Open Question FMC Meeting 07 Oct 14

The Hon Lord Mayor, Councillors.

Tony Penna – Southbank Residents Group

My question is regarding fairness and transparency with respect to the decision making process of this Council. Community engagement with Council is something this Council encourages and promotes.

Specifically I refer to the UpMarket application which was heard by Council in this forum on the 5th August and 2nd September 2014.

I have received complaints from residents that their submissions were not considered by Council despite being lodged in accordance with the rules on the Councils website.

I am also aware of a number of other submissions made by a number of organisations which were also not considered, some of which are:

ACCA

Green Car Share

Conscious Governance

Langham Hotel Melbourne

Committee for Melbourne

And the proponents green travel plan

Furthermore, from a number of questions raised during these meetings, it would appear the written submission made by the proponent was not even read as a number of the answers to those questions were contained within that submission.

I am also of the understanding the submissions were called for from Council Business at 11am, 1 hr prior to the nominated deadline for submissions.

My question is why these submissions were not considered in the decision making process.

If the LM replies that they were considered then….

I disagree, according to the minutes that were passed as correct on the 9th Sept they were not listed, therefore could not have been considered.