



BLACKBURN VILLAGE RESIDENTS GROUP

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**GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 1994 AT 8.00PM.
64 LABURNUM STREET, BLACKBURN.**

A meeting has been called to review the role of the Group and to elect a Committee for the ensuing year. With the retirement of our past Chair and the impending retirement from the Secretaryship of Ron Grainger we need to reconstitute the Committee. In particular, we need to again include women members, of whom there are none on the outgoing Committee.

Since the Group was formed, at this same address some 7 years ago, the objective has been to ensure that the interests of residents remain paramount in all strategic planning issues affecting Blackburn.

So far the Group has been singularly successful in achieving this objective and in reminding Council that your environmental interest and investment in this neighbourhood is as important as is that of the Chamber of Commerce, developers and others seeking commercial gain.

If you believe that residents' views should continue to be actively promoted it is vital that you participate.

**PLEASE MAKE A NOTE NOW OF THE TIME AND PLACE AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.
8.00PM., THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY, 1994 AT 64 LABURNUM STREET.**

DINNER: The dinner held at the Ganesh Indian Restaurant proved an enjoyable function. It also served as a farewell to Ray Nichols following his retirement from the Committee which he had enthusiastically chaired for the last three years.

TRASH AND TREASURE: The Chamber of Commerce last year applied to operate a market on the second Sunday of each month. Your Committee did not object to a well conducted market which did not inconvenience local residents but did object to the closure of Gardenia Street.

Despite objections from a significant number of Gardenia Street residents Council approved the grant of a permit.

This decision is now under Appeal and the Chamber have also applied for a permit to use South Parade Gardens, leaving all roads open. Provided the usual controls ensure that the gardens are properly maintained this seems a far better proposition.

But we need to see the first permit withdrawn before the second is granted.

CLARIFICATION: Council Officers have implied that no further Amendment would be required should a proposal be submitted for a retail development incorporating the closure of Gardenia Street and that the first Trash and Treasure application was justified, inter alia, because the Planning Scheme designated the closure.

However, the specific site conditions attached to Amendment L9 cannot now be met and it would be entirely against the spirit of the Act to accept a new proposal which incorporated such closure without first requiring a new Amendment to be exhibited and approved.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT: Substantial amendments to the Act were approved in December. Unfortunately these further limit the rights of objection for certain land uses (yet to be specified) and will increase the arbitrary powers of State and Local Government.