

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

NEUTRAL BAY SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE 156th MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2022 AT 5.30 PM IN THE
ROS CRICHTON PAVILION, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present: Councillor Baker in the Chair and Councillor Bourke
Councillor Beregi and Councillor Welch (via zoom)

Rick Doran, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce
JoEllen Henderson, JoEllen Design Studio
Tom Appleby, Collier International
Christina De Polinsky, Resident
Maria Spinoulas, Neutral Bay Community Centre
Beau Mayer, Colliers International

(Attended via zoom)

Nicole Robertson, Concept Events
Richard O'Grady, Co- President Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce
Anthony Andrews, Resident
Harry Andrews, Foodheads

Council:

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

1. Meeting opened at 5.35pm, with Councillor Baker in the Chair.

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the 155th Meeting held on 14 September 2021 were adopted.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Nil.

5. Projects Update

5.1 Welcome

5.2. Young Street Trial Plaza Update

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

A report went to Council late 2021 on the Young Street trial and that report recommended that Council proceed to the next stage which was looking at the permanent closure of Young Street. Council now has the design for the permanent closure and that design went to tender, the tenders are back and the tender for the construction to do the permanent closure of Young Street will be put to the 28 March Council meeting.

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

5.3 Military Road - B-Line Streetscape Works Upgrade Update

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services updated the Committee on the Military Road Work Upgrade

The works for the Military Road B-Line Streetscape Works Upgrade have almost been completed, the last part is the permanent closure of Young Street which is last component of the funding. 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. The public domain improvements include new paving, seats, bins, streetscape furniture and landscaping.

There is approximately \$2 Million left in the Neutral Bay Streetscape budget for this financial year to continue doing other upgrade works in the corridor. Council is now looking at the streets that come back off Military Road, that feed into Yeo Street and Rangers Road. Works have been done in front of the Oaks and going back towards Grosvenor Lane.

5.4 Proposed Military Road Intersection Improvements Program – Neutral Bay and Cremorne – LATM Works

LATM related works are also continuing along the Military Road corridor in Neutral Bay. This work is also being funded by TfNSW and the B-Line grant. Pedestrian safety works - footpath treatments and landscaping are underway at the following intersections on Military Road.

1. Rangers Road (Pedestrian Crossing- Landscaping and fencing) - completed last month.
2. Holt Avenue (Continuous Footpath and landscaping) - Completed March
3. Spencer Street (Continuous Footpath) Under construction
4. Cabramatta Street (Continuous footpath treatment) - due to start in April
5. MacPherson Street – kerb build outs and landscaping) - due to start in May .

These LATM related works are valued at close to \$1million.

5.4.1 Tree Planting in the Military Road Corridor.

As part of the original funding agreement with TfNSW - B-line gave Council funding to plant 200 x trees for the 68 x trees they removed along the corridor as part of B-Line works. This funding was to replace the trees and canopy cover that was lost at a 3:1 ratio. Over \$500,000 spent on street tree planting in the Military Road corridor and the surrounding streets of Cremorne and Neutral Bay as part of the replacement program. Council procured and organised the planting of the trees via contractors.

5.5 Neutral Bay Beautification – Planter Boxes (additional planters)

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services updated the Committee on the Planter Boxes that have been rolled out along Military Road in Neutral Bay.

Council to date has put in 46 x planter boxes in Neutral Bay on both sides of Military Road. The additional streetscape plantings that have been planted around the planting strips adjacent to the pedestrian fences have also now grown up and support the decorative plants that are in the planter boxes. The planter boxes are expensive (\$1800 each) for Council to maintain. Council uses a contractor to maintain the planter boxes. Council also upgraded the hanging baskets in Grosvenor Lane which are maintained by the same contractor. The existing Cremorne planter boxes have been also upgraded and replanted and Council has received a lot of compliments about how much better the planting looks in these planter boxes in Cremorne.

5.6 Neutral Bay Banner Program

Nicole Robertson from the Chamber of Commerce updated the Committee on the Banners. Nicole stated that she had spoken to Joanne Eckstein – responsible for managing Council's Banner Program, and that there was going to be a stocktake of the poles in Neutral Bay and that there are some poles particularly in the Gateway area that are damaged. There is a delay at the moment getting the new banners until they do the stock take and she is waiting for an update as to where they are at the moment.

Council will fix the damaged poles and once they are done Council will follow up with the Chamber on a calendar of events.

Nicole mentioned that last year she was advised that they were going to recycle the old banners but hasn't heard for a while where that is up to, as they have quite a lot of stock of old or damaged banners that can be reused. They were talking about using them to make them into bags to give away at events.

Council's Director of Engineering and Property Services stated that when the Chambers advises Council that the banners are of no more use to them, Council sends the old banners to Reverse Garbage at Marrickville and they get turned into banner bags.

Nicole stated she will get in contact with Joanne to organise the old banners for Council.

Reachable Easter banners have been installed at Neutral Bay Island, Rangers Road, Waters Road, Crow's Nest Plaza, Crow's Nest off Pacific Hwy.

6. Town Planning

6.1 Military Road Corridor Study

The Mayor stated there was an extraordinary council meeting held on 24 January where Council resolved to hold back the Military Road Corridor study and it was referred to the Strategic Planning Department.

The three properties are open to the property owners. They are all progressing their owner projects, but Council has said twelve storeys is not preferred by the Community.

There will be a Councillor briefing in April of the full Council and then a meeting with Woolworths.

Update from the Strategic Department.

In February 2021, Council adopted the Neutral Bay Town Centre 'Future Directions' Planning Study. The study was prepared to :

- manage the significant development pressure in the centre
- protect local jobs and
- increase public open space and community infrastructure

On 24 January this year, noting strong community feedback particularly in relation to the proposed building heights, Council rescinded the Study.

Council resolved that a new study be prepared, in consultation with the community and other stakeholders, that provides "a better balance between development height and the provision of additional public open space".

Timing for the preparation of a new study is yet to be determined. In the first instance, an internal briefing of the Councillors is scheduled for mid-April.

In the meantime, in the absence of a planning study, the existing heights under North Sydney's planning controls (or "LEP") remain Council policy. As such, any landowner proposals to increase building heights, are highly likely to be refused by Council. It is worth noting however, that landowners may appeal any refusal to the Department of Planning and Environment.

Whatever is decided Council will be consulting with the community.

7. Chamber of Commerce

7.1 Chamber of Commerce Coordinator

Nicole Robertson from the Neutral Bay Chambers of Commerce mentioned that a social function has been planned for the Chamber of Commerce this year, and an update on

the Event will be distributed closer to the date.

8. General Business

Wayne Atkins plaque at 12 Waters Road

Richard O'Grady from the Chamber of Commerce contacted council regarding a plaque that was erected commemorating Wayne Aitken (founding member of the Chamber) on the council fence outside of 12 Waters Rd Neutral Bay. The property will soon be redeveloped, and Wayne's widow and myself are concerned the plaque may get damaged or misplaced during the demolition/construction of the new building, particularly if the fence will be removed during this phase. I would be happy to hold the plaque for safe-keeping if there is any danger of it being damaged, and then it could be re-installed once construction was complete. Wayne's widow is keen for it to be kept on site.

Council has actioned Richard O'Grady's request to have the plaque for Wayne Andrew Aitken- inaugural treasurer for the Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce - stored at Councils Works Depot – Archives store. The plaque was previously located at 12 Waters Road which is now a development site. Council will keep the plaque in storage until the redevelopment of the site is complete and then consult with the Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce on its reinstatement.

9. Next meeting: Tuesday, 28 June 2022

10. Close meeting: 6. 15pm