

## Darebin Council Elections 2020: Questions for Candidates

23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2020

Dear Candidate,

Below is a list of questions compiled on behalf of Darebin community groups; Darebin Progress Association, Darebin Residents Group, Save THE Preston Market and Darebin Appropriate Development Association.

The aim is to supply our members answers to question most important them in the hope it will aid their voting choices in the upcoming council election.

We have aimed to keep the impost on your time to a minimum by posing most questions for yes or no answers with some also asking how you might achieve the answer as a Councillor.

Your answers will be posted, unedited, on our websites and Facebook pages for maximum coverage to our members across Darebin.

Please leave a YES or a NO and remove or cross out the answer you don't want.

### GENERAL RESPONSE

Name: AgapiPashos Ward: South central

Please tell us in 50 words the main reason you are running for Council and your top three issues you want council to adopt

My decision to run for council is based on my commitment to social justice. Working together with residents and community groups ,my aim is to strive for the improvement of residents' lives and to effectively make their voices heard

- 1/Oppose unjustified rate increases for households and business
- 2/Increase provisions for childcare , Aged care and disability services.
- 3/Retain the Preston markets location and character as the people's market.

### GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILTY AND TRANSPARANCY

One of the glaring weaknesses of the majority of current councillors has been their inability/failure to accept that they represent the community. The following questions require a simple yes/no/how answer to demonstrate your commitment to important democratic procedures.



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**1. Will you support complete transparency in issues affecting the community?**

YES	
HOW?By giving the community access to all information and allowing them to have interaction with council officers about issues that affect them.	

**2. Would you guarantee regular meetings with the community by all means available?**

YES	
HOW?With regular online meetings (due to covid) and by holding quarterly ward meetings	

**3. Will you actively consult with community groups prior to any local by-laws being enacted?**

YES	
HOW?By allowing them to have information available in due time so they will have the opportunity to provide feedback	

**4. Would you restructure Public Question Time in allow questions directly to Councillors?**

YES	
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**5. Will you support a review of the Council newsletter to make it more informative, regular and representative?**

YES	
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**6. Will you ensure Advisory Committees recommendations are heard in General Council meetings?**

YES	
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**7. Will you work for the community and not to serve any political party?**

YES	
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**8. Will you insist on an annual staff survey and make it available to the community?**

YES	
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**9. Will you listen to the Community's opinions when motions for spending and approvals for planning are brought before Council?**



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<b>YES</b>	
<b>HOW?</b> By giving them ample time to voice their opinions and when this is done in council to make sure that there views are included in the council minutes	

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- 1. Will you oppose the demolition and relocation of the Preston Market elsewhere on the site and actively support its retention?**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>HOW?</b> By working with community groups to inform people to support this issue as it was done in the 70's with Victoria market. A similar situation occurred with the Vic market and on their webpage they state that due to public outcry , the market stayed as it was and how it was.	

- 2. Will you support mandatory heights limits be applied to the Preston Market site?**

<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>HOW?</b> Changing the planning rules	

- 3. Will you oppose the practice of trading off of objectives and standards,such as height limits in the planning scheme that can result in poorer outcomes but gets developments built in Darebin?**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>HOW?</b> By ensuring that planning rules and standards are abided by .	

- 4. Do you agree to a complete review of the Darebin Planning Schemeincluding consultation with community groups and members to ensure it is clearer in its intent, eg: applies mandatory heights to development plans, better protects neighborhood character and increases neighbourhoo residential zoning?**

<b>YES</b>	
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- 5. Will you support the Open Space Levy and Developer Contribution Levy that adequately increases the amount of land dedicated to open space in order to meet the future needs of Darebin's growing population and ensure that the money is spent in the general locale of where the development occurs?**



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YES	
HOW? By ensuring that it is part of the planning scheme and identifying where there are open space deficiencies , improving parks and creating more green space	

6. Will you support a review of the Planning Committee Charter to give objectors more time to present their case, to allow at least one councillor to call up planning applications and, release the agenda papers and reports at least seven days ahead of meetings and to allow residents to ask questions and make submissions?

YES	
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### AGED CARE AND DISABILITY SERVICES

1. Will you support Council having an ongoing role in the direct delivery of home support care services to eligible older people and people with a disability in Darebin?

YES	
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2. Will you support Council subsidising the cost of home care services to eligible residents?

YES	
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3. Will you support Council continuing to directly deliver to eligible older residents and people with a disability the following :

• home support services;	YES	
• personal care,	YES	
• shopping,	YES	
• respite,	YES	
• food services,	YES	
• home care,	YES	
• community transport,	YES	
• home maintenance	YES	

4. Will you oppose further restrictions of eligibility criteria for home care services in Darebin?

YES	
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5. Will you agree to support Council becoming a registered home care provider?

YES	
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**6. Will you agree to maintain at least \$6m in council co-funding for age care services and provide open financial reporting of aged care services?**

YES	
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**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SERVICES**

**1. Will you campaign and vote to provide more public facilities eg; toilet facilities, bins, footpaths upgrade, bike paths, Outdoor Gyms, upgrading parks, and regular removal of graffiti and litter in Darebin?**

YES	
<b>HOW? By prioritizing these services and facilities in the budget.</b>	

**2. Will you vote for balanced services and equal spend across all of Darebin, particularly Reservoir, including rebuilding to the Reservoir Leisure Centre?**

YES	
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**3. Will you oppose unsubstantiated use of money spent on consultants?**

YES	
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**4. Will you vote for more parking and vote against blanket parking restrictions?**

YES	
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**5. Will you support Council in making publically available more detailed financial reporting on departmental, program and project expenditure?**

YES	
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**• ENVIRONMENT**

**1. Given that we are in a climate emergency and everyone; individuals, corporations and all three levels of government must be part of mitigation and adaptation, are you prepared to commit to strong action on global warming?**

YES	
<b>HOW? Raising awareness about climate change within the community groups and assisting them to campaign the solar energy plans to their members</b>	



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2. Will you bring policies to Council that will make a real improvement at a local level to Darebin's environment and biodiversity?

YES	
HOW? Plant native trees and vegetation	

3. Darebin Council set up both Climate Emergency Darebin and the Darebin Nature Trust as key initiatives very early in their term. What do you know about these two entities and their specific achievements?

	Darebin council was the first council to declare a climate emergency. The council raised the alarm that unless a safe climate is restored, there will be negative impacts on the community and all over the world. The Darebin Nature trust was established to put forward proposals on protecting and improving open spaces and green spaces for people and wildlife in the Darebin district
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4. Have they been effective?

	<b>It has not been as effective as it should be, as it needs more community involvement</b>
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In order to share this information to voters please return your responses to the sender in a Word, PDF or JPEG document by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Thank you.

On behalf of:

Darebin Progress Association: <https://www.facebook.com/Darebin-Progress-Association-163813440325401/>

Save THE Preston Market Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4553059228098235/>

Darebin Appropriate Development Association: <https://www.darebinada.org/> and

Darebin Residents Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/695607447257408>



