



Glen Eira City Council Elections 2020: Questionnaire to all candidates. Given the current COVID environment, electioneering by candidates is extremely difficult. *Save Glen Eira* believes that ratepayers would welcome candidates' views on numerous issues currently confronting our municipality. We therefore are inviting all candidates to fill out this questionnaire to provide residents with some insight into their future councillors. All submitted questionnaires will be published on our website.

1. Name: **Harry Graeve**

2. Glen Eira Ward: **Camden**

3. Why did you decide to run for Council?

It became abundantly clear to me during the current council term that a number of councillors were there to push their own agendas with no regard for the impacts on their family, friends and neighbours living within the municipality. Between the Inkerman Road Safe Cycling Corridor Pilot and the amount of over development that has been going on with barely any visible descent from council I felt I could no longer be a rate paying spectator to the ongoing degradation of the amenity I have enjoyed as a resident of Glen Eira my entire life and of Camden Ward for over 20 years.

4. What local activities are you involved in?

Until recently I was a leader at one of the local scout groups however after many years it was time to hand over the reigns. I was also fairly involved with the Save Inkerman group which inspired me to run for council. It's also a bit of a guilty pleasure of mine, I entertain the residents at a couple of the local aged care facilities with a musician friend of mine, and host a radio show on community radio with studios in Balaclava Road.

5. What do you see as your strengths/skill set to be a Councillor?

- 1. I'm an independent with no party affiliations or memberships. I'm not looking at local council as a gateway to a career in State or Federal politics. I just want to make sure that we continue to receive the services we need at reasonable costs, the amenity we enjoy and preserve the character of the City of Glen Eira which has made it such a wonderful place to live and raise a family.**
- 2. I don't mince my words. If a bad idea is brought to the table I'll let everybody know why it is a bad idea.**
- 3. I don't complain unless I have an alternative. Inkerman Road is the perfect example where I**

have developed a comprehensive alternative to what the council wanted to push through.

4. **Act with empathy.** I try and put myself in the shoes of others. I don't live on Inkerman Road, but understand the impact this would have had on those who do, nor do I live in Selwyn or Sinclair Streets in Elsternwick, but I wouldn't want a 14 story tower next door to me if I did.

6. Are you a member of a political party? If so, which one?

No

7. What do you see as the current important issues facing Glen Eira?

I think everyone's perspectives are going to be different, and I am sure if elected this will change over time as issues I have not even thought about are brought to me by concerned residents.

Here are my big ones....

1. **We need to look at what the council is spending on. With the massive economic downturn ratepayers across the municipality are suffering and the council should be obliged to reduce spending wherever possible and pass these savings onto the ratepayers.**
2. **Over the years population density has increased significantly in many parts of the municipality. We need a plan for our road network that reduces congestion. Handing the roads over to cyclists, making it more difficult for motorised (Fossil fuel or electric) transport is not the answer, although we can reduce the collision risk of cyclists and others along many arterial roads for a very small cost.**
3. **We need to ensure that future developments blend in with their surroundings, and add to the character of their vicinity, not stand there like monuments to the dogma of early 20th century architecture slowly becoming icons of ill conceived population policies as their facades degrade and weather.**

8. How would you evaluate and take into consideration residents' views on topical issues?

I am a resident as well. I have to ask the question, "What if this was my street, or the park I enjoy with my children, or the services I need?"

It is important to act with empathy, unfortunately, it appears to me, a number of councillors have only ever considered their ideology as their guide. I would like to bring this to an end.

9. Would you support and lobby for mandatory formal oversight committees with community representatives to help ensure greater accountability of council actions?

1 Save Glen Eira Inc. (A0107697)



This is a difficult one...effectively the council is the committee chosen by the ratepayers and residents of the municipality to make good decisions on their behalf. Unfortunately many councillors over the years have seemingly acted in contravention of their mandate to do so.

Oversight committees can become cumbersome mechanisms that get in the way of good governance and slow down the progression of good initiatives with no guarantee that bad ones will be stopped.

I think what we need to start with is to make communicating the ideas, concerns and feedback of the residents simpler and that this should carry weight when council is deliberating on matters.

Unfortunately an oversight committee will struggle to change the vote of an arrogant councillor or one that must follow party lines to climb the rungs of the political ladder put before them and their aspirations.

10. Would you support the banning of political donations from developers, as in NSW?

Put simply...yes.

11. Our planning provisions require Councils to balance important and often competing issues How would you prioritise the following issues? (Rank: **High/Medium/Low**)

- Prioritise purchase of new open space in areas of lesser open space. **High**
- Protection of residential amenity. **High**
- Economic activity through construction and development. **Low**
- Heritage conservation **High although not every old house is worth saving.**
- Housing affordability and social justice. **This requires a longer discussion.**
- Medium rise infill in low rise streets abutting low rise residences **Each proposal will need to be considered on its merits**

- Protecting communities, small local businesses & shopping strips. **High**
- Sustainable initiatives **If reasonable**
- Protecting fauna corridors and biodiversity **Where required**
- High-rise development in Activity Centres. **If appropriate**
- Increasing the tree canopy **High**
- Support for council initiative cultural events **Low, with such a diverse population the individual communities seem to do a great job of this already.**
- Inclusion of affordable/social housing in new developments. **This is a state government issue.**
- Support for new bike or pedestrian paths through Glen Eira. **No short answer available - yes to some, no to others**
- Support for Council initiatives to reduce carbon footprint (Council & Residential) **High**
- Support for creation of deliberative community panels for all major projects/budgets **Low-this is what councillors are elected to do. If you do not trust them you should make every attempt to become one.**

12. Is the current residential development adequately making provision for affordable housing?

As ratepayers we have had to purchase our properties at market rates. Housing affordability is not the job of local council to get involved with. Putting controls on the property market either for purchase or rental flies in the face of the free economy which has allowed the City of Glen Eira to grow into the “blue ribbon” area that it is today.

This is not to say that there is no room to look after those most vulnerable members of our community, but this should not require the sale or rental of properties to be offered at mandated lower rates when the market will bear higher prices.

Affordable housing is the domain of State Government. If the relevant department can justify the purchase of property within the City of Glen Eira and then choose to offer it to those in need at below market rates, then this becomes an issue to be considered at a state election.



13. How happy do you think the residents of Glen Eira are with the current level of development?

I think many residents are frustrated with the amount of inappropriate development that has taken place within the municipality over the last few years.

Many of our streets have been choked due to increasing population densities and the character of many areas has been changed and degraded due to this fervent activity.

Council, in my opinion, has not fought hard enough for the residents to retain their amenity in many cases. I am also highly cognisant of the frustrations of those living and operating businesses on and near Inkerman Road as their level of amenity was to be greatly impacted by the proposed Safe Cycling Corridor, which was then to be replicated along many of the major arterial roads throughout the municipality.

The residents of many parts of the City of Glen Eira are justified in their anger with the current council.

14. Some zoning types eg Activity Centre Zoning (ACZ) can result in no later appeal-rights for residents. Do you think this is fair on residents?

No, the residents should always have the right to appeal and be heard. Their level of investment is so much greater than the purchase price of their home or the cost of the rent every month. They are involved with local activities, raising families and supporting the local traders. These are things you cannot put a value on. Developers are only interested in the dollars and cents based on a simple return on investment calculation.

15. Do we need tighter planning controls and added scrutiny to protect residents in or nearby to mixed-use zones?

We need local councils to be given the powers to determine their own planning controls. Free of big government intervention and population density desires.

16. What changes would you like to see implemented by the Glen Eira City Council? Eg planning scheme, local laws, meeting procedures, other changes

- 1. Due to increases in population we need to audit our road network, traffic flows and critical infrastructure. Much of the municipality is already suffering from traffic volumes that our roads were never designed to deal with. We need an innovative approach to personal and mass transit, to clear the bottle necks and reduce the collision risks which create further impediments to the movement of people and goods around the municipality.**
- 2. We need a well defined planning scheme that is not beholden to the dreams, goals and desires of party acolytes in Spring Street. We need to recognise that the City of Glen Eira is made up of areas distinctly**

different from each other and future planning and developments should be deemed appropriate or not based on the part of the municipality for which they are proposed so that the character of these areas, which is the reason people have chosen to live there in the first place is not affected to the detriment of the residents.

3. To formally recognise that we are now experiencing a period of economic uncertainty and that council needs to operate more like an effective small business not a lumbering corporate giant in order to return savings to the rate payers, certainty to the traders and a sustainable level of amenity for all residents.

Meet the Candidates Forums (on zoom):

Camden Oct 6th

Rosstown Oct 7th

Tucker Oct 8th

Registration details to follow