

## **PLANNING APPLICATION OBJECTIONS- WHAT TO DO**

**If you have concerns that a neighbour is lodging a planning application for a development that may affect you adversely there is a procedure to check**

1. The first you will learn about the planning application will be when a City of Melbourne PLANNING PERMIT notice appears on the front fence of the neighbour's property.
2. Can you speak to the neighbour concerned? It may short circuit a lengthy process.
3. Although the PLANNING PERMIT Notice states that any objection must be lodged to the City of Melbourne within 14 days of the notice going up you will still have time after that.
4. The notice will give you an Application Number (like TP-2017-637). On the City of Melbourne website you can search for that property using the Application Number or the address of the property: [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au) and/or [Planning Permit Register](#). You will learn more about the permit proposal. If you require any additional information send an email to [planning@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:planning@melbourne.vic.gov.au) or Tel 9658 9658.
5. However sometimes the plans will not be on the website; in which case you should phone council (Tel 9658 9658) and speak directly with the Planning Officer dealing with the application. To inspect the file you can arrange to go to the council offices at Council House, 200 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.
6. If the application causes you concern as a consequence of overlooking, height or anything else MSYRG suggest you take the following steps:
  - a. Inform all your neighbours and anyone else who may be affected. The more Objections lodged the better as the Council considers the weight of the opposition
  - b. Discuss with your fellow affected neighbours and agree that you all should share the cost of a one-off consultation by a City Planner (such as Hansen Partnership, Level 4/136 Exhibition Street, Melbourne phone 9664 9825). Once again the more the better to both share the cost and increase the weight of the opposition
  - c. The town planner will explain what the application means and provide you with initial advice about any non-compliance with the law and issues that may affect you and what you might do about it. There will be a one-off consultation fee.
  - d. If you all agree that you should do something about your concerns you have two options
    - i. Each of you can lodge individual objections
    - ii. The town planner will prepare and lodge a formal objection for all of you. There will be further costs. This is the stronger option for results
  - e. There may then be discussions/negotiations with the applicant and council to modify the plans
  - f. If these negotiations do not resolve your concerns the town planner will lodge an appeal to VCAT following which there will be further opportunities to negotiate before you need to incur the cost of preparing for a hearing at VCAT. The town planner will charge a fee
  - g. If the issues are still not resolved you can engage a lawyer and start preparing for the hearing although it may be possible to settle the issue up to, and even on the day, of the hearing.

MELBOURNE SOUTH YARRA RESIDENTS GROUP INC

30 July 2017