

NEUTRAL PRECINCT MINUTES

Tuesday 9 August 2022, commenced at 7:10 pm

1. Apologies - EC
2. Additional items added to the Agenda - (discussed at item 8)
 - Recycling of take away coffee cups
 - Parking difficulties created at time of developments
 - Woolworths Rangers Road development proposal
3. Business from minutes of meeting held on 12 July 2022:
 - i. Following review, the minutes were moved by TM and seconded by GC as correct.
 - ii. Council written responses to motions of June/July meetings:

July Item No. 4 - Traffic issues and pedestrian safety at Young Street and Military Road.

Council's Director Engineering & Property Services has noted the following Precinct suggestions:

- i. That Council not only consider the pedestrian safety and vehicular accident reports at Young Street, but make their decision informed by pedestrians' observations of regular near miss incidents on this pedestrian crossing;
- ii. The Precinct reaffirms its previous recommendation to Council to consider a pedestrian overpass at May Gibbs' Place/Young Street Plaza.

July Item No. 5v - Arts and Cultural Strategic Plan – Motion regarding 'HMAS Platypus' as a possible site for creative spaces.

Council's Team Leader - Arts and Culture has noted the Precinct Committee's suggestion that the Council approach the Sydney Harbour Trust to work in partnership with the Trust to improve the vision for the HMAS Platypus site to include community and cultural activities for the benefit of North Sydney residents and the broader community. The Team Leader advised that Council is intending to invite a representative from the Harbour Trust to participate in the upcoming targeted engagement to inform the revised *Arts & Cultural Strategic Plan*.

Council's Manager Corporate Planning & Engagement has advised that this suggestion can also be pursued via implementation of Council's *Visitor Economy Strategy* (2019).

July Item 6 iii - DA 182/2022 1 Hayes St, Neutral Bay

Council's Executive Assessment Planner has advised that that the matters, raised by the Precinct, will be considered in assessing the DA. Council is liaising with Sydney Buses as part of the process.

July Item 8 – Publication of North Sydney events

Council's Team Leader Events has noted the Precinct Committee's comments that "Residents indicated that events generally were not well known and proactive marketing was needed" and advised that this feedback will be treated as a preliminary submission to inform review of Council's *Events Strategy* as well as *External Communications Strategy*.

In response to residents noting that the Council's website could be improved with more colourful presentation of events on the home page, Council's Team Leader - Communications has advised that a new Council website is in development and due to be launched in late 2022.

June Item No. 9 I - Noise from early hours commercial refuse/recycling and the use of petrol fuelled leaf blowers.

1. Council's Waste Management Officer has advised that as part of the response to COVID, Council contractors have been starting earlier than usual, commencing services at 4.30am. Waste collection contractor(s) at present spread their staff out over different shifts to ensure adequate separation of staff in the event of a staff member contracting Covid. If such were to occur, all staff would therefore not be impacted thus ensuring the continuity of service as best as practicable. This is a temporary measure to ensure that social distancing can be practised in the depot and staged departures can take place. Council's domestic waste collection contractor starts collection at 4.30am in certain areas but not any time before that.

To ensure residents are not coping with early morning collection every week, Council has request contractors to keep noise to a minimum during regular collection and stagger the collection so certain properties are not faced with early collection each week.

2. Council's Manager Environment & Building Compliance has advised that the use of leaf blowers on residential properties in NSW is currently permitted under the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2017*. The NSW EPA is responsible for reviewing and updating this legislation.

GC advised the meeting that there had been media interest in this issue. He had been contacted by the Daily Telegraph, Radio 2GB and the Channel 7 Sunrise program. He had explained the background to the issue that was raised at the June precinct meeting.

June Item No: 9 ii - No Stopping area on corner of Yeo Street and Barry Lane.

Council's A/Manager Traffic & Transport has advised that the requested road surface in the No-stopping area on the corner of Yeo Street and Barry Lane is under investigation.

The matter of non-compliance with the no-stopping zone on the corner of Yeo Street and Barry Lane has been referred to Council's Manager Ranger & Parking Services.

June item no 9. iii - Ben Boyd Rd traffic issues & Ben Boyd Road into Military Rd

In response to resident's concerns about the lack of a green arrow to turn right from Ben Boyd Road into Military Road, Council has advised that this is a matter for TfNSW. Council's A/Manager Traffic & Transport has advised that the Precinct Committee's concerns have been forwarded to TfNSW, and the community can also raise concern with TfNSW via:

<https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/contact-us/feedback-form.html>

4. Council Correspondence

- i. Precinct System Review status & online Precinct Committee meetings. The meeting noted and thanked the Council for its strong support for the Precinct system.
- ii. 2022 LGNSW Annual Conference. The meeting noted the call for proposed motions/issues. Residents were asked to give some thought to any appropriate issues and to advise the Precinct Committee at info@neutralprecinct.com by 22 August so that a submission can be made.

5. Warringah Freeway Upgrade – Falcon Street Bus Ramp consultation

GC provided the background to the proposed bus ramp which is to allow Military Road buses direct access into the city bound bus lane. Simulated pictures of the proposal taken from the current consultation document were tabled and viewed by residents.

Discussion:

- The diagram depicting the height of the ramp is misleading and deceptive. The ramp at its high point will be at the top of door height at the 4th floor of 4 Merlin Street and about half a metre below the trellis on top of 1 McIntosh Lane (DA155/2022).
- The glare from bus headlights, travelling on the ramp, into current/future dwellings along Merlin Street is also raising concern. Current consultations have resulted in TfNSW offering the possibility of anti-glare window treatment and/or the construction of a sound wall which would need to be around 40 feet high thus restricting solar access.
- The removal of 75-80 car parking spaces along Alfred Street North continues to anger residents. Despite consultations with TfNSW project staff there is no plan and nowhere for residents' cars to go.
- The proposed reduction of Alfred Street North to one lane will create permanent access difficulties for residents, emergency vehicles, delivery services and trades servicing the multiple apartment buildings.
- The conversion of narrow and winding Winter Avenue to 2 lanes of traffic is not considered viable.

- A resident reported cement trucks lining up in Merlin Street after 8:00pm on 4 occasions recently.
- The removal of access from Falcon Street to the Cahill Expressway will push Military Road traffic, wanting to access the eastern part of the City CBD, down through the residential streets of Cremorne and Neutral Bay (Murdoch, Wycombe and Ben Boyd) to Kurraba and Clarke Roads and High Street.
- There is no good news or benefits to Neutral Bay from the current project to widen the Warringah Freeway.
- Alternate ideas were discussed which are identified in the following motion.

MOTION

The Precinct requests the Council to make a further submission to TfNSW to consider the following:

- 1. To re-engineer the site of the bus ramp to be closer to 4-14 Merlin Street and 1 McIntosh Lane by removing part of the sandstone shelf and thus lowering the height of the ramp.**
- 2. If this is not possible, to install a headlight glare screen and plant mature deciduous trees between the bus ramp and the properties in Merlin Street.**
- 3. To consider a legacy project that will provide vehicle parking for the residents of Alfred Street North, similar to the vehicle parking area currently provided for residents of the “Island” between Falcon Street and Military Road.**
- 4. To establish where city buses will wait/park in North Sydney once the current parking area adjacent to Cammeray Park is removed and the informal parking area on the freeway beneath 4 - 14 Merlin Street.**

VOTE- Unanimous

6. Young Street Plaza – Update

CP reported on a community rally in the Young Street Plaza was held on 30 July. An estimated 150 people attended. Councillors Gibson and Mutton, Tim James MP and a representative of the Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce spoke in favour of a permanent Plaza using the State Government allocated funding of \$1.9 million for the project. Questions were taken from those attending. Two people spoke in favour of re-opening Young Street to traffic. Local shop owners spoke of increased clients to their businesses since the temporary Plaza was established. Others spoke of how they; their families and friends have used the temporary Plaza and how the Plaza had improved pedestrian safety at the top of Young Street. One person spoke of the need to make changes to Grosvenor Lane between Ben Boyd Road and Young Street to improve pedestrian safety. There was over-whelming support to retain a Plaza.

Neutral Precinct has previously advised the Council of residents support for a permanent Young Street Plaza. Residents were advised to email to Councillors their support/non-support of a permanent Plaza.

7. Development Applications

- i. DA 204/2022 175-177 Ben Boyd Road Neutral Bay. (Neutral Bay Public School). Alterations and additions including removal/demolition of 6 buildings, refurbishment of 2 buildings, erection of 3 new buildings, expansion of school property, new signage and removal of 18 trees.

The development was supported, however, concern was expressed at the loss of 18 trees. It was recommended any approval to the DA require mature landscaping be installed.

- ii. DA 86/2022 96-98 Ben Boyd Road Neutral Bay. Land & Environment Court proceedings No.165233/2022. On site meeting 13 October 9:30am. Noted. The Precinct will include the item again on the October meeting agenda to remind residents of the 13 October site meeting.

8. General Business

- i. New Australian Red cross pop up donor centre in North Sydney. Noted that appointments can be made online at <https://www.lifeblood.com.au> or by telephone to 131495. A resident advised that if a person has given blood in the last 10 years their donation will be on record.

- ii. Recycling of take away coffee cups

Discussion

Mosman and other Councils have engaged Simply Cups Australia <https://www.simplycups.com.au> to install recycling Stations for used coffee cups. Since May 2017 the Company has collected 20 million cups to be combined with other recycled items into items of higher value including bench seats, roadside kerbing and car park wheel stops.

MOTION

The Precinct recommends North Sydney Council engage Simply Cups Australia to recycle used coffee cups in the commercial areas of the LGA.

Vote: Unanimous

- iii. Parking difficulties created at the time of building developments

Discussion

- Parking difficulties are being experienced by residents where multiple trades take up all available parking spaces adjacent to building sites leaving no spaces for residents and their visitors. Anger was expressed that rate payers are being denied the same consideration as builders.
- A resident cited a recent DA approval in Ben Boyd Road which required trades to be bussed to the site but was then overturned in an amended DA without known consultation.
- The meeting acknowledged the challenges to both developers and residents and suggests guidelines be established for DA approvals,

particularly for when multiple DA approvals are given in a single street or adjacent streets.

- A suggestion was made to require larger developments to provide secure storage area for Trades tools to minimise the need each trade to drive to the site daily.

i. Woolworths Rangers Road Planning Proposal

Discussion

- In June 2022 the Precinct made a submission to Council on this Planning proposal including issues around access to the Loading Dock. Council's Manager Strategic Planning has advised that the Precinct Committee's comments will be included in the report to the Local Planning Panel and Council.
- Residents in Yeo Street raised further concerns about the traffic flow being impacted by large delivery trucks requiring to reverse from Yeo Street into Military Lane due to insufficient space to turn in Military Lane. This action blocks the traffic flow in busy Yeo Street and is dangerous to pedestrians.
- Residents were encouraged to attend and voice their concerns at the information sessions being held by Woolworths developers on 11 (5pm-7pm) and 13 August (2pm-5pm) at the Neutral Bay Community Centre.
- The Precinct Committee will keep a watching brief on this planning proposal.

9. North Sydney events

- i. Garden Competition entries open to 30 August.
- ii. August Bushcare events - 13th Introduction to Wildlife Watch; 27th Bush walk at Balls Head, 28th Wildflower walk.
- iii. August Green events - 15th The Great Tomato Project and Compost basics; 21st Nest Box workshop.

The events were noted and residents advised that further details are available at: www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

10. 'Have Your Say' Surveys.

- i. Family and Children's Services Survey. Closes 22 September.
- ii. Miller Street Pop Up. Closes 2 November

The surveys were noted and residents advised that further details are available at: <https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au>

11. Upcoming meetings noted:

- i. Neutral Precinct - 13 September. www.neutralprecinct.com
- ii. Council - 22 August. www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

The meeting closed at 9:20pm.