**2020 CANDIDATE SURVEY ON CAMBERWELL JUNCTION’S HISTORIC PARK**

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| **Your Name** | Sam Fitchett |

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| **Ward Contesting** | Solway |

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| 1. Do you support the restoration of the historic park established in 1869 in the heart of Camberwell Junction, which was for a century a public park for local residents and an outdoor play space for school children?   **Your Comments (optional):**  *As long as considerations are made for the preservation of car-space numbers, and the local community gets a say in what amenities should feature in this new public space; the Camberwell Green is an excellent heritage-building initiative. Future generations will surely thank us for it! If you are interested in seeing what other initiatives I support, check out www.samforsolway.com* | Yes  Maybe  No |
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| 1. Alternatively, if Council will not support restoring the park, would you support the land being restored to open green space and transferred to Camberwell Primary School for children to use during school hours and the wider community after hours?   **Your Comments (optional):** | Yes  Maybe  No |

*A partial restoration of the park would still yield a great spot for the entire community. Handing the land over the Camberwell Primary school, however, could lead to some difficulties with future works involving the green. If the land is held by council itself, Camberwell Primary School can be supported as well as the wider community.*

**BACKGROUND**

In 2010 Boroondara Council established a carpark on the site of an historic public park (“Camberwell Green”) established in 1869 by the Governor of Victoria in the heart of Camberwell Junction. Until this time, it had been used by generations of school children as outdoor play space, but it is now essentially a free commuter car park for Council staff. Council now refers to the site as the “Reserve Road Carpark”.

Since 2010, with the rapid population growth around the Junction, the number of students at Camberwell Primary has increased from about 400 to around 700, leaving these children and our local community with insufficient green open space. The restoration of the historic park is supported by The National Trust, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the Camberwell Historical Society, Camberwell Primary School, Camberwell Grammar School, Genazzano FCJ College, Little Learners Early Education Centre, the Camberwell Junior Football Club, the Camberwell RSL, the Camberwell Centre Association and the Camberwell Junction Residents Association.

In November 2019, Boroondara Council resolved to:

1. Not proceed with community consultation on the Camberwell Green proposal
2. Not support the Camberwell Green proposal
3. Not support the funding and ongoing maintenance of public open space at the Reserve Road Car Park in the event the State Government determine to convert the Reserve Road Car Park to public open space.

**Next Steps**

The campaign to restore our park will not stop. The newly elected Boroondara Council has the opportunity to revisit the decision and restore the park for the benefit of the whole community. The State Government has the power to require Council to use the land for public gardens. The State Government also has the ability to transfer responsibility for this land from the Council to Camberwell Primary School. This would allow the land to be restored to open green space for children to use during school hours and the wider community after hours.

**THEN**: (above left) the historic park in 1937, viewed from the top of Camberwell Town Hall. Our Lady of Victories Basilica is in the background. **NOW**: (above right) the asphalted park, currently empty seven days a week because Council staff are not parking there during the Covid-19 lockdown when parkland has been even more needed and appreciated than ever.