

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

NEUTRAL BAY SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE 148th MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,
4 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 5.30 PM IN THE ROS CRICHTON PAVILION, COUNCIL
CHAMBERS**

Present: Councillor Jessica Keen (Chair)
Adam Deutsch, Projects Manager

Rick Doran, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce
Kalia Bell, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce/Concept Events
Georgia Beeran, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce/Concept Events
Richard O'Grady, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce
Christina De Podolinsky, Resident
Jo Ellen-Henderson, Designer/Resident
Tom Appleby, Resident

Council:

Adam Deutsch, Projects Manager
Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Strategic Planning Manager
Tomas Van der Meer, Strategic Planner, Urban Design
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

Apologies: Nil

1. Meeting opened at 5.30pm, with Councillor Jessica Keen in the Chair.

2. Apologies

Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the 147th Meeting held on 20 February 2018 were adopted.

Moved by Kalia Bell and seconded by Richard O'Grady.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Nil.

ITEM BOUGHT FORWARD

8. Town Planning

8.1 Military Road Corridor Study

Mr Occhiuzzi, Council's Manager Strategic Planning updated the Committee on the Military Road Corridor Study:

In February 2018 Council resolved to undertake a comprehensive planning study to guide the pressure along the corridor, the idea behind the planning study is to try and chore these and try and make some sense out of it and also provide a planning framework to make sure that Council and the community as well as stakeholders are aware of what's around the corner, and to enable to manage that pressure and benefit from it.

The Planning legislation changed about 7 - 8 years ago, where in the past Council's decision to change the planning proposal controls was final with no appeal rights. The legislation changed and essentially enabled parties that made a planning proposal to the Council, to appeal Council's refusal.

Given this change, it is good practice to deal with development pressure with a robust planning framework, based on good public consultation. The Planning Study will take around 12 months to complete. The purpose of the initial consultation process is to understand broadly what the community values about the precinct and what could be improved.

Tomas van der Meer, Council's Strategic Planner, Urban Design updated the Committee

As part of the consultation process, Council wants to understand the whole area including what public domain improvements may be of benefit. The consultation conducted between 26 July and 22 August 2018 with more than 9000 notification letters being sent, public stalls, social media and engagement with special interest groups like the streetscape committees.

A total of 406 submissions were received which included resident ideas of what people value in the area. Another way of engaging with Council was with pins on a map, where people could pin their favourite spot in the area. The main four outcomes on the questions were related to access, environment and community. A preliminary consultation report will be prepared for Council's information. One of the main outcomes was the poor environment on Military Road. There was also a need for parking, beautiful public places, a safe environment, the building height, village atmosphere, more trees and vegetation in the area, improve plaza, outdoor dining, modern library, Community Centre upgrade, public art and affordable housing.

A report will be prepared for the Council meeting of 24 September 2018.

5. Projects Update

5.1 Banner poles – Rangers Road and Waters Road

With the completion of banner pole installation at the locations above, there are now 14 banner flag poles in Neutral Bay. The current stock of banner flags is worn out and need to be replaced. The Chamber of Commerce were asked to start organising the next round of banner flag designs. As banners typically last for 2 to 3 times, it was suggested that the design and supply quotes include 4 of 5 different sets which can be used in rotation through the year.

5.2 Banner designs – May Gibbs Birthday Banner

The 100-year anniversary May Gibbs banner flags were really well received by the community. The Chamber of Commerce has allowed May Gibbs 'Nutcote' at Neutral Bay to keep some of the flags now they have been taken down.

5.3 Fairy Lights – Young Street

The fairy lights were completed shortly after the February meeting and have been going on every night, they are located in Young Street between Military Road and Grosvenor Street. Council is happy to look into other locations that could benefit from decorative lighting.

5.4 Grosvenor Lane Shared Zone

North Sydney Council will be undertaking public domain improvements to Grosvenor Lane in Neutral Bay between Ben Boyd Road and Young Street. The proposal will see the laneway upgraded to a shared zone including new paving, furniture, planting and also bring the lane up to current lighting codes.

As part of the upgrade, Council will be removing all the kerb and gutters and installation of new paving and planting in accordance with the Public Domain Style Manual and RMS guidelines. This will see the existing materials and finishes used in the adjacent Young Lane extended into Grosvenor Lane, and will include 11 new trees installed in planting beds. The new shared zone will improve pedestrian safety and provide an alternative to walking along the busy Military Road.

Council and the design team are currently finalising small changes following feedback from community consultation. General feedback was quite positive with 88% of respondents supporting the change. Once the changes are made, a tender is expected to be issued before Christmas with construction proposed for early 2019.

6. Northern Beaches B-Line update

Council has been working with TfNSW to try and get to some kind of agreement about the footpath repairs and public domain embellishments. While a formal agreement hasn't been reached, there is agreement in principle that large areas of public domain upgrade along Military Road in Neutral Bay and Cremorne are required. Subject to traffic and RMS approval there is also potential to close Young Street at Military Road to create a small plaza to offset May Gibbs Place. The viability of this project will depend on RMS and Traffic Committee approvals, community consultation and significant funding being made available.

If successful, there is also potential to realign the pedestrian lights to provide direct pedestrian access and sign lines from May Gibbs Place to the new Young Street closure improving connectivity across the busy Military Road to link the two sides and community spaces.

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. Neutral Bay Logo

Ms Ellen-Henderson of JoEllen Design Studio, and local resident, has provided some concept designs to refresh the Neutral Bay logo and stimulate discussion. Once the B-Line funding agreement is finalised there may be an opportunity to revisit the Neutral Bay logo used on the pedestrian fencing. Any changes to the Neutral Bay logo will be discussed through the Neutral Bay Streetscape Committee and Precincts and will be subject to Council approval.

9. Chamber of Commerce

9.1 Police Matters

Nothing was discussed.

9.2 Chamber of Commerce Coordinator

The Chamber of Commerce are currently working on their flyer which is to encourage people into the chamber and also the Streetscape Committee. The first draft is ready and the Chamber will be working with Council's Projects Manager to gain approval as this is funded by Council. Once approved and printed, Concept Event Management will be walk around to the local businesses explaining the flyer and providing them at bus stops and local cafes.

9.3 RMS Transport: Military Road Kerbside Parking

Nothing was discussed.

10. General Business

Nothing was discussed.

11. Next meeting: TBC

12. Close meeting: 6.35pm.