

**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**  
**CREMORNE SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF 86<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY, 5 APRIL 2022**  
**AT 5.30PM IN THE ROS CRICHTON PAVILION,**  
**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**

**Present:** Councillor Baker in the chair. Councillor Bourke and Councillor Welch

Ulrick Funch, Cremorne Chamber of Commerce  
Fiona Gracie, Cremorne Conservation Group  
Sarah Kok, Cremorne Conservation Group  
Chris Holding, Cremorne Conservation Group  
Chris Quinn, Exagym

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

**1. Meeting opened** at 5.30pm, with Council's Project Manager, Diana Mejia in the Chair.

**2. Apologies**

Nil.

**3. Confirmation of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the 85th Meeting held on 9 March 2021 were adopted.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

Nil.

**5. Projects Update**

**5.1 Military Road Streetscape Works Upgrade**

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services updated the Committee on the Military Road Corridor – Public Domain Upgrade.

The works for the Military Road B-Line Streetscape Works are substantially completed, with the last main component being the permanent closure of Young Street which is fully funded as part of the B-Line Funding deed. Council to date has spent \$11.5 Million of B-Line funding on streetscape upgrades in the Military Road corridor between Neutral Bay and Cremorne. This work is 100% funded by the B-Line grant Council received in 2017/18 and reported to Council in October 2018. The public domain improvements include new paving, seats, bins, streetscape furniture, tree planting and landscaping.

Council commenced streetscape works in Cremorne as the B-line finished their works, Council did the public domain upgrades at their request. Now that the B-Line work has been completed - the TfNSW B-line team has been disbanded.

## **5.2 Young Street Trial Plaza Neutral Bay**

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services updated the Committee on the Young Street Plaza Trial

A report went to Council in June 2021 on the Young Street Road closure trial and that report recommended that Council proceed to the next stage which was looking at the permanent closure of Young Street. Council was briefed on the final design in June 2021 at the same time the report went to Council recommending the final design for the permanent closure.

Council went to tender in late 2021, the tenders are back and the tender for the construction to do the permanent closure of Young Street was put to the 28 March Council meeting.

Council at that meeting did not resolve to accept the Tender - Council resolved for the tender and Project to go to a Council Briefing.

A Council Briefing of the Young Street Closure was held on 12 April 2022.

The tender Report will be put back to Council at the 26 April meeting for a resolution on whether to proceed with the Project or not.

The project is fully funded by Transport for NSW and is expected to be completed by the end of this financial year.

The State Government in the funding deed did make it clear that the funding provided for the Young Street closure was conditional on Council getting approval to do the closure after community consultation. The other condition TfNSW put around the grant was that if the Closure of Young Street did not proceed, then the money could only be spent in other identified parts of the corridor that were part of the Funding deed – specifically identified in the funding deed.

## **6. Parraween Street free 15-minute parking trial**

The Parraween Street free 15-minutes parking trial was put to the 28 March Council meeting and the recommendation was adopted by Council.

It was noted at the meeting that this was a good outcome for this committee who have pushed for “Free Parking” in Parraween street for many years. The report to Council recommended that the “15-minute parking will stay in the 106 metered parking bays in Parraween Street.

The report to Council and traffic data collected identified that if “Free Parking” was increased to 30 minutes then ultimately there would be less parking availability in the street as people would overstay and therefore reduce turnover of parking. It would also encourage “Overstay” behaviour. The detail data on this is outlined in the report that went to the 28 March Council Meeting.

The Director of Engineering and Property Services also outlined to the meeting the impacts that COVID -19 has had on Parking Meter utilisations across Council’s Parking Meter network. Specifically the parking meter network is not at the same utilisation levels it was in 2018/19, in Cremorne and across the LGA.

Currently there is 40% less use of Parking Meters across all the village centres and the North Sydney Centre, due to people staying at home and working and also not coming to visit the main Village Centres in North Sydney due to lock down restrictions and possibly permanent behaviour changes around working from home.

The Director of Engineering and Property Services pointed out that Council’s data shows that 85% of the people that use parking meters including those in Parraween Street are not residents they are visitors – workers from outside of the LGA.

The utilisation of the 106 metered bays in Parraween Street is 40% less than it was in 2018/19, which indicates there is 40% less people coming to Parraween Street.

The Director of Engineering and Property Services outlined that the permanent solution to parking in this part of Cremorne and Parraween Street this is the redevelopment of the above ground Parraween Street Carpark into a 260-space underground carpark – doubling the capacity of carparking in the area.

The mayor stated the installation of parking meters 13 years ago funded the design and the Development Application. The Development Application is still active – funding the project is the only obstacle.

## **7. Streetscape Committee**

The Director of Engineering and Property Services outlined that Council will be getting a new Project Manager shortly, and Diana Mejia will be back from maternity leave in May. This will assist the committee with its request for streetscape improvements and maintenance – specifically around the Cremorne Plaza. When the new PM is in place Council will bring back the regime of regular meetings on site to record the streetscape maintenance issues as they come up.

The Director of Engineering and Property Services did state to the committee that they didn't have to wait for the new PM or the next streetscape meeting - they could contact him anytime if there were maintenance or other issues that need to be addressed in the area – they have his contact details.

Some of the issues raised by the committee included the Lighting in Cremorne Plaza – which needs revamping and or to be changed from multi coloured lights to warm white lights and more of them.

The Director of Engineering and Property Services stated that there is money in this year's budget to do these works – it is just resourcing the works with a Project Manager (PM) that is the issue. There is also money in this year budget to do the design work, for a concept design for the “refreshing” of Cremorne Plaza. Council has prepared a design brief for consultants to do concept design works to start the conversation with the committee and the community about the “refreshing.”

Council will commence what is termed a “Reverse brief” process whereby, Council can go out with an initial brief to get Consultants on board and then engage the consultants to do consultation with the community and key stakeholders to formalise the design for concept development – before then going and doing full public consultation on a detailed Concept design.

Council wants to start this process this financial year, as soon as a new Project Manager is engaged.

The streetscape committee suggested that one idea in the “refreshing” of Cremorne Plaza would be for a “A living wall (self-watering “green Wall” ) for the Military Road end of Cremorne Plaza – similar to the Mitchell Street Plaza in St Leonards - which provides a visual barrier to the busy Pacific Highway – creates a please public open space on the other side of the wall – improves air quality and even habitat – birds nest in the “Green Wall”.

A last item raised by the Committee was the “Walk of Fame” concept. The Director of Engineering and Property Services stated that this has not progressed as the main Stakeholder - Hayden Orpheum was not supportive of the idea when approached 18 months ago – pre Covid. Council will re-engage with Orpheum on the concept of a “Walk of Fame” and also investigate if there was a resolution of Council on the idea - (Mayoral Minute).

The mayor proposed that there be another Streetscape Meeting which will be held on Tuesday, 12 July 202.

**8. General Business**

No General Business was raised.

**9. Next meeting: Tuesday, 12 July 2022**

**10. Close meeting: 6.10pm**