

Masterplan Elements #6: Community & Education

15 November 2016

Overview

The owners of East Village are releasing a series of documents to profile specific inputs into a 20-year masterplan for the Bentleigh East industrial precinct.

The purpose of the 'Elements' documents are to build up the detail necessary for putting forward a comprehensive masterplan for community input and review.

In this document we examine the needs and planning considerations for **community & education** – this has been of consistent community and stakeholder interest during the preceding phases of consultation on the development of a 20-year masterplan for East Village.

Summary

- Many members of the community have expressed a desire to see a multipurpose community and education facility incorporated into the proposed East Village masterplan.
- The projected population growth in Glen Eira of one-third by 2031 and the growing demand on existing schools in the area have the potential to drive the need for additional facilities in the future.
- A needs analysis by the Department of Education and Training (DET) of the Glen Eira municipality is required to determine future population growth, capacity and enrolment trends as well as the community and education requirements of the area.
- A potential community and education facility would also be subject to the planning requirements of the DET and the Glen Eira City Council and would require a rezoning of the East Village site.

Introductory comments

A range of opportunities are potentially available for community and education facilities in the East Village precinct. The critical feature is to build such elements early into consideration of the 20 year masterplan to cater for longer term needs of the area.

Feedback from the initial phases of community consultation on the development of a 20 year masterplan for East Village has seen community members call for the consideration of¹:

- A public secondary school to meet existing overflow from surrounding schools;
- A local visual and performing arts centre;
- Consideration of the precinct as an education hub;
- Sport and recreation facilities;
- A community centre or hall;
- Schools linked to local employers to promote work experience; and
- Consideration to what role a 'vertical school' could play.

Ultimately the provision of any community and education facility in the East Village precinct would be dependent on the outcomes of a needs analysis or school provision review of the area by the DET².

In terms of related facilities, there are many community benefits from incorporating a multipurpose community centre space in a proposed plan for an education facility, including improved engagement of families, improved connections between services and increased feelings of connection³.

Why is consideration of community and education important for East Village?

Demographic change in Glen Eira as well as the increasing capacity strains on local schools and community facilities could impact the demand for these facilities in the area over the medium to long term.

Across Victoria, the school age population is projected to increase by 300,000 individuals by 2031. This increase in the student population will need to be met by a combination of new, existing and non-Government schools⁴. A total of 15 new schools will be built across Victoria in the next few years as part of the New Schools Public Private Partnership (PPP) Project.

It is however important to point out that despite population growth, the birth rate in Glen Eira has remained steady in recent years and the population projections indicate that growth in the birth to four years age group over the next 20 years is likely to be minimal⁵.

Independent research of community infrastructure in the surrounding area (2km radius of East Village) conducted in 2014, made the following observations regarding the provision of education and community facilities in the catchment:

¹ East Village website: <http://www.eastvillagemasterplan.com.au/have-your-say/>

² DET - School provision reviews:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/infrastructure/Pages/provisionreview.aspx>

³ Primary Schools as community hubs 2012:

http://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/ccch/Schools_as_Community_Hubs_Lit_Review.pdf

⁴ DET – School provision reviews:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/infrastructure/Pages/provisionreview.aspx>

⁵ Glen Eira City Council Municipal Early Years Plan 2013-2017:

[file:///C:/Users/Sarah%20Parkes/Downloads/Municipal_Early_Years_Plan_2013-2017%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Sarah%20Parkes/Downloads/Municipal_Early_Years_Plan_2013-2017%20(1).pdf)

Early years implications

- *The overall supply and distribution of early services and venues is very strong across all service types within the 2 kilometre catchment, however Council has identified potential Kindergarten capacity constraints associated with the introduction of Universal Access.*

Community meeting spaces, libraries and learning centres

- *The overall supply and distribution of community meeting spaces, libraries and learning centres within the 2 kilometre catchment appears very satisfactory.*

Education facility implications

- *The existing profile of primary, secondary and special education facilities is especially significant within the 2 kilometre population catchment. However, overall enrolment trends have increased significantly during the past five years and appear to be placing pressure on existing capacity.*

What does this mean for East Village?

The following points emerge for consideration in the East Village masterplan:

- Community feedback during the preparation of a draft masterplan for the East Village precinct has raised the possible use of part of the site for a community and education facility to meet potential demand in the area.
- A needs analysis or school provision review is required to assess the feasibility of any community and education facility on the East Village site by the DET and Glen Eira City Council.
- The provision of a multi-purpose community centre space as part of an education facility could be explored – subject to a need's assessment by the DET and Glen Eira City Council.
- The proposal to rezone the East Village site allows for a potential community and education facility and the East Village landowners are open to exploring an allocation of land for such a facility.