to justify such a height limit only on this site. The GM suggested that this report be deferred given the late hour (=6pm) and that the CI meeting started at 7pm. Crs Hawatt and Azzi requested that I come up with a better way of achieving a 25m height limit on the site.</p> <p>The following day, I drafted a map which limited the extent of the 25m to the SW corner of the site.</p>
28.10.13	<p>Cr Azzi rang me at mid day to thank me for the response to the RDS draft resolution. He went on to say that he remained unhappy about some of my staff. Especially strategic planning and Reg. Services. He said that the operator at Bonds Road would lodge a DA next week we were not to take action until then.</p> <p>He further said that my name had come up in various discussions but that I was "under his protection". He said that he was prepared to give me one more chance or two, but that I need to be careful. The very strong inference was that I was running out of chances.</p>
30.10.13	Meeting with Cr Robson, Azzi for Hawatt for GM (JM).

	<p>The purpose of the meeting was to go through Cr Hawatt's amended motion for the RDS item on the extraordinary CI meeting. C Hawatt went through each individual item. Cr Robson raised concern about the Harp/Alfred Rd proposal and C Azzi lost his temper stating that Canterbury is getting left behind and that our controls were not facilitating development. He said 'I don't care about consultant's reports or officers' reports, I was elected to make decisions and that's what to do. He said that if the people didn't like it, they should kick him out in 3 years time.</p> <p>The GM said that this was fine as long as Councillors approached there decisions with "clean hands".</p> <p>The last item on the list related to property as Campsie St/Asset St. Cr Hawatt said he wasn't aware who had included this on the list but thought it was the GM. The GM denied this. After a brief discussion, Cr Azzi whispered to the GM and the GM said to Cr Hawatt that he owed him an apology, as this item was indeed brought up by him (the GM).</p> <p>Once the discussion was finished, I stated to Cr Hawatt that I did not agree with the amendment as it was proposed and if asked publicly, I would say so. I also stated this to the GM on several occasions. Cr Hawatt said "that's fine".</p> <p>We went on to briefly discuss Cr Hawatts's proposed motion re the DCP. I said I didn't have time to renew it so we didn't discuss it.</p>
31.10.13	<p>I was asked by the GM to amend Cr Hawatt's motion to ensure it made sense and combined with the numbering of the officer's recommendation.</p> <p>During the early pm Cr Azzi phoned me and asked what I meant by my, statement on the previous night's meeting that I did not agree with the amendment as circulated. I said that my position is on the public record and I would defend it if asked publicly. He accepted this.</p> <p>During the evening, Cr Hawatt discussed the amended motion and said to the GM that the Croydon St site would not go ahead with the NRAS funding by Sam the Paving Man. Cr Hawatt asked that the motion be amended to increase the height to 21m and made special reference to 56-7 Railway Pde on this was adjacent to the park. I made this change as requested. This we done only half hour before the CI. meeting.</p>



21.11.13

A DA was lodged for 548-586 Canterbury Road by Charlie Damien. The GM rang Eva and asked that I accept this DA even though it did not contain owner's consent. I was in a meeting at this time and returned to my office to find a large box of plans and a cheque (DA fee). I rang the GM and he instructed that we accept the DA and provide a letter to the applicant addressing that we had accepted the DA but would not be processing it. He asked that I write the letter



18.12.13

GM rand to request that I give the following DAs a "bit of a hurry along" and asked me to check on their progress.

- Boarding home at 110-112 Beamish St (DA 154)
- Corner Ninth and 5th
- "Flip out "at 1618 Canterbury Road

GM has kept a close interest in the DA for 45 South Pde, Campsie. There were 2 "pre DA" meetings with Ziad and Marwan Chanine. I questioned why these meetings involved the GM at all.

(Undated)

After the DA was lodged, GM requested regular updates and which IHAP it would be referred to (see emails). GM said that the DA must be referred to IHAP mtg of 3 March. I said that it wasn't ready and that the report would be "sloppy". I also said that we still had issues with aspects of the development. As a result, the DA report was prepared with deferred commencement conditions, highlighting our concerns.

I recall that on 11 Feb, just before a Cllr workshop, the GM approached me and said that Zena was being a bit fussy with the

	<p>DA. He showed me a message on his phone from "Bechara" which asked the GM to get me involved as Zena was being a bit 'over the top' with her demands on design issues. I said that we still had issues for they would need to be addressed.</p> <p>The applicant refused to make any changes of substance and the GM demanded that the report be placed on the agenda of 3 March. Zena did not have the report ready for the Wednesday deadline and the report was not finalised until the following Tuesday.</p> <p>The IHAP considered the report and the Chairman mentioned to me 1:1 that it was a 'unusual' report. The IHAP subsequently resolved to defer the DA and highlighted concerns similar to those of the staff.</p> <p>On 7 march I was invited to a meeting with the Chanine brothers and the GM.</p> <p>At the Council meeting, Cl. resolved to approve the to DA without 2 key conditions which were intended to improve amenity / impacts, but compliance with which, would reduce yield.</p> <p>There was a recess called during debate and Cr Azzi was critical of my handling of the DA and Cr Hawatt "took the floor" in describing the development and the reasons why it should be approved without these 2 key conditions. I felt that I was on a hiding to nothing knowing that both Cr Azzi and Hawatt were supportive of the proposal. Cr. Azzi said to me that I I hadn't done my job properly and he glared at me and shot me dirty looks.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting the GM rang me (at about 5:30 pm) and asked me some questions about the DA and said that the Chanines were meeting with him and Crs Azzi and Hawatt to discuss the proposal. I asked the GM whether I should attend and he said no. I'm not sure what occurred at that meeting.</p>
21.07.14	<p>Meeting with Tony Jabhour (owner), Ian Armstrong (Arch), Jim Montague, Stephen Pratt and myself to discuss DA for 2-26 Haldon St.</p> <p>Briefed JM before the meeting and he agreed that the proposal was excessive in height for would not be supported.</p> <p>TJ explained that the extra height was required to achieve superior finishes and standards of design the likes of which had not been seen in Lakemba. MO and SP said that notwithstanding this, the height could not be supported. (See file note).</p> <p>The GM grew increasingly frustrated that the development could not be supported. He asked me to show on the plans, what height would be acceptable.</p> <p>I said that compliance with the 18m height limit should occur at the boundaries and that we could consider one add'l storey (over and above the bonus storey) on the corner. The GM invited me to draw on the plans what this 'limit' looked like. I baulked at this and said I was not prepared to be prescriptive beyond my broad description as stated above.</p> <p>The GM said that we had reached an impasse and that's where we would leave things.</p> <p>Upon the applicant team leaving, he said "what are we doing". He sounded exasperated. He then said 'what is he (S.Pratt) doing</p>

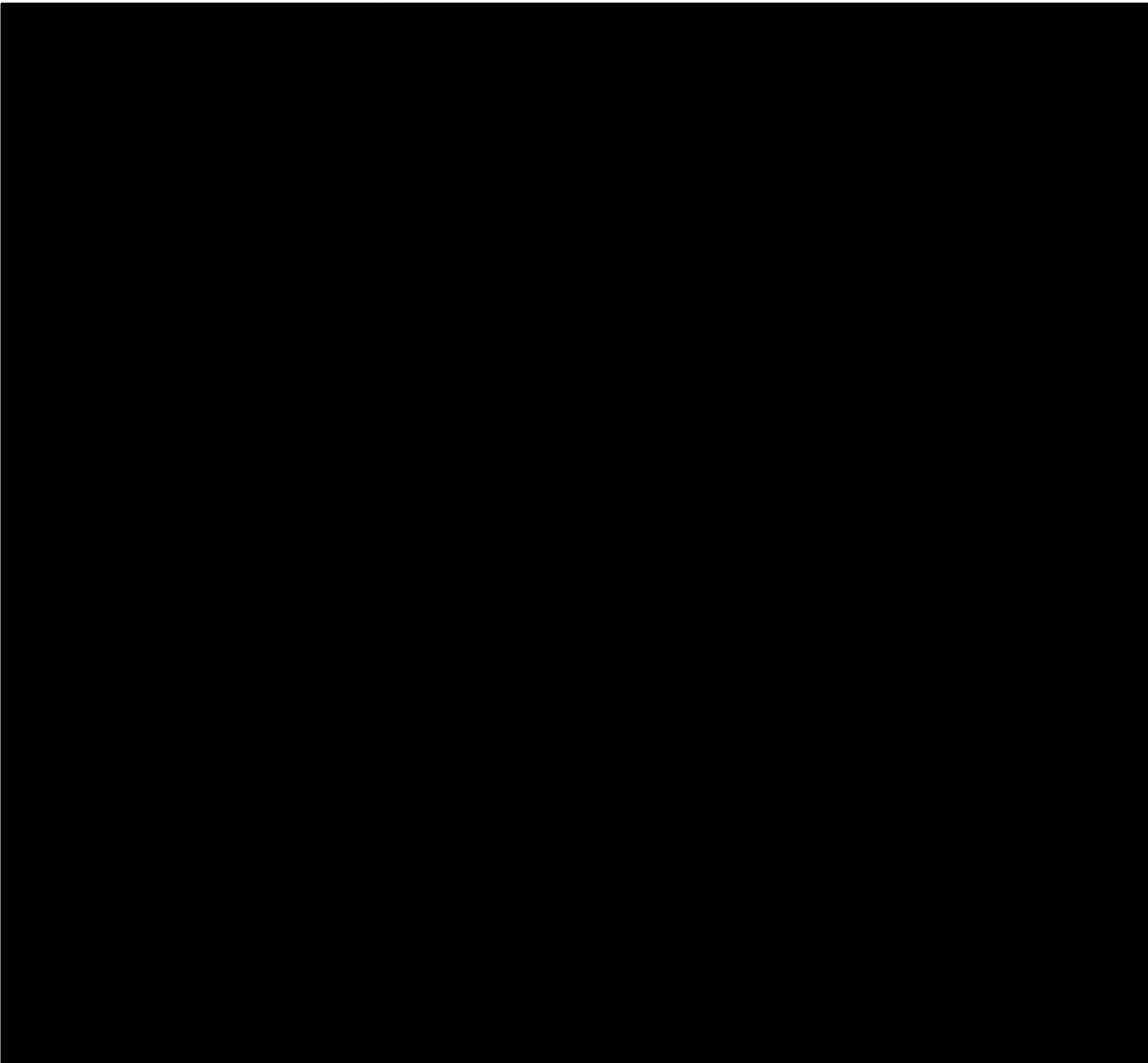
	<p>saying that he couldn't support the variation and that he doesn't speak for Council". He said that maybe we should put this to Council and get its opinion. He said that we should be supporting high quality development in Lakemba as this site was rundown, the focus of anti social behaviour and in need of good development. I said I agreed but the extent of variation was simply "a bridge too far". He said if that's the case, I expect you to say exactly what's acceptable and what's not. I said that our job was to assess proposals, not design them. He was not happy with this response and demanded that I be more 'helpful'.</p>
Late May 2014 – belated entry	<p>Following a Coordination meeting, the GM said that he and I needed to talk. He invited me into his office and closed the door. He said that what he was about to say was not easy for him.</p> <p>He said that the political environment had changed dramatically in the last 12 months, he said that the "junta" were in control and that the Mayor was a passenger. He said that there was a growing dissatisfaction with my performance, especially when putting matters to council that made the Councillors' jobs difficult and embarrassing. He cited 23 Oatley as an example. I said that I had tried to assist but the interference of Cr Azzi and Hawatt had made the process very difficult. He said that the planning area generally was causing these 2 Councillors in particular, a lot of concern. Examples cited were that Allan Shooter having inappropriate dealings with the applicant regarding Josephine Street (rezoning), slow processing times and the occasional skirmish in the Regulatory area. (fines or court action). I said that I rejected all criticisms apart from processing times. I acknowledged that our processing times were too slow, but it should be remembered that the value of development approved had gone through the roof during the 12/13 year and well beyond the previous 4 years. The GM said that I needed to be more hard line and demanding of my managers. He said that I was the boss and I had to impose this.</p> <p>He said that in the current climate, he had no choice but to consider not renewing my contract. He said it pained him to say this, but there was dissatisfaction amongst Clls, that he had to respond to.</p> <p>I said that I was disappointed with this, but if that's what things had got its then so it was.</p> <p>I said that my integrity was very important to me and it not bending sufficiently cost me my job, then so be it. I said that even if I were to leave, any Director worth his salt, would run into head winds with these Clls given their unreasonable expectations.</p> <p>I asked that if I was to be fired, or shown the door, I would at least like to walk out under my own steam. The GM said that I needed to turn things around, and he we prepared to give me some time to achieve this.</p> <p>The next day the GM invited me to his office again and asked how I was – I said 'How do you think!?' He said that he may have come across a bit strong the previous day and that he wanted to remind and give me a chance to turn things around. He seemed somewhat apologetic, but did not resile from the essential message he delivered the previous day.</p>

11.08.14

At about 10 am the GM asked me up to his office to discuss this. I explained the current discussion regarding side and rear setbacks. He asked me whether I could guarantee that if this was challenged in Court, that we would win. I said, I could not guarantee this and that nobody could. He said that he had spoken with George Vasil and that he disagreed with my opinion. The GM said that I had to think very carefully about how this is managed, because if it was challenged and we lost "it would not be good for me". He glared at me seriously as he said this. He said 'do you understand what I'm saying'.

I agreed to get a legal opinion and we would run with that.

He also said that there was an accusation "that the provisions relating to side and rear setbacks had been changed from DCP 54 to the Current DCP. I said plenty had been amended in attempting to consolidate the DCP. The GM asked whether the Cllrs had made any comments to drive these changes or whether they had been included in these decisions. I said that at the time we had workshops, they had generally been quite apathetic to this work. I said I would find out.



16.09.14

At the Executive mtg today the GM expressed strong dissatisfaction with various consultants reports:

1. DA report on 172 Burwood Road involving the existing mosque. He expressed strong concern that the hours of operation had been introduced into the consideration. I acknowledged that this was arguable, but accepted that there was an argument that the land use had intensified over time from the previous Church use. I note that Cr Hawatt had 'blown up' after the CDC meeting on 11.09. I reminded the GM that we had made a decision to take Hassan Morad off the assessment (at the GM's insistence) because he is a Muslim and that I felt obliged to accept the consultant independent advice. The GM was very angry.
2. The Consultant report on the Planning Proposal for Brighton Avenue. I note that the GM had previously made various enquiries about the progress of this. He also directed me to get to the Council mtg of 25.09. He expressed strong dissatisfaction that the height limit recommended was only 3 storeys whereas the owner requested 8 storeys. I said that the height limit ranged between 2-3 storeys and that the recommendation was

	<p>reasonable. I said that at a pinch, I would be prepared to support 4 storeys, but not 8. The GM was not happy with this.</p>
19.09.14	<p>I did not attend Mayorex as I had a mtg in the City. Gill advised me that the RDS report had been "pulled", as had the Brighton Avenue report. I note that the GM had previously directed me to get the RDS report to the Sept. Council meeting that the RMS response had meant that half the properties that sought amendments to the LEP were recommended to be deferred.</p> <p>The GM advised me that the Brighton Avenue applicant had had a change of heart and that they were now pursuing a B5 zone not on R4 zone. The only tangible evidence of this was an email to the GM dated 18.09 from Nicholas Vargasoff (Dyldam).</p>
19.09.14	<p>The GM requested that he be given a copy of the IHAP report for the DA for 570 – 574 New Canterbury Road prior to being listed on the IHAP paper. I said to him that it had already missed the internal deadline but was important that the matter be determined by council as the applicant already lodged a deemed refusal appeal to the L&E Court and that I would prefer having the Cl's' position to work from given that it was undetermined.</p> <p>I note that I can't recall the GM wanting to review a report prior to going to IHAP. He said to me that I should 'learn to stop hitting my head against a brick wall'.</p>