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25 August 2016

Dear friends,

RE: Development Application (59/2017/HA)

I am writing to keep you informed of the developments around DA (59/2017/HA) which as you might already be aware is for the construction of our parish church and for a lawn cemetery to partly assist in funding the costs of that church.

Since the DA was lodged in mid-July, the parish council, Finance and DA committees and I have held meetings and discussions with numerous people, including The Hills Shire Council, parents and parishioners. This has included responding to emails, phone calls and the Information meeting on Thursday 18 August.

It is true we have received grievances about this DA. A lot of these grievances have been legitimate concerns and are issues I have asked the committees to look at and address before the DA proceeds any further.

I have heard concerns about traffic and parking, the potential impact on children and issues around land value. I thank you and welcome your feedback which underlines the importance of listening to one another in our community. I can assure you every email and letter is read, every phone call is listened to.

It was never the intention of this DA to cause any division or fragmentation in the parish and the local community. As I have always insisted that the parish of St Madeleine Sophie Barat remains committed to the community. That is why I have asked the parish council and the other committees to again reach out to our neighbours, the Hills Shire Council and other concerned groups.

Friends, I must again stress, as the pastor of this community, I sincerely recognise the concerns of local residents, the parents, the Hills Shire Council, and others. Our parish council and the committees will work with them on any reasonable points of view they might have.

It is my wish that dialogue and conversations continue – in mutual understanding and respect, and in the spirit of a Christian community.

Please let the parish office know on stmads@yahoo.com.au of any concerns you might have.

Yours faithfully,

Rev Vincent Savarimuthu
Parish Priest