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TRAFFIC PLANS AND THE CONVENT PRECINCT

The City of Yarra has further developed some of the traffic management options proposed for developing the Lourdes site. These include the ACF's car park but unfortunately the alternative ideas will see a significant loss of car parking spaces and trees in the area. This will drive more cars into local streets and adversely affect amenity for the precinct's residents, organisations and visitors. Consequently, the ACF Board has rejected those plans. At its meeting this week, the ACF Board articulated five Principles it believes should guide any traffic management interventions in future. These can be viewed below. The Principles were agreed with during discussions with managers of the Collingwood Children's Farm, Melbourne University's Early Learning Centre and the Good Shepherd Aged Care facility.

Principles for the development of traffic management initiatives Adopted by ACF Board - June 2011

1. The main goal of any traffic management/ plan should be to improve traffic movement, safety and parking for the precinct as a whole, not a particular organisation
2. No new traffic management plan should exacerbate the conflict between vehicles and pedestrians beyond Clarke Street. The main purpose of car park is to be available to everyone in the precinct to remove parking pressure on surrounding streets.
3. Any traffic management plan should reduce traffic and improve safety in St Heliers Street where pedestrian traffic is most heavy.
4. The existing car park at the Convent/Children's Farm is a public service for community benefit and must not be diminished.
5. The existing car park is on freehold land owned by the Abbotsford Convent Foundation for the benefit of the ACF and the Collingwood Children's Farm. In forming traffic management plans, the City of Yarra should respect these legal rights which help the ACF and CCF provide public access and contribute to the revenue required to operate two of the City's most popular venues.