

**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**

**NEUTRAL BAY SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE 147th MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,  
20 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 5.30 PM IN THE ROS CRICHTON PAVILION, COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS**

**Present:** Adam Deutsch, Projects Manager (Chair)  
Councillor Jilly Gibson  
Councillor Kathy Brodie  
Councillor Jessica Keen

Rick Doran, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce  
Kalia Jeffries, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce  
Richard O'Grady, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce  
Christina De Podolinsky, Resident

Council:

Joseph Hill, Director City Strategy  
Adam Deutsch, Projects Manager  
James Marshall, Economic Development Coordinator  
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

**Apologies:** Nil

**1. Meeting opened** at 5.30pm, with Adam Deutsch, Council's Projects Manager in the Chair.

Jilly Gibson arrived at 5.35pm and took over the chair.

**2. Apologies**

Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services.

**3. Confirmation of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the 146th Meeting held on 5 September 2017 were adopted.

Moved by Rick Doran and seconded by Kalia Jeffries.

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

Nil.

**5. Projects Update**

**5.1 Banner poles – Rangers Road and Waters Road**

There have been seven (7) new banner poles installed on Waters Road and Rangers Road. At present they have Chamber of Commerce flags on all poles which will need to be added to the banner pole program.

### **5.2 Banner designs – May Gibbs Birthday Banner**

The May Gibbs banner have been delivered to Council Depot and will be installed on all the Neutral Bay banner poles in April to commemorate the centenary of May Gibbs' Snugglepot and Cuddlepie. Council has had positive feedback from community members who have heard about the new banner flag design and look forward to seeing them. The staff at May Gibbs' Nutcote who assisted in the approval for the use of the Snugglepot and Cuddlepie characters are also looking forward to seeing it.

It was suggested that the next round of banner flags should be generic in nature for use between specific events. Kalia Jeffries from the Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce stated that she has sent a schedule for the flags through to Mandy Casey, Council's Executive Coordinator, EPS with what they will have on the poles throughout the year.

Council has a banner flag recycling program. Once the flags have been used they are then turned into tote bags and cushions. They can be purchased at Council's customer service.

### **5.3 Fairy Lights – Young Street**

Following delays by the contractor, Council has had confirmation that the fairy lights will be installed before Easter. This project will see decorative lighting installed to 4 trees in Young Street between Grosvenor Lane and Military Road.

### **5.4 Grosvenor Lane Shared Zone**

The 2015 Neutral Bay and Cremorne Public Domain Upgrade Report highlighted the opportunity to convert Grosvenor Lane, between Ben Boyd Road and Young Street, into a 10km/h shared zone. This project has received funding to progress the masterplan concept to tender and construction documentation including the required shared zone application with Roads and Maritime Service.

The streetscape committee will be invited to comment on the designs as part of the ongoing consultation process.

## **6. Northern Beaches B-Line update**

Council sent the B-Line a 'Works Deed' in mid-2017 proposing joint works in Neutral Bay and Cremorne to offset negative impacts created by the project as raised by the community and Council. This proposal was subsequently rejected in favour of a funding agreement.

On 22 December 2017 Council received a letter from the new Project Director of the Northern Beaches B-Line reopening the discussions of public domain upgrades along the B-Line corridor.

Since this time, Council has been working with staff from the B-Line Project at Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to confirm the scope of work and detail for the funding agreement.

If an agreement can be reached, the proposal will see Public Domain Upgrades to key sections of Military Road and surrounding street including; paving, furniture, garden beds, pedestrian fencing embellishments for Neutral Bay and Cremorne village centres.

Further to the Military Road Public Domain Upgrades, the B-Line at TfNSW have given in-principal agreement to the closure of Young Street for the creation of a public plaza including the potential for associated costs to be include in the funding agreement.

The potential closure of Young Street will go through the normal process whereby there will be community consultation, traffic committee and RMS approvals and discussions on what happens to pedestrian, cyclists and vehicles if the road is closed. It is expected that the design and approvals process will be 2-year process prior to any construction work taking place.

If approved, this project also has the potential to realign the pedestrian lights to adjoin May Gibbs Place on the southern side of Military Road to the proposed closure of Young Street.

The Mayor stated that she has a meeting with the Minister on 21 March to discuss the B-Line.

Further details on the B-Line project can be found on the TfNSW website linked below:

<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/b-line-bus>

## **7. Town Planning**

Rick Doran from Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce addressed the committee as stated that the Neutral Bay Streetscape Committee would like to open some dialogues about some of the areas where there could be some modernisation in Neutral Bay, higher density to get more people into the area. Rick also stated there were some concerns in Neutral Bay to outline the background and possibly where they see Town Planning may be able to come up with a solution as they have a problem in the suburb wherein Wycombe Road there is a prime block that is run down, there is no incentive for a developer to amalgamate a site and get the right levels. At present there is allowed five (5) levels, most of the site are only two (2) levels along Military Road.

Council's Mayor, Jilly Gibson at Council's meeting of 19 February 2018 presented a Mayoral Minute which was passed unanimously by the Councillors, the mayoral minute was that Council is going to be looking at correcting the planning studies for the North Sydney Local Government Area.

The Chamber of Commerce's main concern is that they are losing office space, to correct this, they need office space during the day to keep those retailers kicking over. If they don't have the office component they drop the quality of their retailers down because of loss of workers, there is less trade. So if they give developers some extra height, they have to make them put in some more commercial space. At present they can put two levels of combined retail and commercial, they don't put in commercial in only retail and effectively the end product is a 5 level building, half a level of retail on the ground floor and four levels of residential above and there is no commercial in the new developments, so we are losing out there. The thought was to put the heights up and make them build compulsory at least (one) 1 level of commercial on top of the residential and then we start getting more office tenants. We also start to get better retailers and that way it puts more balance back into the community and also keeping the village feel.

## **8. Chamber of Commerce**

### **8.1 Police Matters**

Council's Economic Development Coordinator stated that he took some images of graffiti in the Neutral Bay area and reported it to the team at the Depot. Council has a graffiti removal team but if the graffiti is above 2 metres then the owner has to pay for the removal, at present Council is in negotiation with the property owners to have this removed. It was suggested that Council look at getting a graffiti wall in Neutral Bay.

Rick Doran from the Chamber of Commerce stated that they try to go to a meeting with the Police every 3 months.

It was stated from Christina De Podolinsky who is a resident in the area that there are three (3) "no right turn" signs to turn from Harrison Street into Rangers Road at Neutral Bay, yet people keep ignoring the signs and knocking them over which was suggested that it really needs policing.

### **8.2 Chamber of Commerce Coordinator**

Kalia Jeffries stated that the Neutral Bay Chamber had a joint social function last week with the other Chambers of Commerce in the area at the Oaks Hotel which was successful. The Chambers meet bi-monthly.

Kalia sent a letter to the Minister regarding the parking loss on Military Road due to the new B-Line, the clearway extension from 6am to 10am which is changing to 5am to 11am on the northern side of Military Road. The Chamber has asked that it be returned back to 6am to 10am because it affects the retailers.

Council's Economic Development Coordinator stated that the Community Strategic Plan must be submitted to the NSW Government by end of June. They are running 2 maybe 3 focus groups for the business community, including a visitor economy focus group on 8 March, an innovation/smart city focus group on 22 March, as well as a broader focus group (TBC). There will be an invitation to the Chambers.

The Mayor will send some information to the Chamber of Commerce about the B-Line after her meeting with the Minister on Wednesday 21 February.

Rick Doran, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce suggested that there be another streetscape meeting added into the middle of the year. Council's Projects Manager stated that extra meeting will be organised if we don't have a meeting for Young Street before that, we will schedule another meeting for the Streetscape Committee.

### **8.3 RMS Transport: Military Road Kerbside Parking**

Covered above in item 8.2

## **9. General Business**

Nothing was discussed.

## **10. Next meeting: 11 September 2018**

## **11. Close meeting: 6.45pm.**