

Nerang Cinemas

The sitting division 5 councillor claimed success in negotiating the withdrawal of a court appeal by Cinema giant Birch Carroll and Coyle (BCC). This appeal was preventing the construction of independent Cinemas at Nerang. In an article by the Gold Coast Sun, the councillor disagreed that the withdrawal was due to the actions of the school children who lobbied strongly for the Nerang Cinemas, the students even threatened a boycott against BCC.

The councillor claimed that the appeal withdrawal was due to his continued lobbying with BCC on Town Planning issues. These negotiations by the councillor continued despite the fact that the matter was before the court and his interference could have prejudiced our communities case.

Nerang Library and Streetscaping

Despite popular perception, the credit for the construction of the Nerang library and street scaping must go to former councillor and Deputy Mayor Colin Kleinschmidt who successfully obtained funding for these projects during his last term in office. In fairness, our sitting division 5 councillor did however contribute significantly to the design of these projects.

Our sitting Division 5 Councillor
Honest, Open and A
Has he delivered

CRIME & MISCONDUCT COMMISSION Form of
No. 2005-5 Date: 19 Oct 05
IN THE MATTER OF:

O P GRAND

Half I

EXHIBIT No. 1
.....CLERK

Our sitting division 5 councillor, when challenged over his support for the construction of the new Civic Focus building at Evandale referred to colloquially as the "Taj Mahal", denied that he supported the project.

It is a matter of public record that the councillor voted for the funding of the construction of the Taj Mahal. This action is inconsistent with his statement as denial of funding would have prevented construction. Perhaps the councillor only meant to half object to the project.

Change of Direction

An option relating to the realignment of Kopps Road was intended to pass through the property owned by our sitting division 5 councillor. Our councillor remained in session to debate on the issue and recommended that the roadworks take the optional route which meant the road passed through another property, this was subsequently approved.

Would any ordinary citizen have had such an advantage?

Electoral Boundary Redistribution

In the recent redistribution of Divisional Electoral Boundaries, our sitting division 5 councillor broke ranks from a unanimous council decision. At the 11th hour he tendered a personal submission to the commission for additional territory in his electorate.

These areas included River Downs, Monterey Keys, Burchill and Arthur Earle Parks.

Contrary to protocol the councillor did not:

- **Inform the appropriate council officer of his intention.**
- **Inform those councillors whose divisions these areas were in.**
- **Inform interested parties such as business and the community.**

Although there is no suggestion that this submission was illegal, this action by the councillor did not allow public debate or consideration of the effect of the changes he requested. His action effectively took away our voice in the decision making process.

For whose benefit did our councillor make the submission for additional territory in his electorate?

Simple Mathematics in Station St. Development

The applicant for this development requested relief in the allocation of car parking spaces by suggesting that public car parking opposite the proposed site be considered as part of their requirement.

Our sitting division 5 councillor supported this request yet had the opposite point of view in a case at Oxenford. The applicant also requested private control of the river frontage on the site. This request was also supported by the councillor who has in the past, taken the position that council should maintain control of public river frontage land.

These inconsistencies in the councillor's decisions require explanation...

With just 126 public car parking spaces in Station Street and 11 other properties that could be subject to redevelopment, the granting of the use of 40 or more of these public spaces to just one developer is unjust and mathematically unsustainable. If 30% of these public spaces had come under the control of a single developer, how do we deal with the rest of them and where would we the public park?

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLOR?

"Me For, Them Against"

In writing and authorising his own campaign material, our sitting division 5 councillor has given us an insight into his character and an opportunity to scrutinise his claims as the information has come straight from the horses mouth. What is his phrase

"Me for, them against" really telling you?

Is he portraying himself as the odd man out which can be a double edged sword? Is he incapable of gaining the support and working with the majority of fellow councillors?

Here is an extract from his letter.

" I give my assurance I will remain dedicated to the task for the entire period. (the next 4 year term) It is my intention then, in March 2008, to run for the position of Mayor. I think by that time, with 8 years behind me as councillor, and if my passion and resolve is still strong, I will be ready to give this City and its people the vital direction and leadership it really does deserve."

We must ask ourselves if his declaration to stand for mayor in 2008, and give us the vital direction and leadership we really do deserve is presumptuous, could it be based on raw ambition and ego? Is he telling us that the current leadership is a failure and only he can lead? He admits little support now, what are his chances as Mayor?

Throughout history there have been many individuals who have been the strong dissenting voice, the odd man out that has captured the public imagination and media attention. History like hindsight has also shown that some of these were not what they were portrayed to be. Our sitting councillor himself asks us to make this decision based on his own trumpet blowing while at the same time telling us he is not part of the band.

Think about it and consider carefully.

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLOR?

Our sitting Division 5 Councillor was elected on a platform of Honest, Open and Accountable Representation.

Has he delivered on those promises?

Westfield gone West?

In the 2000 elections our sitting division 5 councillor promised us our own Westfield Shopping Centre at Helensvale and was talking figures of 47000 square metres of retail space.

Where is it councillor? So far we have a vacant block of land, no lodgement of plans, are 4 years down the track, have 2 new local centres, extensions to another and don't forget the plans for Coomera. Self congratulatory back slapping in recent media comments, does not exactly inspire confidence for

Westfield's completion in the near future.

Councillor, how long must we wait?

Spending Spree

Our councillor's recently published ambition to stand for Mayor in 2008 must be serious, it seems he is already practicing for the role where spending ratepayers money is concerned. In the 2002-3 year our councillor managed to spend \$7067.64 on travel and education training as well as \$4853.90 on printing stationery and advertising. Our Mayor could only manage \$3635.62 and \$3111.66 for the same items, perhaps our councillor is looking after the whole city after all. His trip to South Africa must certainly have furthered his education, shouldn't constraints begin at home?

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLOR?

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It takes 8 votes and support to get it done!

At the end of the day, a councillor must have the support and vote of 7 other councillors to approve and finance major projects within his/her division.

Failure to foster this backing renders the councillor ineffective in representing his community. The sitting division 5 councillor himself admits, quote,

"I often find myself in the minority". Newspapers consistently refer to our councillor's inability to work with councillors in surrounding divisions.

Our sitting councillor often resorts to personal attacks on his fellows and witnesses have commented on their concerns about a lack of respect for the opinions of fellow councillors. By interfering in another division, he has angered one councillor to the point of being invited to "come down to the carpark and sort it out". Our councillor's response to this was "I don't think I've ever had a fist fight in my life, although I've talked my way out of a few, it was quite upsetting".

When strongly challenged on issues, our councillor often attempts to deflect debate by suggesting that the issue was raised to personally embarrass him.

"they don't like me".

Matters have gone so far that during one debate the Deputy Mayor advised council that after initially intending to support a motion by our councillor, he could no longer do so due to our sitting councillor's behaviour.

If our councillor dealt with issues, not personalities and concentrated on the community he was elected to represent, he may have gained much more and maintained the dignity and respect necessary for council to operate effectively. It takes a man of substance to face and take responsibility for his own actions so that he may achieve what is expected of him from those who gave him that responsibility. His job specification is to speak for and represent us.

Does he?