

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL
CREMORNE SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF 85TH MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, 9 MARCH 2021
AT 5.30PM IN THE SUPPER ROOM,
NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

Present: Diana Mejia, Project Manager in the chair
U. Funch, Cremorne Chamber of Commerce
T. Appleby, Colliers
B. Mayer, Colliers
F. Gracie, Resident (in attendance)

J. Young, Resident (via zoom)
K. Pritchard, Resident (via zoom)
C. Quinn, Exagym (via Zoom)
J. Allen (via Zoom)

Council: Diana Mejia, Project Manager
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

1. Meeting opened at 5.35pm, with Council's Project Manager, Diana Mejia in the Chair.

2. Apologies

Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services, Councillor Gibson and M. De Solom, Harrison Precinct

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the 84th Meeting held on 10 March 2020 were adopted.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Nil.

As an action from the previous minutes Mr Funch wanted to know if the lights under the street awnings had been checked from the Orpheum Theatre to McDonald's.

Council's Project Manager stated that Council's electrician had been sent to check the under-awning lighting last year.

Mr Funch stated that some of the lights aren't working.

Council's Project Manager stated that she would send the Council's electrician to have a look at them.

Mr Quinn asked what time the lights came on as they are set on a timer.

Council's Project Manager stated she would send Council's electrician to look at the lights and also have the lights set for winter time. Once this has been completed, she would notify the committee and let everyone know what time they are set for so that they can double check they are working. In winter they are set to go on around 5-5.30pm and set to go off at around 6-7.00am.

5. Projects Update

The works that have been completed around Cremorne over the past 12 months.

5.1 Military Road Streetscape Works Upgrade

Council has completed streetscape upgrade works in Military Road, these works were completed May 2020.

Footpath and Streetscape Upgrades:

Streetscape upgrade works Military Road between Cremorne Garden plaza and MacPherson St (north side of Military Rd) and Spencer St and Spofforth St (on the south side).



Before



After

Streetscape Upgrade works Military Road between Winnie Street and Cremorne Plaza (north side of Military Road) and Holt Avenue and Spencer Street (on the south side of Military Avenue).



Before

After

This included footpath, street furniture and restoration for planter boxes as well as the planter boxes being relocated in different parts of Cremorne.

The next area of works were also completed in Cremorne West, Military Road between Winnie Street and Cremorne Plaza on the northern side and Holt Avenue and Spencer Street on the south side of Military Road from McDonalds.

Cremorne Plaza:

Minor works were undertaken in the Cremorne Garden Plaza, which were just to refresh the image until Council has funding to do the whole upgrade.



Before

After

The gateway wall has been relocated which is against Military Road so it can be seen better, as before with the fence it was blocked from the view of cars passing by.

Zone 10 - footpath and Streetscape Upgrades:

For this financial year Council has plans to complete the last bit of the footpath upgrade works on Military Road on the southern side between Holt Street and Murdoch Street, these works are to be awarded to a contractor before this financial year. Once the contractor is appointed Council will start works around June. This is the last section of works to be done in Military Road as part of streetscape upgrades funded by TfNSW and B-line funding.

Artists impression



5.2 Parraween Street Carpark Public domain works

Works in Parraween Street (Northern footpath) between 106 Parraween Street and Macpherson Street were undertaken in April 2020.

The works included new high-quality footpath paving, kerb repairs, landscaping and street furniture.



Before



After

Council's Project Officer stated that these works were done to keep the approved DA valid until funding becomes available to do the works that have been approved. Council is only able to carry out streetscape works which included the footpath upgrades with the same pattern that is used in Military Road to keep consistency throughout the Cremorne Village Centre, landscaping was improved in the turf areas and tree pits, and street furniture was upgraded, including new rubbish bins and bike racks. Works were done between April and June 2020.

Ms Gracie asked if there was plans to extend that footpath upgrading west along Parraween street on that side as it looks terrible since the new work has been done.

Council's Project officer stated that they wouldn't be doing that at the moment, but she would look into it. The works has to be limited to the space that Council has within the plans but she will have a look into to see if they can extend it.

5.3 Proposed Intersection Improvement – Neutral Bay and Cremorne

Another part of the B-line funded works for the Streetscape includes the improvement of some intersections within some roads and Military Road. This includes continuous footpath treatments and pedestrian crossings. These works are also funded by TfNSW and the B-line project. Council conducted consultation in October last year, the documentation has been finalised and the tender will be released before the end of the month and construction works will start before the end of the financial year. The works included within this project are one continuous footpath treatment in Rangers Road and Military Road in Neutral Bay which is location 1 and location 2, Holt Avenue and Military Road, Cremorne which is another continuous footpath treatment. The whole idea of this is to reduce the speed of vehicles coming out of Military Road and so pedestrians have priority.

Location 1 – Rangers Road and Military Road Raised pedestrian crossing



Existing

Proposed (Photomontage)

Ms Gracie asked if Council went with the design that is a raised footpath?

Council's Projects Manager stated that this one is raised, but not all of them will be raised.

LOCATION 2 – HOLT AVENUE AND MILITARY ROAD CONTINUOUS FOOTPATH TREATMENT



Additional continuous footpath treatment will be installed in the intersection of Spencer Road and Military Road – Location 3.

LOCATION 3 – SPENCER ROAD AND MILITARY ROAD CONTINUOUS FOOTPATH TREATMENT



LOCATION 4 – CABRAMATTA ROAD AND MILITARY ROAD CONTINUOUS FOOTPATH TREATMENT



Site No. 4 Cabramatta Road and Military Road; this is a continuous footpath treatment and a raised treatment. Site No. 5 McPherson and Military Road pedestrian crossing remains the same street level. Works will decrease the crossing distance by installing footpath to the blister and extending the footpath.

All crossings on the southern side are raised. Those were the preferred options as part of the consultation.

LOCATION 5 – MACPHERSON STREET AND MILITARY ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS



Mr Funch stated that they are happy to have gardens, but said that they don't get maintained by Council, so the option was to just keep it simple for wheelchair access and prams etc.

Council's Project Manager stated the including garden and turf areas helps Council's stormwater network. It is Council's preference to reduce impervious hard surfaces, and to improve the look of the streetscape with planting. She will refer these concerns to the Council's Park and Gardens team.

It was stated with the equivalent lawns in Parraween Street, they are never mowed and are a foot high at times so that's the problem with bonds. He requested that Council to look at No. 57 Parraween Street and see what its current state is.

5.4 Young Street Trial Plaza Neutral Bay

Council's Project Manager stated she decided to add the Young Street Trial to this meeting, although it is not directly related to Cremorne it is located in near proximity to the area and it is a project that has received a lot of mixed reviews. This place was opened on 23 December 2020 to the public, and a traffic consultant is currently engaged by Council to assess the traffic impacts that this road closure is having on the road network around Neutral Bay. Council is welcoming feedback and inviting the community to have their say, consultation is still open, you can visit the have your say website for North Sydney Council for Young Street Plaza consultation and you can say whether you like it or not and whether you would like to keep it, and any other concerns you might have about this project.

To keep the plaza active Council has been running some entertainment activities which have been very successful with very good attendance. Today was story time with the Stanton Library team, there were 35 people there and all having a good time. Seems children are really enjoying the space; this is a trial and at present it is temporary. If the plaza is to stay Council will proceed to do a more relatable permanent design so that it fits in with the area. The trial plaza was constructed in a way that can be easily removed and once it is resolved that Council wants to go ahead with a permanent closure, Council will have a design for a long-lasting permanent plaza.

Mr Funch asked what sort of time frame is there for the closure?

Council's Project Manager stated that the decision has to be made by June as to whether or not it is going to go ahead as a permanent plaza, and then from then to construction will be around 6 months before works start, and then depending on the final design that Council comes up with as to how long it will take the construction works to be completed.

The final design will be informed by the outcomes of initial community consultation which was done last year and with the current community consultation that Council is undertaking for this trial.

Council is looking to extend the trial to give the community a bit more time to give feedback.

Mr Funch asked how it was going with trucks delivering to Woolworths?

Council's Project Manager stated that traffic hasn't been impacted as much as people initially thought. Council has traffic counts; they show at the moment the impact hasn't been chaotic. Council has a consultant doing a complete traffic impact assessment which will be finalised by the end of this month and then Council will have more defined findings in terms of traffic. The findings are showing that queuing times have increased but not by much.



Event: Music Performance – 21 January 2021



Event: StoryTime with the Stanton Library - 9 February 2021



Pop-up newsagency/beverage and food outlet

Above is the Pavilion which was installed as a buffer to try to separate the noise and the look of Military Road and the Plaza. The shipping container is currently being used as a pop-up shop. It is currently being run by one of the local businesses as Council invited all the businesses in Young Street to give an expression of interest, one of businesses responded with a proposal to have a café/food outlet and the business has operating since the end of January 2021. So far Council hasn't had any issues with Graffiti in the plaza.

Ms Gracie asked what the feedback was with having something like that as a barrier between the plaza and the road?

Council's Project Manager stated they have mixed reviews; some people aren't happy with the look of the container but in saying that it is a temporary solution. Council needs to find something more permanent like a green wall. The concept of the barrier has been well received as it is needed to try to isolate the area with the beautiful trees and the shaded area from the traffic and the noise from Military Road.

6. Parraween Street free 15-minute parking trial

Council is providing 15 minutes free on-street metered parking on Parraween Street, Cremorne for a 12-month trial.

Trial and Community Consultation Survey were released in August 2020.

Feedback closes midnight 31 August 2021

To have your say and express your support or opposition to this initiative please visit:

<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/traffic-surveys>

Council's Project Manager stated that attendees would be aware that this has been going on since August 2020, and that is going to be in place till 31 August 2021. The trial was for 12 months and will expire in August 2021. The trial and community consultation is open for feedback, if people want to express support or opposition to this initiative, they are welcome to go to "have your say" website on the traffic surveys section and on Council's website.

Mr Quin stated that he thought it was good but a lot of people get confused about how to access it as some people assume you pull up and go do your shopping, whereas you have to go to the meter and select the parking. He also stated whether 15 minutes is enough. It has been a good impact for customer he has that want to just drop in and get something. A slight extension would be good to 30 minutes.

Mr Quinn asked if Council had had any feedback since its introduction?

Council's Project Manager stated that the consultation is open and that people have been giving feedback, and she isn't across that information as she is not running that consultation but that she could find out partial results of that consultation and let the committee know how it is going.

Ms Gracie stated that she understood that the meters were put there in the first place because the car park was going to be upgraded as per the DA, which was submitted and is now on hold. It was stated that they are doing the footpath upgrade just to keep the DA current, but it was due to expire September 2020. Since the meters were put in because of that development going ahead, which doesn't look like it is going to happen any time soon, why not put a hold on charging any meter parking and have 24 hour free parking on Parraween Street.

Mr Young suggested that it be made one hour parking as people will use it for a parking spot and go into the city, he stated one or two hour parking.

Ms Gracie suggested that it be made three hour parking so people can actually go to the Theatre and then enjoy a show without having to pop out to upgrade their parking for up to three hours, and that would allow people to enjoy a meal, go to the supermarket and the newsagent and pop back to the car without getting a massive fine.

Council's Project Manager stated that she would take note of what was said and will bring it up with the people that are running this trial and consultation, and she will get back to the committee and see why these meters are still in place. She stated that her understanding is that the meters were put in place for the DA and when the DA was approved.

7. Streetscape Committee

Mr Quinn stated that the general streetscape has improved with the pavement works which has been really good in terms of the aesthetics. He also stated that if there is potential for longer free parking that would be good as it will encourage more people to stop.

8. General Business

Mr Funch stated that the bus stop outside No. 271 Military Road, Neutral Bay, no longer runs services after 10am in the morning and that at least three times a day he is letting people know that the bus doesn't stop there anymore, even though there is a sign higher up saying operates "6am to 10am". It seems the sign stating that is too high and people don't see it. It needs to be moved to eye height.

Council's Project Manager stated she will make the STA aware that the sign is too high and that people are not seeing it and make it more visible.

Mr Funch would like to know where the B-line money is being used that was supposed to go towards building the carpark opposite the Cremorne Orpheum Theatre. A lot of that was supposed to be allocated for that car park.

Council's Project Manager stated that she had read the deed and that wasn't a part of it. Paraween parking upgrades were not part of the final agreement with TfNSW and B-line. She said she will do some research and find out what happened between the initial conversions about that and the final agreement which is not part of the original agreement.

Mr Funch stated there has been some concerns about an aged care facility going in at Parraween Street, and he would like to know more about it, although it hasn't been bought up to Council the committee would like to find out more about what is planned for that area.

Ms Gracie stated that the area that is involved is from No's. 50 to No. 88 Parraween Street. There are twenty homes, some are free standing, some are semi-detached and some are terraces.

Council's Project Manager stated that this is not Council's, it is a private development. The DA hasn't been lodged yet and they might be in initial planning meetings with the planning division at Council. Council doesn't know anything about the project yet. If Council engages in initial planning discussions with the developer this information will be made public.

Mr Funch asked about the Woolworths site at Neutral Bay, which Coles owns the property, is that in Council plans?

Council's Project Manager stated they are in planning conversations and that they are running traffic studies to see how they are going to design the space, but they don't have a concept of what is going to happen on site just yet.

Mr Funch stated that between Rangers Road and Wycombe Road the whole block there, they are going to build two towers.

Council's Project Manager stated that is part of the Military Road corridor study. In the next few months concepts will start appearing with the proposals around the Neutral Bay area. Developers are encouraged to provide additional public space.

Mr Funch stated Theo's and the Grove are looking at a tower face, the Council car park and the Woolworths existing site.

Council's Project Manager stated she is not across the Military Road Corridor Study, but she is aware there are three main sites that are going to be high rise around that area. The MRCS hasn't been adopted.

Mr Funch stated that he has been collecting signatures to support the walk of fame, they are all very excited for this to go ahead one day with the likes of Cate Blanchett, Toni Collette plaque on the footpath outside the Orpheum Theatre.

Ms Gracie asked if that was likely to go ahead as there is good community support for that and if more people were aware there is likely to be a lot more people interested.

Council's Project Manager stated that is something that Council would assist in undertaking. Council will begin conversations with the Orpheum Theatre to define the project scope and undertake community consultation. Council will engage with the Theatre and see if they support this community initiative.

9. Next meeting: 19 October 2021

10. Close meeting: 6.25pm