

Darebin Council Elections 2020: Questions for Candidates

23rd 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: _____ PETER GONIS _____ Ward: CENTRAL
WARD _____

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

For over 39 yrs I have been a Fire Fighter, helping people in our community when they've needed it most. Assisting them through their emergency and helping to set them on the road to recovery. Throughout my life, I have every opportunity to make a difference locally through various roles on school council, community work, & sporting club communities.

1. Save The Preston market
2. High quality aged care services
3. Important projects & infrastructure for our local community.

GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILTY AND TRANSPARANCY



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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.

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

| | |
|--|----|
| YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO |
| HOW? Ensuring the community is able to ask questions of any councillor at council meetings & forums | |

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

| | |
|---|----|
| YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO |
| HOW? Reinstating the Ethnic Community Council. Form a Community advisory Council. | |

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

| | |
|--|----|
| YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO |
| HOW? Form a Community advisory Council. | |

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

| | |
|---|----|
| YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> as per Question 1 | NO |
|---|----|

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

| | |
|---|----|
| YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO |
|---|----|

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

| | |
|---|----|
| YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO |
|---|----|

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

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|------------------------------------|----|
| YES X This is why I am a Candidate | NO |
|------------------------------------|----|

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

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|-------|----|
| YES X | NO |
|-------|----|

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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|--|----|
| YES n X | NO |
| HOW? Advisory Council meetings will be formal. Minuted. | |

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

| | |
|---|----|
| YES X | NO |
| HOW? Resubmit & add DADA’s well researched submission to Heritage Victoria . | |

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

| | |
|---|----|
| YES X | NO |
| HOW? By mandated height restrictions | |

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?

| | |
|---|----|
| YES X | NO |
| HOW? Formulating & implementing strict policies. | |

4. Do you agree to a complete review of the Darebin Planning Scheme including 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 neighbourhood residential zoning?



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| YES X | NO |
|--------------|-----------|

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?

| | |
|---|-----------|
| YES X | NO |
| HOW? Formulating & implementing strict policies. | |

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 X | NO |
|--------------|-----------|

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 X | NO |
|--------------|-----------|

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

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| YES bX Return \$6 million | NO |
|----------------------------------|-----------|

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

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|
| • home support services; | YES | NO |
| • personal care, | YES | NO |
| • shopping, | YES | NO |
| • respite, | YES | NO |
| • food services, | YES | NO |
| • home care, | YES | NO |
| • community transport, | YES | NO |
| • home maintenance | YES | NO |

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

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| YES How is this possible today? | NO |
|--|-----------|

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

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| YES One reason I am a Candidate | NO |
|--|-----------|

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 | NO |
|------------|-----------|

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 | NO |
|------------|-----------|

HOW?

Secure Federal Government grants for the above projects by not over inflating

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| YES as per above | NO |
|-------------------------|-----------|

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

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|---|-----------|
| YES The fewer consultants the better | NO |
|---|-----------|

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

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| YES | NO |
|------------|-----------|

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

| | |
|--|-----------|
| YES Transperancy is fundamental | NO |
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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?

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|---|-----------|
| YES | NO |
| HOW? Bring to Darebin new Technologies i.e Recycling as per ABC's Acceleration Program approx. 2 weeks ago where plastic being recycled was used to power the recycling process | |

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

| | |
|---|-----------|
| YES | NO |
| HOW? (please provide examples) Purchase land to preserve vegetation wild life | |

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?

| | |
|--|---|
| | Do these entities exist?? If so. Are effective? I say no. These entities are there to shadow the Councils lack of care. For "EYES ONLY" |
|--|---|

4. Have they been effective?

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| YES | NO |
|------------|-----------|

In order to share this information to voters please return your responses to the sender in a Word, PDF or JPEG document by the 30th 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>



