

Middleton Beach Group: Precinct Planning Forum – Feedback

This is a direct transcript from the notes collected at the end of the forum – with no editing of comments. This explains why there is some repetition.

People were encouraged to write down their own views and they were not required to reach consensus as a group. Some comments are the collective views of the group. Others represent the views of individuals and in some instances opposing views were recorded by the same group.

The size of groups varied from one or two individuals to groups of up to eight people. It is not possible to draw conclusions about the strength of different positions – they are simply a range of viewpoints.

1. Our experiences of Middleton Beach - and what to preserve for the future

Boardwalk and Cycle way

- We love our boardwalk
- Love the boardwalk undulating along on top of the dunes – give walkers etc. the opportunity to walk the whole way.
- Cycle way to Emu Point
- Boardwalk
- Walking the boardwalk. The boardwalk is wonderful and no matter what time whether 5 am or any time though the day it is always in use.
- Pedestrian facilities

The pines, trees and shady areas

- First saw beach with Norfolk Island pines in July 1965 in the rain – the beautiful memory still remains.
- View through the dark green canopy of pines to with beach and turquoise water – very dramatic.
- Smell of the pines
- Grass areas – pines – as cool clean place to site
- Grassed and shade areas.
- Plant life, love the peppies

The space

- Sense of space
- Sense of space and safety, nurturing, sense of stewardship / freedom, sense of nature.
- Space and privacy (not overlooked while walking on beach).
- Nobody there – few people (early morning)
- Space – grass / beach for exercise, boot camps, walkers, runners, paddlers, cyclists, swimmers.
- Like the freedom, not buying things.

The view and the Scenery

- I love coming to MB for the beautiful scenery.
- “Unlimited” view of the ocean
- Need to stop and get out of car to access and look.
- Walking on the beach - with great views in either direction.

Watching whales

- As a child I liked the whales
- Enjoying the whales at all different times of the day.
- Whale watching from beach and boardwalk (instead of having to go out on boat)

- Watching the whales

The beach and shells

- Washed up stuff – shells, weed, inhabitants eg invertebrates
- Collecting shells
- Picking up shells
- Collecting shells.
- Constantly changing beach, sandhills

A family beach

- Great family beach! Very important to have space where families can congregate in these days of small blocks etc.
- My special experience of MB was playing in the sand with family sitting under the shady trees to enjoy a picnic.
- Walking to the beach with the kids and seeing the horizon between the grass and the bottom of the Norfolk pines.
- Kids play areas - with space for parents nearby
- Safe place
- As a child, smell of hamburgers, races on the grass area, sprinklers on the grass

The places

- Ellen Cove
- Ellen Cove
- Sheltered area – Ellen Cove
- The pontoon
- Jetty – Ellen Cove - and fish and chips
- The Village
- The “village feel”
- Dog beach – animal exercise area
- A promenade without it being developed as such

Experiences at MB

- Eating fish and chips and watching the waves.
- Fish and Chips
- Fish and chips in the evenings
- Swimming and looking back to shore.
- Going for swim, the pontoon, the surf
- “Sensual” experience of beach / swimming should be maintained and not be distracted by too many structures, sculptures etc.
- Fishing from beach
- Fishing from the jetty
- Riding a bike, horses, walkers, dog walkers providing mixed uses
- Summer time patrols (surf life saving club)
- Carol service at Xmas.
- Community meeting place
- Sculptures by the Sea
- Outdoor showers

2. Compare MB with other beaches – what aspects to consider in our planning

Retain uniqueness

- MB is distinctly different climatically from West coast and east Coast. MB is unique – resist temptation to import ideas from other beaches
- Maintain uniqueness – we do not want a Spanish pub here.
- This is Albany's MB and Ellen Cove – not anywhere else in the world. It has its own character envied by all.
- MB is more natural and better than other places so why change.

Retain natural environment

- Unspoilt, uncluttered
- Nothing can replace what we have in MB. We want a natural environment for Ellen Cove and MB. It can be improved, softened.
- Keep as much pristine as possible.
- Wonder what visitors say about MB as they keep coming back for its natural environment. Don't develop for its own sake. Preserve intrinsic characteristics – low lying, low key.
- We must retain it as a beach, not a waterfront development.
- No Gold Coast here please
- We don't want overdevelopment – nothing that intrudes on the beachscape.
- Hate high rise behind eg Surfers Paradise
- No theme parks.

What we like

- The beautiful white sand
- Board walks to beach – along the beach
- Like beaches without pines
- Ease and naturalness of access, Cosy Corner
- Like soft edges, not hard wall like Cottesloe
- Access to shady areas nearby - or behind eg Two Peoples Bay
- Promenade, walk and ride by beaches - the Strand in Townsville, Glenelg in SA
- Emu point – great family holiday spot
- No beach vendors eg Bali
- Rock pools – Sydney
- Wild spaces
- Have enjoyed beaches in Broome, Bali and Dunsborough where greenery (native, natural, sympathetic plantings) softens and brokers approaches to white sand.
- Have enjoyed beaches where concrete is not the most dominant feature.

Ideas

- Paris on Middleton. The City of Paris put out umbrellas and beach mats etc. - all blue and white, all free and it looks spectacular – little money, great style. More dash than cars!
- Jetty concept to be extended with universal access - SA
- Buskers, spaces for music and events - some at Calamaris already eg Sunday Session
- Great café close to water eg Emu Point
- Beach pool – either on foreshore or at Esplanade level (eg Cairns)
- Like to see “strips” approaches to Middleton Beach removed so front area is broader and less fragmented by existing concrete strips.
- Leave ample areas + precincts for art + entertainment. Also ample shelter.
- Better visibility of beach. Others disagreed, as dunes are important as a windbreak.

- Avoid hard edges – rock walls. (Emu Point is a disaster). Present wall is small and often has sand over it – great + easy maintenance.
- Need to retain picnic area – casual.

3. Beach village and surrounds - what type of environment for MB?

Type of development

- No high rise buildings.
- No high rise please.
- Streetscape – do not want another Gold Coast with multi storey development.
- Building heights are important – we do not need high rise areas along Flinders Parade.
- Think about shadows on the beach, which shorten daylight hours.
- No development on the beach
- No high rise building along the beach or dunes
- No buildings overlooking beach. Barry Court Land Corp development - controls on beachside.

Actual height of buildings

- Restrict building heights to maximum of 3 storeys – grade heights
- No more 2 storey caravan park accommodation alongside sand dunes! It interrupts the sand dune effect
- Lower the beachfront height – no more than 3 storeys.
- No more than single storey on beach front
- Four-storey height will have overlooking impact and will affect views. Four storey height at Garden Street will affect peoples views Generally 2 storeys is adequate for the short term
- Precinct Heights - highest parts should be in the middle between ocean and lakes – amend policy. Highest building - 3 floors? On Golf Links Road – not overlooking public open space.
- 4 Storeys is too high – blocks “village” from beach shadows beach, imposes on beach. 2 storey limit – can create high density with out going up.
- Like that it is not dominated by overlooking buildings - discourage 2 storey development at Caravan Park. New development stands out – don’t want it.
- Height controls not appropriate – 3-4 storeys on Flinders, 2 storeys elsewhere (Park would be overlooked +impact from Middleton Road would be very big.
- No multi storey - balance between built environment and natural environment.
- We are not Gold Coast – good not to have high rise. No! To 3 + 4 storey development fronting the beach – it overlooks beach goers and is intrusive.
- Re high-rise – has thought been give to people who have built or lived in the area over many years and now have their views and sunlight either reduced or gone.
- If development is to go from single / two storey to 3 or 4 then the street trees are all the more important.

Form and density

- The height allowances would allow for a higher density than 1260. The important factor is the form of the development. A higher density would allow for more permanent residential to supporting more short stay. Concept should be mixed development with commercial on ground floor along Esplanade.
- Importance of form not just height.

Esplanade Site

- Want hotel – public bar overlooking harbour
- Hotel is not a necessity – a quality tavern with restaurant, alfresco, overlooking the beach is essential – maybe “beer garden” to the rear.
- Balance Esplanade site short term with some residential

- We have no problems with residential development on Esplanade Site, but agree that public space and access should be incorporated into the development together with gardens and green landscaping.
- Encourage the Esplanade development to incorporate the arcade theme. Look at the end of golf course area for more modern and multi story development
- No encroachment by the existing hotel recreation site onto the public open space or road
- Careful development on Esplanade Site – development must complement “village” feel at Middleton Beach
- Community Hotel idea wants looking at.
- Only need 8000 people to put in \$1000 in to buy the Esplanade site and make it a community facility (park, pub, garden).
- Design competition – must have some understanding of values, you can have control.

Cafes and bars

- Like the concept of little shops and beach bars and ideas to attract more people to beach – that cannot survive the winter months.
- Like idea of beach cafes and bars – need protection from the wind.
- Deli good place - sheltered from wind – need to retain those small places.
- Preserve the freedom from drunks and hoon influence by proximity of licences premises – too close to the beach.
- Small informal hotels with bars and eating – 3 storey.
- Bar needed near beach – Surf club??
- European villages height of homes above shops, restaurants, bars OK with public space at ground level.
- Good to have choice in commercial outlets eg eating/drinking. Currently very limited.
- Simple cafes/eating outlets
- Lack of shops / commercial (a relief from commercialism retail). Built environment to be community space not just a tourist trap.
- Barnett Street good for beach buildings, bar etc.

Trees and Vegetation

- Put peppermint trees back – take out the Queensland palms
- Norfolk pines are now part of the heritage and character of the beach.
- Grass verges + peppermint trees (related)

Walkways and Pedestrians

- I love the removal of the road, pedestrianisation – great
- Make village very pedestrian and bike friendly with narrow roadways connecting seamlessly to beach precinct
- Walkways good (Seppings Street) excellent. Walkers safe and quiet.
- Can we instate a pedestrian walk through to beach between houses? (Hopetown has ROW though town to beach)
- Commercial walkway through new hotel site to fit in with the village walkway atmosphere



Parking

- Car park in Esplanade.
- Car park - times it is fully used. Don't want cars in streets or next to houses, so retain large areas for car parking.

Roads and traffic

- Historically the road has always been there to take people to the Beach – traffic should not be re-directed away.
- Redirect the main road out of the precinct (Flinders Parade) – create more public open space
- Reduce and remove kerbs they are so ugly.

- MB road from Golf Links road to Beach was an avenue of peppermints that nearly met over the road - Council vandalism ruined them entry statement for the sake half a dozen perking bays that are rarely used.
- Avenue planting.
- More street trees on roads to beach with quality foot paths.
- Plant trees in middle of road to slow traffic – entry statement

		Entry Statement	
Middleton Road			Trees in middle of road to slow traffic
	Adelaide Crescent		Aire Park

A speed hump to be constructed opposite the Holiday Inn Backpackers to lower speed, particularly adjacent to their angel car parking facility. (Written submission from Dennis Backshall)

“An important aspect of the management of the beach zone is traffic control, particularly in regard to antisocial driving for which MB has a notoriously bad reputation.

While some remedial works (in the form of speed humps have been installed along Flinders Parade with good results, hoon drivers continue to reach dangerously high speeds between Flinders and the Golf Links Road roundabout, when exiting the beach zone.

This section of the road passes several commercial holiday accommodation businesses, with associated heavy pedestrian usage frequently including very young children.

I have in the past discussed this with council staff and in 2007 the then Ex Director of Works and Services agreed with the need for a speed hump to be constructed opposite the Holiday Inn Backpackers to lower speed, particularly adjacent to their angel car parking facility (a scene of a collision and many near messes. Works were actually scheduled however subsequent budget deficiencies and replacement of the Works Director scuttled the project.

I am of the opinion that the council is remiss and negligent in not taming this section of the road (there isn't even a speed limit sign), and I urge the group to address the issue in the management Plan.

Other comments

- Do not follow one size fits all as in “streetscape” treatment of Great Sothern towns. Most have ended up being all the same due to so called streetscape!
- A meeting place for residents and visitors
- North facing courtyards
- Locally owned space but welcoming tourists
- Tennis courts

4. Comments about Public Art

How much artwork

- Not much point in filling up open space with too much art.
- The Beach is the Artwork! + Trees in Ellen Cove
- Not too much in the way of bit and pieces of sculpture.
- Public art should be kept to a minimum. We want to enjoy the natural beauty.

Timing

- We support Juliet. Her comment is the best – complete the concept then decorate it. First the big picture, then the bits.
- I agree with Michael Roberts – lets do a long term total plan first before we introduce sculpture at this stage. This does not mean I do not like the sculpture
- The artwork looks great – but I totally agree with Juliette - we need a whole design concept first.
- Temporary is better eg the board walk
- Place temporary public art

The design and materials

- Like the use of the timber. The visual one could be good frame for different MB points to photograph.
- Quite low key – good (sculptures).
- Sculptures okay – in the right place
- Note the jetty timbers and steel sheets which screen the Ellen cove showers and toilet facilities from the users of the path to the board walk - fit in with the area.
- Art to be designed for urban space – not in isolation.
- Timber sculpture is more suitable for the Board walk area than in the beach front, which calls for slender and sharp skinny shaped sculptures.
- Good because its not on the beach and is not intrusive. And kids will enjoy it. Public art has to be placed so well.

Location

- No artwork on beach – back in car packs etc.
- Public art is enjoyable if done tastefully and out of cycle ways

Purpose and Function

- Like the idea of interactive art. Sounds and looks unobtrusive and is of simple classic design.
- Functional public art – stuff you use, can sit on, bollards, bike racks, bins.
- Art must be useful like seating, bike racks, tables all can be artistic in design art will stimulate peoples impression of the area.
- Bicycle stands which won the bicycle users competition are also art and useful.

Local artists

- Public Art / street furniture to made locally not off shelf. Keep local artist /designers employed and local manufacturers in work, not buy from Perth or East States.

5. Priorities if Concept Plan has to be staged

Participants were asked to comment on the following.

1. Bins, tables, bicycle hoops, lighting to be replaced.
2. Retaining wall to be replaced with sloping edge which allows for disabled access.
3. Chiringuitos (beach bars) to be temporarily placed to bring entertainment life (night and day) to the foreshore.
4. Reconfiguring car parking
5. Continuous hard surface for all transit modes connecting existing boardwalk to Surfers Beach Walk

The numbers indicate the order in which they ranked their view of the priorities.

Bins, tables, bicycle hoops, lighting ..

- 1 Bins, tables, bicycle hoops, lighting to be replaced. More lighting
- 2 Bins alter their location and make them bits of Art – bins/bike stands etc good paces to start
- 3 Improve bins, tables, bicycle hoops etc. These can all be artistic
- 3 Bins, tables, bicycle hoops, lighting to be replaced.
- 3 Bins, tables, bicycle hoops, lighting to be replaced.
- 4 Bins, tables, lighting
- 6 Bins etc. – local design and made

Retaining wall

- 1 Retaining wall to be replaced with sloping edge which allows for disabled access.
- 2 Retaining wall to be replaced with sloping edge which allows for disabled access.
- 2 Retaining wall to be replaced with sloping edge which allows for disabled access.
- 2 Retaining wall overlaid with undulating boardwalk to allow disable access
- 2 Retaining wall – beach access, user friendly, rocks at Ellen Cove, club house covered,

Beach bars and entertainment

3. More entertainment and art competitions
- 3 Ellen cove = entertainment centre, is more sheltered.
- 4 Beach bars to be temporarily placed to bring entertainment life (night and day) to the foreshore.
- 5 Beach bars to be temporarily placed to bring entertainment life (night and day) to the foreshore.

Car parking

- 1 Reconfiguring car parking
- 1 Entrance to the beach – roundabout and parking is confusing and ugly. Enhance that space and the entrance statements, including the ducks etc.
- 2 Reconfiguring car parking

- 4 Reconfiguring car parking
- 4 Car parking - must be plentiful, closely accessible and not restrict access. Plant trees.
- 6 Reconfigure car parking and ensure sufficient bays for busy times

Continuous hard surface, connected boardwalk

- 1 I love the idea of the boardwalk going into the beach
- 3 Connect boardwalks to extend to Emu Point
- 3 Continuous surface to connect boardwalk to surfers.
- 4 Continuous hard surface for all transit modes connecting boardwalk to Surfers Beach Walk
- 5. Continuous hard surface for all transit modes connecting boardwalk to Surfers Beach Walk
- 5 Continuous hard surface for all transit modes connecting boardwalk to Surfers Beach Walk
- 5 Continuous dual use pathway

Beach maintenance and signage

- 1 Ongoing general maintenance.
Keep lawns mowed and watered.
Keep the Beach clean and free of seaweed and graded daily in the summer season.
Maintenance / revamp "tired infrastructure.
- 1 Improve Beach maintenance. Get rid of storm water drainage.
- 1 Like MB as is but tidied up.
- 2 Would like Lake Seppings cleaned of weeds. This is urgent.
- 2 Improve signage to keep dogs off beach and grass
- 2 Remove weeds
- 3 A sign (Lake Seppings Drive) – this is not visible coming down Middleton Road

Café Restaurant

- 1 Good pub + why not a Great Southern Community Pub and Community Centre, plus serviced and unserviced units.
- 1 Esplanade Hotel – get it right, will set atone for rest of area
- 3 Cafes
- 4 Beach bar – water hole, coffee etc. on Esplanade – protected from Easterlies
- 5 Calamaris – redevelopment , re focus, Knock down Calamaris and start again.
- 5 Design Guidelines for the hotel site - shade all year round by verandahs
- 6 Conflict cycle path with access services to Calamaris, redirect cycle path/boardwalk so Calamaris can come out. Cycle path could go over Calamaris.

Access / transport

- 2 Access to the beach for elderly and disabled. Paths and parking.
- 3 Improve cycle ways / pedestrian use
- 3 Get rid of hoons!
- 4 Bike path from Eyre Park to MB – linking the areas with residences, improve access to Beach.
- 5 Improve ramps from lawn to beach - beach users want to lie, walk and sit in clean sand as the old 100 year pictures show.

- 6 Improve access to the precinct by pushbikes and pedestrians.
- 7 Mini buses regularly to reduce traffic

Shelter and Shade

- 1 Spaces protected from SE wind. North and NW facing communal eating and sunning areas. Manage for cold and grey SE winds October to January.
- 2 More shade over Beach areas
- 4 Small shelter in Ellen Cover Area – beach huts
- 7 Roof shelters for any weather.
- 8 More shade structures - beach shade shelters

Amenities and Facilities

- 3 Barbeques
- 3 More seating with back rests just to enjoy the view
- 3 Renovate toilet block and toilets
- 4 Provide picnic areas
- 7 Lots of sculptured seating
- 8 Shift BBQ from near surf club to near BBQs

Infrastructure

- 1 Drain must be diverted!
- 2 Replace old jetty with a new longer one perhaps from grassed area out
 - somewhere for boats to anchor, and somewhere to walk, for people to fish in deeper water,
 - with access for wheelchairs, prams, etc.
- 5 Ellen Cove upgrade

Vegetation

- 2 Plant more trees everywhere but keep pines and the view through from car park to ocean
- 2 Species change – vegetation.
 - Remove Norfolk pines (at least impose a moratorium). Replace with agonis/melaleuca
- 4 Soften edges – keep Pines and story of Pines and shelter from Pines.
- 7 Remove grass from Ellen Cove and protect – reinstate local tees. Restore Ellen Cove trees.

Town planning

- 1 Create a vision - No point in embarking on major changes until grand vision.
- 1 Scale and ratios
- 3 A development plan, involving the city Council for period of 5 years, specific to MB
- 3 Amend Town Planning Scheme to change heights and pull high buildings back to Golf Links Rd, away from beach and lake.
- 5 Encourage young / designers / architects by a competition to design - play / areas, picnic spots graduated paths and parking etc.

6. Other comments re points in presentation.

Pine Trees

- Leave the Norfolk pines
- The Norfolk pines probably have heritage value in the south end
- No to removing any pines. Pines = heritage and story. Keep Pines – add more trees – lots of trees. Albany = ozone hole. Need for shade to walk in throughout the precinct. Local / indigenous trees do not provide the same level of shade, allow views through or break the wind as do the pines.
- Save the Norfolk Pines – they are the signature and character of Middleton Beach and they are the view! They provide wonderful shade! Everyone who visits MB loves them. Can't understand why anyone would want to remove them in this age of environmental awareness!
- Retain Pines – suitable for seaside vista
- The pines provide a high canopy, almost an umbrella of shade – which allows an unimpeded leisure use with very little leaf litter. Why should these pines be replaced with eucalypts which begin dropping their leave in December and finish in March, – and which will take years to replace the existing shade.
- We do not need to overplant – there are plenty of Bush Beaches around already in WA
- Leave pines
- Leave trees as is! Don't put scrubby dirty untidy indigenous instead.
- No removal of pines – they provide barrier, small + visual.
- Love the pine tress should be kept as they have stood the test of time with the salt laden East wind
- Keep the pine trees
- Norfolk pines - do the not have right to stay

Dunes and Vegetation

- No peppermint trees – hay fever victim
- I like the mature peppermint street trees.
- Ecological restoration.
- Reinstate the grove of trees in the corner of the beach.
- I like the strip of grass!
- To re-introduce sand dunes is a backward concept – there are plenty of these on the way to Emu Point. Loose sand is difficult to traverse.
- I also like the idea of restoring the dunes
- Leave sand hills to North of surfers as they are
- Love the “soft edge” approach – the softer the better. Movement of sand and seaweed back and forth with the season.
- Sloping edge (retaining wall) – already exists so why need to add. Sand movement makes present wall sloping any way. Allow for wind and sand movement

Drainage and Wetlands

- Council must get back to fixing the drainage of road water so it does not sully the beach.
- Drainage water must not go onto the beach – it is smelly, unsightly. Not keen on swamp in the beach.
- Ellen Cove Bay needs dredging. The end of current mid beach at the moment is only between 2'6 and 3'6 - creating a lot of problems and encouraging the massive weed build up and worsening sand blow.
- No Ellen Cove wetland – tidal
- The idea of having a “swamp” where people have sat for 50 years on the beach for Carols by Candlelight is ridiculous – Lake Seppings is our “wetlands”.

- Dredge near the jetty – back to natural depth.
- Reinststate creek at base of escarpment, extend the trees onto the verge to create a shady walk and have a sunny walk path on the other side. The drain at the beach is also ugly – restore the wetland under the face at this point.
- Dry drainage area – no water sitting around – reeded creek type of experience – no mozzies
- Re establish the ‘the “natural creek” with wetland is a great idea.

Eyre Park

- Eyre Park needs a major makeover
- No more trees to be planted in Eyre Park to commemorate 100 years Birthdays. Lets have some open space play areas and use Anzac Park instead.

Ellen Cove.

- The terraces (for Carols by Candlelight) were remodelled about 15 years ago and were previous much more user friendly.

Access to Beach

- Like the ramps down to the water
- MB must remain easily accessible to all – particularly for disabled people to continue to park close by.
- True dog access – bags and bins in lots of locations

Walkways

- More shade for existing pathways when coming from town
- More friendly pedestrian access along beach – eg board walks.
- Large promenade for access with soft edges to ocean. Walk ways not to intrude on beach water and sand.
- Structured walkway to beach along southern end of old hotel site – this connects shade to Middleton Beach Norfolk Pines
- Like the green roof over restaurant
- Wooden board walk in stone wall great idea

Paving

- Use small concrete bocks interspersed with hardy durable grasses. More texture on shaded areas. Like the flux idea making the sand edge moving up and down. Fluctuating soft edges in and around trees and parking.
- No paving in grass and between trees on beachfront. Like permeable paving – question need for reticulation to keep any green.
- Are rough or uneven surfaces a good idea? Accident could cause insurance claims.

Amount of Development

- Retain clean lines of MB
- Maintain natural beauty of Middleton Beach.
- Improve MB – don’t undertake major development
- Simple development, enhancements that keep the beach accessible and user friendly. Not a heavily structured space.
- Low key open community beach.
- Respect the natural environment
- Beach should not be overlooked. Beach a wild place for escape, to walk freely, experience!
- Wider beach – extend to include dog beach with coverage by Albany SLSC
- Keep it safe for kids.
- MB should be developed as an all year round beach, not just a summer beach – facilities for winter use too.
- Promote MB as a winter beach an all year beach. Take it as it is! Keep its character

- As a resident I would like the group to meet making our beautiful beach just what it is - a great family place, not an artists paradise. We are not the gold coast. I feel the group is looking far to far into the future – looking at a pie in the sky approach.

Suggestions for development

- Less fences! More open space; see what people are doing – at bowling club, at Caravan Park. Villages do not have fences. See people enjoy themselves. If you can see though it is better. Use hedges, trees etc.
- I like the ability to approach the beach from various distance on a broad front – move under the trees towards the beach across the sand and visa versa – unique to MB – many WA beaches sheep race you to minimise foot traffic erosion.
- Think about landscaping into the ocean – pools, rock pools, artificial reefs, interactive play, tidal wave passages.
- Entrance statements
- Water spouting / shaping spouts like in South Bank in Melbourne
- More lighting and improvement of table area on hill.
- Area near steps near table and chairs on the hill where wedding photos are taken could be dressed up a little.

Activities

- No skate boarding
- Could encourage more community use like Carols by Candlelight.
- Shaded playgrounds
- No Jet skis, helicopters and noisy boats
- We don't want restrictions on children's / family activities – cricket, football etc.
- No skate boards please
- Playground should be more beach interactive, could incorporate art, education, history, and Noongar history.
- Keep MB as a family beach for as long as possible

Entertainment - bars

- Resist temptation to redevelop MB into major entertainment precinct
- No to kiosks – beach bars – lets get a hotel/pub first. Get Pub 1st – Community Pub + community centre.
- Pop up business – all business need to operate at commercial rates.
- Don't want beach bars – hoon attitude. Who would it appeal to? Is there demand? Don't want “shop for lease”!
- Theatre – small eg 50 seats with Ron Siemenski showing films suitable similar to the Windsor at Nedlands.

Caravan Park

- Colour the Caravan Park buildings to camouflage them – plus pines/or peppermint in front between beach and car park.
- Caravan Park is crown land to be reserved for future use of people of Albany and visitors

Car Parking - amount of

- The car parks fronting Ellen Cove are much in demand all year for beach users – mothers and pushers using the boardwalk, elderly walkers, no merit in making them park further away and at night for the restaurant the car parks are still in use. No parking and worse access for the business is not good.
- Would be disappointed to lose close car park access to beachfront.
- Remember most people who use the beach do not live nearby. Essentially the beach belongs to use all – not just the local residents.
- Southern end car park to be doubled in size to offset lost of car park in front of main site
- Car parking – very important to quantify these and do overall schema that would take in the Hotel redevelopment site – probably before any other aspects. People will come here by car

so crucial to “nail” the parking statistics. In Guildford there is no parking plan and parking ratios are manipulated by developers, increasing pressure on residential amenity.

Car Parking - surface, configuration

- Loose parking great – stops hoons, gets them out of their cars. Its still a public space – hoons need somewhere to go too!
- The plan of grass car parks does help to deal with tall buildings
- Softening up car parks with trees – not melaleucas.
- People like to be able to sit in cars and look out to view islands – would not fit in with suggested configurations
- People like to sit in car and see the sea
- Like the idea of changing the road surface to slow traffic, allow ducks, create more interest and gradual “arrival feel”

Heritage and Indigenous Culture

- Middleton Beach is a designated heritage area on the City of Albany Town Planning Scheme. We need to define the heritage values of the place. This can be quantified and this meeting is contributing to this process.
- We need to research the history, including indigenous history.
- Albany is fortunate in existing positive collaboration between indigenous organisations e.g. Aboriginal Cultural Reference Groups (Chairman Vernice Gillis, Lynette Knapp). Plus civic organisations e.g. Town Council, Indigenous Affairs Dept., developers - projects such as Lake Windermere + Kalgan Hall. Albany is particularly rich in known examples/sites of Aboriginal history dating back to 25,000 – 40,000 years.
- This is a proud and dignified cultural inheritance, which needs to be acknowledged and embedded in major projects such as Middleton Beach. Contact Dr Robert Reynolds, archaeologist and long time Albany resident who has been delivering excellent Summer School courses on Aboriginal Heritage of the Albany area. Proper appropriate and courteous to invite some input from body such as Aboriginal Cultural Reference Group.

General comments.

- Vision. The goal – a unique local beach for the people of Albany and their visitors
- Little changes, start little, learn from these and make incremental changes eg
- Start with the overall plan and proceed carefully.
- Need to see something soon – maintain momentum.
- Stop, think, consider. To have a concept plan is great. Maybe stops the kind of “destruction at Emu Point resulting from an ad hoc response, not respecting local knowledge and the actual nature of the beach. This design respects the natural beach – fantastic response!
- I don't feel Albany can support grand ideas - we go the sleep in the winter.
- Can't trust the Council – they did not come and consult the community.
- I think Jen's idea that as you approach the beach it gets hotter isn't really so – for the vast majority of days it's a cool, windy place.
- We need to think why there were far more people using the beach many years ago when Albany's population was only about 10,000.
- No to professional outside expertise. Use locals – local competition if necessary but not outsiders. This is a very small town and it needs to recognise its own character and charm.