

Public Forum Question

Subject: Access to Development Application information outside working hours

Question From: Vincent De Luca

Meeting Date: 25 May 2004

Question:

I refer to my request that Development Application information be available outside of working hours to facilitate those that work to view information on development applications and be able to consult with Council Officers. I note the advice in Mr Blackadder's letter of 1 January 2004 that "as part of the recent review of the Local Approvals Service Unit we are appointing Development Assessment Liaison Officers and part of their role will be to meet with objectors out of hours if viewing of plans is not possible during working hours".

Has this policy been conveyed to residents in notification letters and could Council please advise of the status of this policy?

Answer:

The Acting Director – Planning and Assessment Services advised the meeting that one of the aims of the DAs Online service was designed to address this need. He also said that community groups were being identified in order to provide notification of DAs in areas of interest to them. It was intended to get information out to people so that they did not have to come to Council. The Administrator also commented that Council had to balance costs and demands and that an "out of hours" service would be expensive and only used if there was no alternative.