

TWELVE MONTHS INTO A FOUR YEAR TERM AS RED HILL WARD COUNCILLOR

**by
David Gill.**

My main task this year has been to lift the profile of Red Hill ward among officers and other Councillors. Our ward has just one councillor and covers 50% of the Mornington Peninsula.

Unfortunately the Port Phillip wards, with many more Councillors, have always received overwhelming attention and budget consideration.

There is a long list of overdue facilities and infrastructure needed for our coastal and hinterland communities.

I am pleased that...

- Protecting our Green Wedge is now the number one priority of Council
- Red Hill ward projects in the next Shire budget are likely to be at record levels
- Council planning decisions are turning around in favour of local character and sensitive development
- Widespread Red Hill ward traffic and pedestrian studies and strategies are commencing and will help make for a safer community
- Fees and charges for community use of council facilities are being reviewed
- Council has begun advocating for at least a minimum standard of public transport. Most of Red Hill ward has little or no public transport.

It is however disappointing that...

- Council transparency and accountability still need improvement and that Councillors are far too restricted in their ability to keep our community fully informed.
- New planning provisions by the State Government Planning Minister, Richard Wynn, threaten to change the Peninsula into a suburb of Melbourne. Your council has unanimously decided to fight these changes.

Thank you to the many concerned residents who keep the Council and me up to date by raising local issues.

I can be contacted at david.gill@mornpen.vic.gov.au

I wish you all a happy and safe festive season.

David.