

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

NEUTRAL BAY SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 152nd MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 5.30 PM IN THE ROS CRICHTON PAVILION, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Present: Councillor Jilly Gibson
Councillor Jessica Keen

Rick Doran, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce
Richard O'Grady, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce
JoEllen-Henderson, Designer/Resident
Christina De Podolinsky, Resident
Bob Bourne, Business Owner
Nicole Robertson, Concept Events
Patrick Yi, Colliers International

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

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

2. Apologies

Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the 151st Meeting held on 22 October 2019 were adopted.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Nil.

5. Projects Update

5.1 Grosvenor Lane Shared Zone/Grosvenor Lane Upgrade

Grosvenor Lane shared zone Construction works started in November 2019 and are expected to be completed at the end of March 2020.

Signage has been installed to support and promote local business trading in Grosvenor Lane during construction.

Ongoing works, concrete slabs and paving installation are underway.

Trees, landscaping areas and lighting features are to be installed in March 2020.

5.2 Young Street Footpath Closure

Works are planned to begin in April 2020 and finish in June 2020, these works include:

- New footpath paving;
- New street furniture;
- New lighting and decorative lighting features; and
- Beautify outdoor dining areas.

These works will compliment Grosvenor Lane Shared Zone and Young Street temporary pedestrian plaza.

5.3 Young Street Plaza Temporary Closure

Aspect Studio has been engaged by Council for the landscape design of this temporary pedestrian plaza.

A cost effective, vibrant and exciting public space is being designed to be implemented in 2020.

A briefing session was held with Councillors on 10 February 2020. Feedback from Councillors will be incorporated to the design, and Council will update the community with the final design.

It is intended to begin construction in June 2020 and to have the plaza for 3 months, until August/September 2020.

The objective of this project is to create a temporary plaza design for the trial of Young Street closure that is contemporary, creative and attractive for the community during day and night, creates space for active recreation for all ages and it is temporary in nature with design elements that can be easily removed if Council decides not to proceed with the permanent closure after the three-month trial.

Christina De Podolinsky, Resident of Cremorne stated that with the temporary closure of Young Street, council's plan is to put a raised pedestrian crossing in Waters Road about 10 meters south from the existing pedestrian crossing just up from Bougainvillea. There has been no explanation or rationale given for how this will benefit pedestrians and/or traffic. If this is a first stage in the eradication a pedestrian crossing closer to Military Road, then perhaps the businesses and restaurants east of Waters Road may as well prepare for a significant loss in trade generated by a decline in passing foot traffic.

It was discussed amongst attendees that that the intersection of Waters and Military roads is of concern for the following reasons:

1. With the closure of Young Street there is likely to be an increase of vehicles entering and exiting Waters Road
2. Pedestrian safety at the intersection is of concern.
3. The place where pedestrians cross now is not a marked pedestrian crossing.
4. The place where pedestrians cross now is set back from Military Road.
5. Waters Road curves to eliminate the angle with Military Road.

6. Vehicles entering Waters Road are able to sweep around the curve from Military Road at some speed - unseen pedestrians become the bunny in the spotlight.
7. Vehicles exiting Waters Road have scant opportunity to enter the often-heavy Military Road traffic stream.
8. As is it even now some motorists become hostile to any pedestrian activity which might mean they miss their gap in the traffic.
9. Often there is there is right-of-way confusion and indecision between pedestrians and drivers.
10. On the eastern side of Waters Road pedestrians need access to and from the Bougainvillea aged care residences, a SCEGGS Redlands school campus, Waters Road Medical Practice specialising in aged health care as well as other businesses and residences
11. A traffic safety study and further disclosure will be required for this intersection.

As part of the trial closure Council will assess the traffic impact in all the road network around Young Street, including Waters Road. This will be part of the trial closure assessment and all findings will be reported to Council to decide the future steps for the permanent closure.

6. B-Line Streetscape Works Upgrade Update

Military Road between Young Street and Waters/Rangers Road commenced July 2019 and are complete, minor defects to resolve.

The works on the corner of Waters and Military Roads are on hold and can only be finalised once RMS complete drainage works (expected mid 2020).

Street tree planting works in the Military Road corridor, a total of 46 mature trees were planted in the Military Road corridor between Neutral Bay and Cremorne to replace those trees that were removed, are part of the B-Line works.

Neutral Bay (East) - New Stage

New stage of streetscape upgrade works is planned in the northern side of Military Road between Waters Road and opposite Hampden Avenue, and the southern side between Rangers Road and No. 209 Military Road. This works will include paving upgrade, garden beds, street furniture and bicycle parking.

This has currently been out to tender and Council is assessing tenderers' submissions. Council plans to award the public domain upgrade works to the highest ranked tenderer at the February Council meeting and construction works are planned to commence late March 2020 for a duration of 3 months.

Neutral Bay (West) – Future Stage

Council are currently preparing design documentation to tender construction works for the next stage of works at the northern side of Military Road between the Oaks Hotel to the traffic lights west of Young Street and at the southern side between Watson Street and traffic lights west of May Gibbs Plaza.

Tender is expected to be advertised to the public in February 2020. Pending the outcome of these works could commence as early as April 2020.

7. Neutral Bay Pavement Beautification - Investigation of Hedges and Planter Boxes

Mr Bob Bourne, Business Owner stated that due to the 'saga' of the 'Electronic wave', has cost the immediate small business retail people a drastic result on their businesses many shops are now closed. To re-invigorate the Village the Committee's responsibility is to seek the best outcome.

At previous Meetings it was agreed to have planter boxes and a hedge that would not impair the view of the shopfronts be installed.

Council's Projects Manager stated that there will be planter box with hedges to trial at suitable locations in Military Road between Young Street and Waters Road, and May Gibbs and Rangers Road, where streetscape works have now been finalised.

Option of glass fibre reinforced concrete planter boxes 400mm high and varying length. Waterproofed to avoid leakage into footpaths, to be charcoal to match the new footpath paving. Planting will be decided during the trial.

Action: That Council's Project Manager bring a sample of the planter box and 3 plants to Neutral Bay in Military Road close to May Gibbs and will invite Streetscape committee member for feedback, this planter box is to be installed before the next streetscape meeting.

8. Town Planning

8.1 Military Road Corridor Study

Stakeholders engagement and its feedback has been important consideration in sketching the future of Neutral Bay Town Centre.

- The Military Road Corridor Planning Study, Stage 1 (Neutral Bay Town Centre) Commenced with community engagement in [August 2018](#).
- Analysis, Objectives and Ideas were presented to Council in August and put on exhibition in [September 2019](#).
- Community feedback from this exhibition was reported back to Council in [October 2019](#).

All documents and the latest Council report can be found here:
<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/MRC>

Council is progressing with the Study and will look for further input from the community in due course.

Public exhibition of the draft Future Direction Report (Draft final Study) is anticipated for mid-2020, during this time the final report will be presented to the Neutral Bay Streetscape Committee in an Extraordinary Meeting to seek your feedback.
([Approximately April/May 2020](#))

**Additional information please contact North Sydney Council Strategic Planning
Marcelo Occhiuzzi and/or Tomas van der Meer
Email: council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
telephone: (02) 9936 8100**

9. Chamber of Commerce

Nil

9.1 Security Matters

Nil

9.2 Chamber of Commerce Coordinator

We Welcome Nicole Robertson to the Committee from Concept Events.

11. General Business

Nil

12. Next meeting: Tuesday 8 September 2020

13. Close meeting: 6.50pm.