



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: **Declan Martin**

2. Glen Eira Ward: **Tucker Ward**

3. Why did you decide to run for Council?

I have decided to run for council as I feel Glen Eira needs a new direction moving on. As someone who has engaged with urban planning at a tertiary level for three years, I feel the council needs to improve urban planning practices in activity centres, aptly plan for the future, and create welcoming, liveable spaces for people of all aged and demographics as we move into the 2020-2024 council term.

4. What local activities are you involved in?

I previously played and volunteered in community sport for over 12 years, and understand the importance for better sporting facilities. I have also been involved with the East Village Community Reference Committee with the VPA and Glen Eira Council, and also on the Bentleigh East Walkability Pilot Program, also with City Council. As such, I am well versed on local issues and would be able to make sound decisions for council.

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

I have a sound grasp on local community affairs, have lived in, played in, and was raised in this community my whole life, so I know the area and its challenges well. I have engaged with planning in an academic setting, including statutory planning, strategic planning, transport planning, and urban design. As such, I feel I will be able to make the right decisions for the urban direction of our council, with the goal of increasing liveability. Despite being youthful, I have a genuine concern for all age groups, and wish to see a cohesive council which works for everyone, right from young families using council Kinders or immunisation centres, to protecting council run aged care and seniors home services.

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

ALP member, however I am unendorsed by any political group and entirely self-funded. I also wish to disclose memberships to the RACV, PTUA and RSL Victoria. Community is close to me, and I wish to take a bipartisan approach and work with everyone in local government.



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

Key issues moving forward in my view will be:

- **The provision of open space, including passive space and sporting space.**
- **Formulating and implementing proper structure plans in key centres, and aim to work towards mandatory commercial height controls.**
- **Increasing greenery and reworking our street tree/heat island plan.**
- **Protecting our social services, such as aged care and retaining them as council facilities.**
- **Create good civic spaces for our community, and provide safe and walkable communities, especially near schools and parks.**
- **Support our local businesses and sporting clubs recover from the recession, manage the local budget in a sound manner, and prioritise Australian content in infrastructure to protect supply chains.**

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

All views need to be taken into consideration alongside locals, expert opinion and council. Residents are at the heart of our community so I'll aim to make sure as many views can be represented as possible within our local democracy.

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

I would like to see greater resident representation and engagement, so I would support more council/community collaborative groups, such as the East Village, or Inkerman Cycleway residents reference group. I wish to note that topics such as managing the economy, and urban planning practice is an area of trained expertise, so professional engagement will need to be taken into account in any scenario.



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

Certainly in council – yes. Developers should not be donating money to help fund a local government campaign, just can candidates should not accept money from a developer. Further to this, I support mandatory logging of activity between developers and councillors. I have not, and would not take money from a developer, and I note that if any Cr were to take money from a developer, that would mean a Cr would have to abstain from a vote anyway.

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. **MEDIUM**
- Heritage conservation **HIGH**
- Housing affordability and social justice. **MEDIUM**
- Medium rise infill in low rise streets abutting low rise residences. **MEDIUM**
- Protecting communities, small local businesses & shopping strips. **HIGH**
- Sustainable initiatives **MEDIUM**
- Protecting fauna corridors and biodiversity **HIGH**
- High-rise development in Activity Centres. **MEDIUM**
- Increasing the tree canopy **HIGH**
- Support for council initiative cultural events **MEDIUM**
- Inclusion of affordable/social housing in new developments. **MEDIUM**
- Support for new bike or pedestrian paths through Glen Eira. **MEDIUM**
- Support for Council initiatives to reduce carbon footprint (Council & Residential) **HIGH**
- Support for creation of deliberative community panels for all major projects/budgets **HIGH**

I wish to take the opportunity to point out that all these points are of importance, none are a low priority, and a good council promoting good governance will be able to balance all of them.



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

To an extent, however I would like to see larger scale developments within the “renewal areas” within the structure plans include affordable and social housing strategies, in order to create a social balance and ensure affordable dwellings are situated in strong, walkable communities, and larger buildings where there should be scope for such initiatives. This would be harder to achieve in lower rise townhouses and apartments.



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

There is no general consensus. All members of the community will have a different response, however from the perspective of people who take concern with developments, I point out that growth under the 1996 Municipal Strategic Statement is 20% higher than what was predicted, so there is case to redo the MSS to better reflect development in the planning scheme, and give council and planners more time to properly plan for the future. There will always be some level of development, especially when the Plan Melbourne policy setting is for 65% infill, however I think development needs to be of a higher standard.

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?

I wish to firstly note that ACZ is not used throughout Glen Eira like in other councils, as stated within VicPlan. Similar zones such as MUZ and PDZ are located in some parts of the LGA, but regardless, I believe everyone has the right to object if they wish to, even in late appeal.

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

All developments need to abide by Rescode standards at outlined within the planning scheme. I wish to see all developments abide by podium height standings, and setbacks as outlined within the City of Glen Eira Quality Design Guidelines.

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

If elected, I wish to see more community committees dealing with council to create better consensus and harmony between the people and the council officials. Also regarding planning, I want to ensure council helps to tackle heritage issues head on, and implement heritage studies in ALL areas of the municipality before it's too late. The Municipal Strategic statement needs to be updated to reflect a modern Glen Eira, and I wish to see council take a more interventionist approach to creating facilities in urban renewal areas. Lastly, I want proactive action to deal with Caulfield racecourse reserve, and ensure we have modern sporting facilities for all players and clubs. We can't afford to keep turning kids away from sport!

Meet the Candidates Forums (on zoom):

Camden Oct 6th

Rosstown Oct 7th

Tucker Oct 8th

Registration details to follow