

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL
CROWS NEST SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE 91st MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 5.30PM
IN THE FULLER ROOM, CROWS NEST CENTRE

Present: Adam Deutsch, Council's Project Manager in the Chair, Councillor Barbour.

Denise Ward, Crows Nest Centre
Trefor Davies, Crows Nest Mainstreet
Vince Caruso, Crows Nest Mainstreet
N Johnson, Crows Nest Mainstreet
John Meadows, Crows Nest/Holtermann Precinct
Zar Bingham, Crows Nest Mainstreet
Lauren Moore, Resident
Jacqui Cannon, Crows Nest Mainstreet
Wayne Sammut, Coles (Developer)

Council Staff:

Adam Deutsch, Projects Manager
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

- 1. Meeting opened at 5pm**
- 2. Apologies:** Mayor Jilly Gibson
- 3. Confirmation of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the 90th Meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2017 were adopted.

Moved by Denis Xenos
Seconded by John Meadows

- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Nil.

Dr Davies is a long time Dentist in Crows Nest and addressed the Committee regarding Willoughby Lane between the car park, shops and premises on Willoughby Road, which he stated has been an ongoing problem. Garbage bins are left out constantly, as well as milk crates being left on the ground which makes the place look untidy, often there are carcasses of rats and also rubbish is dumped in the lane. The drainage on Willoughby Road is very poor, when it rains the water stagnates which is a health problem and also contributes to the rat problem and therefore causing rats to infest the area. He also stated that people are parking their cars for hours at a time and suggested that rangers need to be booking these cars time and time again so these people get the idea that they can't park for long periods of time in the lane. Council's Projects Manager said that a lot of the stores in that lane don't have areas to store their bins on the premises as they are

older buildings and therefore they are left out in the lane. The Policies section on Council's website has the trade waste policy which states the times the bins are collection and emptied. It was also stated that Rangers do observe the area on a daily basis. As far as the rats are concerned there are seasons when rats are more prevalent. Council contracts a rat bating company to reduce the issue and has recently changed the company to minimise the rats getting used to the same baits being used for too long.

5. Projects Update

5.1 Pacific Highway Public Domain Upgrades

The next stage of the Pacific Highway Public Domain Upgrades has opened up on tenderlink and closes on 17 October 2017. It is anticipated that the outcome of the tender will be reported to the November Council meeting. The paving upgrades associated with this stage of work will relate to the Pacific highway between Falcon Street and Alexander Street and Falcon Street between Willoughby Road and Willoughby Lane. The work will also include new metal pedestrian fences to replace the damaged ones, tree planting and some soft planting.

5.2 Alexander Street Car Park/Woolworths

The damaged paving around the Alexander Street Car Park and Woolworths has been relayed on concrete base. During this work, Council also installed three new trees on Burlington Street frontage.

5.3 Ernest Place Substation Relocation

The substation has been relocated from Ernest Place to adjacent Bravo Trattoria and is now located around the corner from the Crows Nest Centre. There are still a few pavers to be laid which will be completed when the pavers are available from the supplier.

5.4 Banner Poles - Willoughby Road & Ernest Place

Council continues to work with Crows Nest Mainstreet and not for profit organisation to design and install banner flags in Crows Nest and the Crows Nest Fair banner flags will be the next to go up.

5.5 Ernest Place Turf

Council's Projects Manager stated that it took 6 weeks for the turf to establish in Ernest Place but looks fantastic. There are also garden beds under the trees and hopefully they will remove some of the wear patches.

5.6 Ernest Plaza Public Domain Upgrade

The Public Domain Upgrade of Ernest Plaza, Ernest Street between Willoughby Lane and Alexander Street is on target for completing the paving upgrades before the Crows Nest Fair. Demolition has been completed and currently, the new concrete base slabs are being poured in preparation for paving to commence shortly. Four new pedestrian lights have gone in and pre cast concrete seats, six new trees and steel planters will be installed prior to completion of the works.

5.7 Crows Nest Food Rescue & Composting Project

In late 2016 the Better Business Partnership program was granted \$330,000 from The Environmental Trust for a Food Waste Diversion Project in Crows Nest. Before the grant was accepted a feasibility study was undertaken of the original project proposal.

The original proposal was based on the premise that the output of the food waste processing would be of similar quality to compost. Enquiries with the NSW EPA revealed however that the technology originally proposed is classed as *Rapidly Dehydrated Food Waste* (RDFW) by the Resource Recovery Order under part 9, Clause 93 of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014. The order stipulates what the ‘processor’ (the party that produces the RHFV product) and the ‘consumer’ can and can’t do with the product. The guidelines are very stringent and in summary the product must be adequately mixed with soil, or compost, before being used on any type of land (public land, gardens, farm land, etc). After numerous inquiries to compost manufacturers and Council’s Parks & Gardens team the restrictions around the use and processing of the RDFW product were deemed too onerous for any party to accept it. In order for the food waste service to be feasible a commercial arrangement must be in place for a third party to accept, or purchase, the RHFV product.

Based on the above findings we were unable to accept the grant funding as we had run out of time to establish a new project plan based on a different technology.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Further work has to be undertaken to establish a working model that is sustainable in the long term.

Recommendation 2: Key project stakeholders such as North Sydney Council, Crows Nest Mainstreet, a third party to remove the food waste, or the bi-product of processing food waste, need to be fully engaged and agreements established before further funding can be sought.

Recommendation 3: Further research, and a tighter operating model, should be developed, based on the work done for this feasibility study.

Conclusion

Diverting food waste from food outlets in Crows Nest is key to addressing the issues that have been identified and will provide an invaluable service to businesses and residents. With a solid operating model in place, and formalised relationships with the key stakeholders, the Crows Nest Food Waste diversion service can be a real asset to North Sydney Council’s operations.

6. Strategic Planning

6.1 Hume Street Park Expansion Project

The Development Application for the pedestrian link and plaza space between Willoughby Road and the existing park is nearing finalisation. The DA is now expected to be lodged by the end of October. Once the matter of development consent has been determined tenders will be let for the demolition and construction works.

Work on the traffic management plan for the proposed closure of Hume Street is also progressing, and once finalised will be submitted to RMS for concurrence.

The required zoning amendments and land acquisition matters have been finalised.

6.2 Metro Train

It's now 6 months into the works commencing on the Metro Train Station and buildings are starting to come down, one of the major ones is the old Post Office on Pacific Highway. The new metro station is a 4 to 5 year construction project. During this time there will be three main stages of work, the first being the demolition, the second will be the tunnelling and the station itself and the third one will be the over station development of the three towers. Each stage has a different contractor which Council will keep in contact with during the project.

The height and density of the station will be driven by the outcome of the Priority Precinct update.

6.3 Priority Precinct update

The State Government has released the Priority Precinct investigation of Crows Nest/St Leonards/Artarmon they have released an interim statement which was on exhibition from 4 August till 17 September 2017. Council and some of the community have put in submissions to the interim statement. The interim statement talked about density, employment, infrastructure and traffic. In Council's response we did highlight issues around; more consultation with the community, further detail on the built form are required and open space and infrastructure outcomes needs to be understood. A copy of Council's letter back in response to the interim statement is on Council's website.

6.4 Coles DA Rebuilding

Wayne Summat (Developer) for Coles addressed the Committee on the update of the Coles project. He stated that demolition began in February and they have reached the bottom of the hole so far. There are four basement levels as well as 70 apartments, a supermarket and nine speciality shops. The marketing went up on the notice board recently with apartments and details of the project for the public to acknowledge.

Parking is an issue that was brought up by the Crows Nest Mainstreet, they would like to know how Council can overcome the parking problem in Crows Nest as they have lost too many parking spaces.

It was suggested that Coles put car park full signs or a bay sign where it's green or read meaning spots still available or full in the car park as they want to alleviate the problem they had when Woolworths was developed. They propose to have undergrounding power cables and at present they are doing traffic calming.

7. Crows Nest Mainstreet (CNMS) update

Denis Xenos from the Crows Nest Mainstreet addressed the meeting and said the Mainstreet are looking forward to the Crows Nest Festival which is coming up on 15 October, they have a new company this year to run the festival, this company have some good experience in running other festivals and the Mainstreet are hoping the festival is bigger and better than ever and also hoping to bring more of the local businesses onto the street and helping them get the most out of the festival.

They are also looking forward to doing their Christmas carols as it was very successful last year and hope the church groups can come along again this year.

8. General Business

Lauren Moore addressed the Committee. However, it was advised by the chair of the meeting that it was not the place for this matter to be discussed.

9. Next Meeting - TBA

10. Close Meeting

The meeting concluded at 6.45pm.