

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

NEUTRAL BAY SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 154th MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 5.30 PM IN THE SUPPER ROOM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Present: Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services in the Chair
Councillor Gibson and Councillor Barbour

(All attended via Zoom)

Rick Doran, Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce

Richard O’Grady, Co- President Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce

JoEllen Henderson, JoEllen Design Studio

Nicole Robertson, Concept Events

Tom Appleby, Collier International

James Farrugia, Resident

Christina De Polinsky, Resident

Council:

Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services

Diana Mejia, Project Manager - EPS

Josh Jongma, Governance Co-ordinator

Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

1. **Meeting opened** at 5.35pm, with Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services in the Chair.
2. **Apologies**
Councillor Keen
Bob Bourne, Resident
3. **Confirmation of the Minutes**
The Minutes of the 153rd Meeting held on 17 November 2020 were adopted.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
Nil.
5. **Projects Update**

5.1 Young Street Trial Plaza and Community Consultation

Young Street Trial Plaza opened to the public on 23 December 2020 and the Traffic Consultant has been engaged by Council to assess the traffic impacts of the road closure.

Community consultation is open and Council is inviting the community to have your say on the future of the plaza at <https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Young-Street-Plaza>

To activate the space Council is running an entertainment program, including the following events:

Date	Event
Thursday 21 January, 12-2pm	Music Performance
Tuesday 9 February, 10-11am	StoryTime with the Stanton Library
Thursday 18 February, 12-2pm	Music Performance
Tuesday 9 March, 10-11am	StoryTime with the Stanton Library
Thursday 18 March, Time TBC	Music Performance

As part of the activation Council invited interested businesses currently located in Young Street between Military Road and Grosvenor Street to submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi) to utilise and activate the Young Street Plaza Pavilion. Council received some enquiries, the main one, and the one that showed the most promise was the newsagent, they wanted to run a small food and beverage espresso bar service out of the Pavilion. Council granted them a 3-month licence at no cost to activate it.

Councillor Gibson stated that she had received some comments back from the public about the colour scheme in the area and wanted to know how the colour scheme was selected (the yellow chairs in particular and bright green synthetic grass). She suggested that Council look at something more sophisticated.

The Director Engineering and Property Services stated that the consultants had come up with a scheme for the area, Council didn't specify colours, they let the consultants run with the design and run with the specifications knowing that it is only temporary. When the consultation is finished, and if it is decided that it be closed permanently then they will bring those designs to Council.

Councillor Gibson asked if there had been any feedback if so, is Council monitoring it and stated that she would like to know what the feedback is as she has been encouraging people that were giving positive comments to write to Council.

Council's project Engineer stated that the Council has been receiving regular emails and also on Council's website but would have to wait till the consultation is over to see what the outcome is.

Ms De Polinsky stated that she goes past it a lot and sees it mostly empty.

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated that Council is tracking the numbers using digital technology. Council engaged a consultant to do this, they map people using public spaces to measure the success or failure of spaces, they are using this as a pilot to see people movements in a public space. This will be included in a report back to Council at the end of the trial, which is in March/April 2021. He also stated that they are looking at extending the trial to another couple of months beyond March to gather more data and more feedback about the space.

Councillor Barbour stated that from the back of the Pavilion it's a mental block for people coming to visit and moving forward, there is a better way to guide the flow of people into the area from Military Road. Council should look at things like this block should be at an angle rather than flat, which to people is more ergonomically inviting.



Event: Music Performance –21 January 2021



Storytime by Stanton Library



Pop-up newsagency/beverage and food outlet

5.2 Military Road - B-Line Streetscape Works Upgrade Update

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated that Council is upgrading in front of May Gibbs Place with new paving and streetscape. The Ben Boyd and Young Street section was all completed before Christmas and that now completes all the public domain on the western side, from Hampden all the way through to Watson Street on the other side of the road in front of the Oaks Hotel and the entire section from Watson Street down to Rangers Road on the eastern side. The main commercial centre of Neutral Bay is now completed with public domain works through the B-line funding agreement.

Council has managed to get rid of the dog biscuit paving through Neutral Bay which has been replaced with new public domain pavers and they are called "speckled hen", this paving gets a sealer coat that it's designed to absorb the grime and dirt a lot better. The next area to be done is Zone 10 which is between Murdoch and Holt Streets and moving down towards Cremorne, this next zone is to be completed this financial year and finalising the streetscape upgrade works in Neutral Bay. The last project is Young Street, if it does become permanent will be funded by B-line.



Artist's impression Zone 10 - Military Rd between Holt St and Murdoch St South side

5.3 Proposed Intersections Improvement – Neutral Bay and Cremorne

Council’s Director Engineering and Property Services stated that the detailed design for the proposed intersections improvement is underway. Construction works will be tendered and awarded this financial year, these works are funded by TfNSW



5.4 Neutral Bay Beautification – Planter Boxes (additional planters)



Additional 20 planter boxes will be installed before the end of the financial year.

Council’s Director Engineering and Property Services stated that Council does want to fund an additional 20 planter boxes in the area, which are at present on order and will be put in this financial year. Each box costs \$3,000 which includes maintaining the planter boxes through an external contractor.

Councillor Barbour stated that Ken’s Kisser Café near the Watson Street bus stop, feel that they didn’t have enough warning that Council was coming to do works at the intersection near their shop, when they blocked it off, they blocked off the whole corner and therefore they suffered financially, he suggested it would be nice if Council could give people a break on their outdoor furniture when this happens because they can’t use it.

Council’s Director Engineering and Property services stated that Council liaises with businesses if the construction works impact their trading, if they have an outdoor dining licence and they can’t use the space during the construction time, Council waives the license fees for the construction period.

5.5. Grosvenor Lane - Banners and hanging baskets

Grosvenor Lane has the Crepe Myrtle’s which are in flower at present, Council has supplemented that with the installation of “Shop Local” banners as well as the hanging baskets planting which have been refreshed.



6. Town Planning

6.1 Military Road Corridor Study

Council’s Director Engineering and Property Services stated that the report that was brought to Council late last year on the Military Road Corridor Study was deferred, and subsequently there has been a Councillor briefing on this. This report will be brought back to Council for the 22 February meeting.

Councillor Gibson updated the committee on the Councillor briefing and stated that all the Councillors made it clear that they want extra parking, any new projects and any new residential buildings that come into Neutral Bay are going to create more need for parking and they've made it very clear that they want additional parking in any of the new works. Councillor Gibson commented that during the briefing session there were very good discussions about additional open space. One of the proposals on the southern side of Military Road and Rangers Road is a development including a town square in the middle of the complex generating around 1100 m² additional open space.

For additional information in regards to Military Road Corridor Study please contact North Sydney Council Strategic Planning - Marcelo Occhiuzzi and/or Tomas van der Meer (council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au, telephone: (02) 9936 8100)

7. Chamber of Commerce

7.1 Chamber of Commerce Coordinator

Mr Doran from the Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce asked if there was an update on the Coles proposal.

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated that he doesn't at present have an update on the Coles proposal

Mr Doran from the Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce stated that they haven't seen the Coles proposal, and that they had submitted the letter on the basis that they would like to see it from a non-technical modern architectural point of view. Their letter listed general comments that came of the Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce meeting and included features that they would like to see on this modern architectural development, including a piazza/plaza, an above-ground Coles, not buried underneath, access for pedestrians and vehicles separate to Coles and not Coles dominating that access.

Councillor Gibson stated that there will be a new Woolworths development on the southern side of Military Road with a new open plaza nearly 1100m², with shops and retail around it.

Mr Doran asked if the development that is being looked at which is 40 Yeo Street was still going ahead.

Councillor Gibson stated that the report that went to the November Council meeting, recommended that the site which is site No. 4 be exiled from the study temporarily and that Council concentrate on the other three sites, as it was the most contentious site whereby Council had the most complaints. The other sites have more benefits and have been more accepted by the local community. Site No. 4 is most likely to be taken out of the equation.

The Chambers has the specifications for the new Grosvenor Lane banner poles and they will be working with Council to increase the ward of banners that they put up throughout the year like Easter and Christmas, and include those in the Grosvenor Lane area.

The Chamber suggested having another Streetscape meeting mid-year as the next meeting isn't scheduled till September.

Councillor Gibson stated that we have a meeting in June. Once a date has been decided the Chamber will be notified.

Mr Doran stated that the old mural on the back of the post office has been there for 12 or more years and asked if it could be upgraded. He stated that the mural is in Cheal Lane between the post office and Council car park.

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated he will talk to Council's public art Co-ordinator to have a look at it

It was also suggested that the southern side of Cheal Lane needs to be done up.

8. General Business

Nil.

9. Next meeting: Tuesday, 15 June 2021

10. Close meeting: 6.35pm