

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL
CROWS NEST SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 99th MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2022 AT 5.30PM
IN THE FULLER ROOM, CROWS NEST CENTRE

Present: The Mayor Zoë Baker in the chair
Councillor Santer

John Meadows, Resident
John Hancox, Wollstonecraft Precinct
Rachel Elsworth, Crows Nest Mainstreet
Anthony Melinz, Crows Nest Mainstreet
Sean St Clair, Crows Nest Mainstreet
Ross Gugliotta, Bravo Trattoria/Crows Nest Mainstreet
Denise Ward, Crows Nest Centre
Laura Tilsed, Holtermann Precinct
Katy Ballard, Holtermann Precinct
Tom Appleby, Colliers International

Council Staff:

Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

1. Meeting opened at 5.33pm

2. Apologies:

Vincent Caruso, Crows Nest Mainstreet and Sue Wardley, Wollstonecraft Precinct.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of 97th Meeting held on Tuesday, 16 February 2021.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

5. Projects Update

5.1. Holtermann Street Carpark Re-development

The Director Engineering and Property Services updated the Committee on the Holtermann Street Carpark Re-development consultation which closed on the 28 February 2022.

There were 301 surveys received with 80 written submissions. Option 1 seemed to be the favourable option. A report will be put up to the April Council meeting on the outcome of the options from the community consultation.

The current program for the project is design and approvals in this and next financial year and then the 2023/24 commence construction. The construction will be approximately 16-18 months and that was very dependent on how much the final design costs, as the State isn't covering the whole of the project with the shortfall having to be covered by Council. The State has said they will contribute \$18M and anything above that Council will have to contribute.

5.2. General Streetscape Improvements

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services updated the Committee that Council has had a plan to try and do a significant upgrade of Willoughby Road, and again there are some budget constraints. There was a Masterplan for Willoughby Road and consultation went out to the community of the Masterplan about 4 or 5 years ago.

The Mayor mentioned that this project is on the table in this year's delivery plan. The Councillors had a briefing on the budget and the long-term financial plan in late March. There will be another briefing on 12 April and then all of the documents around the Community Strategic Plan, the Long-Term Financial Plan and the Operational/Delivery Plan will be on exhibition following the May Council meeting, this will come back for adoption as is, or as amended at the 26 June Council meeting.

The Mayor stated that everyone that has an interest in the public domain in Crows Nest, should make certain that they make submissions on the Operational/Delivery Plan and in particular involve your newly elected Ward Councillors in the St Leonards Ward about the projects identified in the Delivery Program than are situated in Crows Nest.

In regard to the Mainstreet Levy, it was mentioned that it is reported to Council annually as a public report whereby the levy funds raised are about \$300,000 - \$310,000 Per Annum.

Where the Mainstreet Committee funds are spent (Which Projects) is put in the annual report to Council for both Neutral Bay and Crows Nest levy areas. This is a publicly available report which outlines the projects and programs that are to be funded from the Main Street Levies. Also put in the report are the future programs and projects where the Levy Funds are identified to be spent in the next 3-4 years.

A link to the last report that was put to Council on where the Levy Funds are spent and proposed to be spent is below. Reported to Council 27 July 2020. The report outlines a 2 year plan.

https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Meetings/Council_Meetings/Council_Reports_27_Jul_2020

It was identified this financial year that the Crows Nest Levy funds would contribute to upgrades in Clarke Street, replacement of paving and streetscape furniture both sides of Clarke Road from Willoughby Road to Hume Street. The upgrade would be similar to what was completed the previous year in Alexander and Burlington Streets.

The Director of Engineering and Property Services updated the Committee on the Through Site Link – Hume Street Park (Stage 1) from the Council's Project Officer.

The works are at about 85%. Main works still to occur:

- Completion of roofing and ceiling soffit over link area is pretty much completed.
- Sandstone cladding of link walls is yet to be done.
- Hume Lane cross-over paving is in train at the moment.
- Hume Street footpath is being done.
- Landscape finishes / planting and turfing is all going to happen, but there has been a delay due to the weather.

The Contractor's most recent program has them finishing the end of April weather permitting.

6. Strategic Planning

6.1. Crows Nest Metro Update

- Sydney Metro / Transport for NSW have developed two key plans relating to the public domain around the Crows Nest station. These are the Crows Nest Metro Interchange Access Plan and the Crows Nest Station Design and Precinct Plan. These have been approved and are available online by clicking on the link below. These plans are a requirement of the planning approval and were approved by the NSW Planning Secretary.

The link is attached here;

<https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/draftplans/made-and-finalised/st-leonards-and-crows-nest-planning-package>

6.2. 2036 Plan Update

The 'Priority Precinct' has evolved into the Sydney 2036 strategy which has been adopted by Planning NSW and the Greater Sydney Commission. The 'Sydney North' sub plan covers the Crows Nest area.

The Mayor updated the Committee on the 2036 plan stating that the Council has resolved and Lane Cove Council were invited to resolve identically, and they have, and that together an exhibited draft that had certain heights and a year and a half later with press release of the final plan there was suddenly 27 sites that had a big gift and bonus of additional height. A number of those Council is seeing planning proposals for already. The site opposite the Metro, on Alexander Street at the intersection of the Pacific Highway is an example.

North Sydney Council's position is that the heights that are coming forward from developer proposals are not consistent with the community expectations. Lane Cove Council holds the same position and Mayors from both Councils are jointly trying to see Minister Roberts about the issue.

The Mayor of North Sydney has written to Minister (Anthony) Roberts and likewise has the Mayor of Lane Cove.

7. Crows Nest Mainstreet (CNMS) Update

Anthony Melinz, Chairman of Crows Nest Mainstreet updated the Committee on the Crows Nest Festival for 2022 which hadn't taken place for two years due to COVID. In lieu of not being able to hold large public events the CNMS committee in collaboration with Council had undertaken a series of smaller events. Thanks to JoEllen's idea with the first festival involving the Mural festival, followed by "Burgers in the Nest".

This year the CNMS committee are planning to run the full festival again in October – date TBC as COVID restrictions have been lifted.

The CNM have already begun the marketing campaign through social media platforms including facebook and Instagram which are regularly being updated.

CNMS recently received a Community Award from Trent Zimmerman for Community Activities - The Village Vibe which was held recently in Crows Nest.

Members of CNMS also advised that they had participated in a community site visit to the Metro Station Site in Crows Nest which they said was very informative.

Crows Nest Fair

The Director of Engineering and Property Services advised that CNMS would need to complete a Grant Application like they do every year to access the grant funds for the Fair.

It was stated by the Chamber that they spend more money than is allocated by Council, so this year will be a bit tight, so they have to come up with other sources of

funding. It must be noted that the Grant amount Council allocates towards the Crows Nest fair is capped. The amount is reported to Council each year in the annual update report on where the Levy funds are expended.

Council's Community and Arts Administration Team have already received CNMS Grant Application for the October 2022 Crows Nest Fair and are currently processing the application.

A Motion was moved by Denise Ward and seconded by Anthony Melinz.

That JoEllen has done a fantastically good job of liaising on behalf of the Mainstreet on those events. The effort that she has made in that, and I have seen her in her voluntary capacity go above and beyond.

8. General Business

The first item of General Business was put forward by Mr John Hancox who was attended the meeting and representing the Wollstonecraft Precinct. Mr Hancox wanted to raise a motion in relation to the Crows Nest Post Office. Which was as follows:

Return of the Crows Nest Post Office to Crows Nest in the same location as it was, now in the Metro station and we want the support of local business including those that contribute to the Mainstreet levy. (John Hancox)

Mr Hancox requested that CNMS support his proposed campaign to print leaflets and distribute them to letterboxes in the local area. He stated that they needed to letter box drop 7000 letterboxes in the area and print 10,000 copies of the flyer he had brought to the meeting and distributed to everyone at the meeting.

A copy of the flyer and Petition is attached to these minutes.

Mr Hancox stated that he had spoken to some of the businesses at the top end of Willoughby Road and Burlington Street to see if they were prepared to put a table aside so that people can sign a petition to support their campaign, which is essentially to try and get the NSW Government and the Federal Government to agree to tell Australia Post to put the Post Office back in Crows Nest. He stated that his preference was to have the Post Office reinstated in the Metro Station and the State government should set aside some space in the station as one of the tenancies for a new post office. He noted that the original Crows Nest Post Office was located on the site of the Metro Station.

Mr Hancox stated that the estimated cost of printing and distributing the 10,000 copies of the flyers was \$3000 and that he wanted that funding to come from the Crows Nest Mainstreet levy budget. They would need about \$3,000 in printing and other costs and they were hoping Council through the Mainstreet Levy might fund that.

A Motion was moved by Mr Hancox and seconded by Councillor Baker.

That Council support the campaign and apply to fund it up to a maximum amount of \$3,000.00.

Mr John Meadows who attended the meeting did not agree with using levy funds for this purpose.

Other General Business

Laura Tilsed mentioned the planter boxes are very tired and Willoughby Road is disgraceful.

JoEllen suggested a promotional light box in Ernest Place.

Anthony Melinz, and Sean St Clair from Crows Nest Mainstreet requested that Council officers should do a walk around with them to address maintenance issues like what used to happen pre COVID. The Director of Engineering and Property Services stated that yes we would like to do this but currently there is no Project Manager for the Streetscape and Mainstreet committees as Diana Mejia is on maternity leave and will be returning in May.

The short staffing at Council will mean that the walk around's will be on hold until a Project Manager is in place. In the meantime the Director of Engineering and Property Services stated that if there are any maintenance issues members of the Committee are to contact himself or Council's Customer Service Desk directly and these issues will be addressed.

9. Next Meeting: Tuesday 5 July 2022.

10. Close Meeting 6.45pm

Petition to: Return Crows Nest Post Office to Crows Nest

Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities, and the Arts

The Hon. Paul Fletcher MP. E: Paul.Fletcher.MP@aph.gov.au

Minster for Transport; Minster for Veterans

The Hon. David Elliott MP. E: baulkhamhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Return Crows Nest Post Office to Crowie

When Sydney Metro compulsorily acquired the Crows Nest Post Office site, the Crows Nest Post Office was moved to St Leonards. **We, the residents and business people of Crows Nest, want our post office returned to a convenient location in Crows Nest.**

The current location at 460 Pacific Highway, St Leonards is **INCONVENIENT** for all concerned.

- No parking. No loading dock.
- Too far to carry heavy parcels
- Not close to Crows Nest businesses

In 2019, representations about the location of the post office were made to Australia Post by Wollstonecraft Precinct on behalf of the 13,000 residents of Wollstonecraft and Crows Nest, supported by the federal member the Hon. Trent Zimmerman MP.

AUSTRALIA POST REFUSED TO CONSIDER OUR REQUEST TO RETURN THE POST OFFICE TO CROWS NEST.

NOW IT'S TIME TO RETURN THE POST OFFICE TO CROWS NEST

1. Sydney Metro is constructing the new Crows Nest Metro Station.
2. There will be lettable spaces at the ground level in the podium.
3. The Crows Nest Post Office could be moved back to the heart of Crows Nest at the Crows Nest Metro Station or nearby.

We, the undersigned, petition for the Crows Nest Post Office to be relocated to Crows Nest Metro Station or nearby in the heart of Crows Nest.

NAME (please print clearly)	ADDRESS (please print clearly)	EMAIL (please print clearly)	SIGNATURE

Return Our Post Office to Crows Nest It Belongs IN Our Community

SIGN THE PETITION

Bring our Post Office BACK TO CROWS NEST

Its current location in St Leonards is IMPRACTICAL

- No nearby parking
- No loading dock
- Long distance to carry heavy parcels
- No protection from inclement weather
- Not part of Crow Nest community

The current site is marked for redevelopment and will have to be vacated

Move Crows Nest Post Office to the new Metro retail complex NOW



SIGN THE PETITION

- SIGN WHERE YOU SEE THIS NOTICE in CROWS NEST
- VISIT us on Facebook
facebook.com/ReturnCrowsNestPostOffice2Crowie
- Email us - overdevelopment.crowsnest@gmail.com