

Street safety worries

Leader - Northcote Leader (Melbourne, Australia) - Wednesday, May 18, 2005

A WESTGARTH street is a step closer to getting a makeover despite resident concerns about safety and traffic management.

The council plans to reconstruct Ross St, a meandering thoroughfare between Westgarth St and Merri Creek.

But the street has heritage protection and the council ran into some objections from residents when it set out to issue itself a planning permit for the works.

Seven people objected to the proposal, which includes demolishing and rebuilding kerbs, reconstruction of the Urquhart St roundabout and replacing bluestone paving on Walker and Cunningham streets with asphalt.

Carolyn Lunt, who lives in Ross St and objected to the plans, said residents were concerned about changes to parking arrangements and lack of visibility when entering or leaving properties.

She wants the roundabout removed to create more parking spaces.

But Darebin statutory planning manager Peter Rollis told the council's planning committee such objections were outside the scope of the permit application, which dealt with heritage values.

``Our view is that this project should be supported," he said.

Councillors agreed and voted in favour of the permit at a committee meeting early last week.

``We are never going to be able to suit everyone," Cr Chris Kelly said.