# Attending a planning consultation meeting

## Development in Bayside series – Video #8

**[Host speaks]**

If a planning consultation meeting is arranged, the applicant, objectors and all relevant parties will receive a letter advising of the meeting date and time. Meetings are typically held on weekday evenings at the council office in Sandringham.

Applicants and objectors are welcome to bring a friend or family member. If you're unable to attend, you can send somebody on your behalf.

This meeting is an opportunity for all parties to express their view, to get a better understanding of the proposal and any issues, and also see if there's a way to address concerns.

As a landowner or the applicant, you have the right to put forward a proposal for a dream home. This vision might be different or challenge the status quo. Larger developments can be controversial but they provide much needed housing for our growing community. As a neighbour or community member, you have the right to object and voice concerns about the impacts the proposal may have on the liveability of your own home and the neighbourhood.

Before the meeting, it's a good idea to review the proposal and objections and to think about ways in which the issues may be solved. A useful technique is to ask yourself the question: I could live with this if ... This applies to both the applicant and objectors.

Upon arrival, you'll be welcomed by the planning officers and introduced to others in the room. In the room, there'll be planning officers who will facilitate the meeting. The applicant and the landowner will be there, and also any objectors.

Councillors may also be in attendance. As your elected representatives, they may be called on to make a decision. They're here to listen to the applicant and objectors but not take an active part in the discussion. Councillors and council officers cannot force or direct people to change their proposals or withdraw objections. Other council experts may attend to advise on specific issues such as traffic management.

The applicant will be given the opportunity to explain their proposal and objectors will be given an opportunity to explain their concerns. This is an important opportunity to reach common ground. Resolving issues together may avoid having to go to a planning committee meeting or VCAT. It also means applicants have a greater say in what amendments are made rather than potentially having conditions imposed on their permit.

The session should go for no longer than an hour on conclusion the planning officer will advise of the next steps.

A few points to keep in mind:

* Please respect everyone's point of view.
* One conversation at a time.
* There are no wrong or bad ideas.
* Use dialogue to discuss ideas and issues.

Remember it's negotiation and collaboration that produces good community outcomes in the long run. [Bayside City Council logo appears on screen]