

Councillor Helen Abrahams

The Gabba Ward News

July 2010 *Representing East Brisbane, Kangaroo Point, Woolloongabba, Dutton Park, Highgate Hill, West End, South Brisbane, part of Coorparoo and Greenslopes*



St Joseph's is a Fit and Fresh Friday School

St Joseph's Primary School, Kangaroo Point is an Active School for 2010.

The parents and pupils are eagerly walking, cycling, scootering or car pooling on Fridays to reduce reliance on cars and congestion in Anglesey and Lockerbie Streets.



The Active School mascot "Road Star" works magic on St Joseph's pupils

'This program is giving great results even in busy inner city suburbs' said Cr Abrahams.

Traffic lights for Montague Road

Parents of West End State School and I lobbied strongly for traffic lights in Montague Road for safe pedestrian crossing to Davies Park. Ms Linda Hogendoorn addressed a Council meeting in May and learnt the lights would be funded in the 2010-11 Budget.



I shall continue to lobby for the three outstanding priority traffic lights still needed for pedestrian safety in The Gabba Ward.

Jiang Waller (baby), Fiona Redfern, Corrie MacDonald and Linda Hogendoorn celebrate the announcement of lights in Montague Road

N4C Spotless bush regeneration

Members of Norman Creek Catchment Coordination Committee (N4C) nominated Moorhen Flats in the 2010 Spotless Suburbs Competition. Local residents joined N4C members to give the entire area a thorough "autumn clean".



The last job of the day supervised by Fran Thomas

N4C has done a fantastic job to restore the waterway vegetation in just 15 years. The \$500 000 in the 2010-11 budget is the start of a major project to revegetate the concrete drain upstream of Stones Corner.

"I encourage everyone to take a walk from Deshon Street through to Lerna Street, East Brisbane and marvel at how this bush was once bare industrial land" said Cr Abrahams.

Message from Cr Helen Abrahams

As it is now the middle of this Council term, I wish to reflect on what has been achieved at a local level as well as the big projects.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with residents of The Gabba Ward who have participated in the many planning forums and meetings held in the last two years.

My challenge for this term has been representing residents' concerns to protect character houses, the character of their suburbs, the diversity of people and the sense of community in these inner suburbs.

I have made sure the Lord Mayor knows what local residents want when it comes to new development in their suburbs. Any new developments must have the appropriate infrastructure such as new schools, more parkland, community facilities, new bikeways and improved public transport services.

The CityGlider bus service, the CityCycle project and the Go Between Toll Bridge are major projects for The Gabba and our City. The first two projects will provide convenient alternatives to car trips troubled by congestion. I am concerned about the Go Between Toll Bridge's budget blowout with costs having risen from \$120 to \$370 Million while the number of estimated cars per day has dropped from 20,300 to 12,800.

I fear the Go Between Toll Bridge will result in a huge budget debt that we will all have to fund through our rates whether we use the bridge or not.

I shall continue to work so your suburb remains a great place to live, work and play.

The Gabba Ward Office Move

This is the third update on the relocation of The Gabba Ward Office but it is happening!!! The new address is the corner of Crown Street and Annerley Road, Woolloongabba.

The planned date of the move is after August when the refurbishing is completed.

The office will have a community meeting room that holds about thirty people. It will be equipped with a white board and audio-visual equipment. I am very keen that this space is available for community groups to use during the day and at night" said Cr Abrahams.



Plans, Plans, Plans

Many Council planning projects are in progress in The Gabba Ward.

Davies Park, West End

Three options for Davies Park were released in April for public comment. Every option had space for the West End Markets, Souths Leagues clubhouse and field, Partisans Soccer club, the community garden and beach volley ball as well as BBQs and picnic shelters. The final plan is due for release shortly.



Helen Abrahams with residents having a say on Davies Park

The contentious **South Brisbane Riverside Neighbourhood Plan** was approved by Council in August 2009 and is currently being assessed by the State Government. Critical for State approval is whether sufficient attention has been given to the necessary infrastructure such as new schools, playgrounds for sport, community facilities and transport needs.

"I do not believe it is possible to provide the infrastructure necessary for a total of 33, 000 residents and 55, 000 workers in this small area of our City".

"No land has been set aside for schools or sport fields. The road network is at capacity at the moment and a reliable bus service requires designated bus lanes" said Cr Abrahams.



Everyone was interested in what was proposed in the Kangaroo Point Plan

Kangaroo Point South

Neighbourhood Plan is designed to accommodate an additional 6, 000 residents and 14, 000 workers in the area between River Terrace, Wellington Street, Vulture Street and Shafston Avenue. The majority of the submissions to Council objected to the loss of character houses.

"I think Council badly miscalculated the communities support for keeping the character houses in this area of our City," said Cr Abrahams.

"155 tin and timber houses could be demolished if the proposed heights and population densities are supported."

Eastern Corridor Neighbourhood Plan

will deliver a new park in Coorparoo. Extending from Old Cleveland Road to Barnes Street, the park is part of flood control measures as well as a green space for residents.

"This is a great outcome for the local area. I know that everyone is waiting for the facelift for Coorparoo Junction shopping centre. This plan provides the blueprint for this area to be a new vibrant retail and business centre" said Cr Helen Abrahams.



The new park will be a great pedestrian link through Coorparoo.

Rate rises in The Gabba Ward

The average general rate increases for suburbs in The Gabba Ward are:

	10/11	av over 3 yrs
Woolloongabba	6.86%	7.70%
Kangaroo Point	6.65%	14.60%
South Brisbane	6.36%	11.09%
Dutton Park	6.10%	5.61%
East Brisbane	6.07%	7.46%
West End	5.59%	7.03%
Highgate Hill	4.56%	5.87%
Coorparoo	3.55%	6.02%

The average rate increase was 5%. This does not include water charges which have also jumped so your total rate bill is likely to be significantly higher.

Parking Fines

Everyone be careful when parking your car. Last year the revenue from parking fines was predicted to be \$13.5 million but instead it was \$21.9 million. This Budget is banking on \$27.3 million from parking fines.

As parking meters, clearways and Traffic Parking Areas are prevalent in The Gabba ward, local residents are at risk of receiving fines when parking in local streets. Please take care as you are paying enough in your rate increases.

Next year's wish list

These projects were in my top ten for funding but missed out.

The relocation of Traffic Lights Pope Street and Gladstone Road intersection, Dutton Park. These lights will mean the congestion in Gladstone Road and Pope Street will be better managed in school peak hour times.

Traffic Calming Brereton Street, West End

The opening of the Go Between Toll Bridge will mean that Brereton Street will be at risk of a significant increase in traffic numbers.

Traffic Calming Princess Street Precinct, Kangaroo Point

As a result of Baines Street being traffic calmed, Princess, Linton and Toohey Streets are carrying increased traffic volumes.

Upgrade Stormwater Drainage, Mabel Street to Deighton Road, Dutton Park

This upgrade is urgently required to prevent flooding of the home at 17 Ridge Street and backyards of other properties.

Traffic Lights, Vulture Street East, East Brisbane

These traffic lights are to provide safe pedestrian crossing of Vulture Street.

What are your priority projects for the 2011-12 budget? Please let me know.