

Planning Consultation Meetings

After the public notification period finishes, if objections have been received to a planning permit application Council may decide to organise a Planning Consultation Meeting. The Ward Councillor, Applicant and Objector(s) to the application are invited to attend the meeting. This meeting is usually held at the Council offices in Cheltenham and in most cases the planner responsible for processing the application attends and another planner chairs the meeting.

What is the purpose of a Planning Consultation Meeting?

A Planning Consultation Meeting provides the opportunity for all parties to hear everyone's views and to develop an understanding of the issues from all perspectives. This often involves the permit applicant providing more information about the proposal in response to the objections and/or making changes to the proposal to address them. Negotiations may develop and agreement between the parties may be reached. Specific conditions on the permit (if approved) might also help address your concerns. Permit applicants are not required to amend their proposal in response to objector's concerns. However, it is recommended that these concerns are taken into consideration by the applicant.

There is also an opportunity to seek clarification from the planning officer of Council's planning policies and procedures. The planner will not offer an opinion as to Council's views on the proposal as a full assessment of the proposal has not been undertaken at this stage.

Planning Consultation Meetings are not a statutory requirement in the planning permit application process. This process does not jeopardise the legal rights of the applicant or the objectors under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to appeal a determination to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Where no meeting is held or where following a Planning Consultation Meeting, objections are not withdrawn the points raised in objections will be carefully considered by Council before a decision is reached.

Code of Behaviour

It is important that everyone maintains respect for one another. Council understands that planning issues can be emotive, however, respect for others is essential when discussing these issues and trying to reach a satisfactory outcome. Unruly or threatening behavior will not be tolerated and will result in termination of the meeting.

The next steps following the meeting

At the end of the meeting, the responsible planner will outline what the next steps in the application assessment process will be. Revised plans submitted by the applicant after the meeting may be circulated to all parties and they will be given a chance to respond to the plans. It is important to note that all objections will be considered when Council is making a decision.

Further information

If you would like further information or assistance, please contact our Planning team:

 **Online** kingston.vic.gov.au/planning

 **In person** **Cheltenham Office**
1230 Nepean Highway
Cheltenham VIC 3192
8.30am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

 **Telephone** 9581 4131

 **Email** info@kingston.vic.gov.au

 **Translation service:**

 **131 450**
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