

# **WILLOUGHBY BAY PRECINCT**

**PART OF NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY PRECINCT SYSTEM**



## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD**

**THURSDAY 11th August 2022**

**COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

**ATTENDANCE:** 14 people attended the meeting  
**APOLOGIES:** 5 were recorded  
**GUEST SPEAKER:** DM – Council's Manager Parks & Reserves

## **COVID-19 MEETING SAFETY PROCEDURES**

In accordance with COVID-19 meeting safety procedures, all attendees used the hand sanitiser, which was supplied and tables were wiped down before and after the meeting with the sanitiser. The COVID-19 signage was displayed. Social distancing was observed and no one reported feeling unwell. No unregistered persons attended the meeting.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes for the 14 July 2022 meeting were adopted

***Motion carried: 11 in favour, 3 abstentions, 0 against***

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **Planning Proposal: Woolworths, 1-7 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay**

Five Precincts around Neutral Bay Village have made submissions to Council expressing concern about the Planning Proposal. Woolworths have distributed a flyer to residents near 1-7 Rangers Road, which gives a timetable showing May 2023 as "anticipated Council determination of Planning Proposal". This is at odds with Council's advice to Precinct that the Proposal is likely to be formally considered by Council in August/September 2022. A resident action group has distributed flyers opposing the Planning Proposal.

## **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- Council's Response to Precinct's July 2022 Minutes

**Hiatus Between Meetings of Reference Groups** – Council's Manager, Council & Committee Services has advised that the April 2022 meeting was cancelled due to staff shortages affecting preparation of the agenda and conduct of the meeting. The Precinct Committee will be advised in due course of any additional meeting dates.

- **11 August 2022 Report by JH Precinct Chair of Wollstonecraft Precinct & attached Motion resolved unanimously by Wollstonecraft Precinct on the Weighting (Importance) of Precinct Submissions.**

**MOTION: Precinct supports the Wollstonecraft Motion**

***Motion Carried: 10 in favour, 1 abstention, 0 against***

- **Traffic Committee Meeting on 22 July 2022**
- ❖ Item 5.3 Pedestrian Safety – Traffic Accidents at Military Road & Young Street
- **Council Meeting on 25 July 2022**
- ❖ **Item 8.2** – Precinct System Review - Recommendations
- ❖ **Item 8.3** – Environment Reference Group Membership
- ❖ **Item 8.5** – Heritage Listing Holt Avenue Properties
- ❖ **Item 8.11** – Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 - 2026
- ❖ **Item 9.1** – Free 30 minute Parking in Parraween Street.
- **Council Meeting on 8 August 2022**
- ❖ **Item 8.6** – Community Education Officer Planning – Report by SB – Manager Development Services outlining how Council could better support community understanding of the planning process.
- **Combined Precinct Committee Meeting 16 August 2022**
- ❖ CPC Meeting Agenda
- **Council Memoranda**
- ❖ 20 July – 2022 LGNSW Annual Conference – Call for Proposed Motions/Issues
- ❖ 22 July – Online Precinct Committee Meetings
- ❖ 22 July – Precinct System Review Status – Progress Update
- ❖ 2 Aug – Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) – Stage 2 Engagement
- **12 July – Cremorne Shopping Area Streetscape Committee Minutes**
- Projects Update**
- ❖ **5.1** Cremorne Plaza & Langley Place upgrade is going ahead.  
Concept Designs to be done as quickly as possible, community consultation underway and Cremorne Plaza is a priority. This news met with approval.
- ❖ **5.2** Upgrade of Military Road and Macpherson Street intersection to commence.
- ❖ **5.4** Young Street Trial Plaza Neutral Bay – Mayor says no change since the last meeting. Council resolved to remove the plaza and open the road to traffic.
- ❖ **6.0** Parraween Street 15 minutes free parking to change to a 30 minutes trial.  
This news met with approval.

#### **DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS**

25 Montague Road      DA Plans  
1 Ellalong Road      DA Approved

## **25 Montague Road Cremorne 2090, DA 206/22**

**MOTION:** Precinct is of the view that the scale of the additional storey of this DA (lodged 13 July 2022) is visually obtrusive and a crude departure from the existing heritage streetscape. This is not in accordance with the provisions of the DCP. Precinct feels these concerns could be addressed if the scale were to be reduced and a more light-handed approach to the design adopted.

***Motion Carried: 13 in favour, 0 abstentions, 0 against***

**WH Brothers Park – Update from RL –** A meeting has taken place at Brothers Park concerning the refurbishment of the Memorial to the late WH Brothers. Sean Brothers (grandson of the late WH Brothers) is a builder and is keenly interested in the project. Discussions are ongoing and the matter is being prepared. There is another matter concerning the over pruning of trees in the Park; one resident has experienced loss of privacy due to the aggressive pruning.

- **Guest Speaker: DM – Council’s Manager Parks & Reserves**

### **Overview of North Sydney’s Urban Forest**

Urban Forest is an integral component of a healthy urban environment providing immense services & benefits to the community. Without urban vegetation, our city would be:

- much hotter
- energy consumption higher
- storm water levels much greater and
- our lives much more stressed
- urban forest is defined as the totality of trees and shrubs over 3m tall on all land (public & private)
- it is measured as a canopy cover percentage of the total area

### **Why is Urban Forest Important?**

- increases plant diversity
- absorbs carbon dioxide
- produces oxygen
- creates wind breaks
- captures air pollution
- supports wild life
- provides shade
- screens noise
- filters runoff & reduces soil erosion

### **North Sydney Tree Management Policies**

- The total street tree population is 17,200 and the annual maintenance cost is \$1.45m.
- Streets make up just 16% of the North Sydney land area.

### **North Sydney Street Tree Strategy**

- First edition 1996

- Updated several times, most recently 2016

### **North Sydney Urban Forest Strategy**

- First edition 2011
- Updated 2019

### **North Sydney Development Control Plan**

- Section 16 contains tree protection instruments

### **What Went Wrong from 2008 – 2020?**

There has been an overall canopy loss of 6.9% from 2008 (33.9%) to 2020 (27%)

Canopy cover on private land has been reduced by 9.2%, 31.6% in 2008 to 22.4% in 2020

Cover on suburban land has been reduced by 7.8%, 39.8% in 2008 to 32% in 2020

### **Reasons are many & varied:**

- Landscape fashion – paved outdoor ‘rooms’ pools, decks
- Urban consolidation / Developments (new Metro stations)
- Rural Fire Service Act 10/50 rule
- SEPP (infrastructure) 2007
- 2008 GFC Recovery Program
- Tree Protection Height 10m?
- School capacity upgrades

### **So Plant More Trees?**

There is a lack of space on public land – already at 50% cover. New trees take up to 30 years to reach maturity & give good canopy cover. North Sydney Council planted 1208 trees in 2019 including those planted by the Tree team & Bushcare.

### **Trees that are exempt from protection**

- trees that are dead (except if they are required as habitat for native animals)
- noxious weeds except where greater than 10m in height; eg Camphor laurel
- exempt species – African Olive, Bamboo, Box Elder, China Doll, Cocos Palms, Rubber Trees, Tree of Heaven, Umbrella Trees
- other exempt species **except if they are on land identified as a heritage item:** European Nettle or Hackberry, Indian Coral Tree, Privet species, Willow Trees. These species are protected on heritage sites regardless of their size as are Bangalow & Kentia Palms.
- trees growing inside a building, where there is a roof over the tree (e.g. within an atrium or internal garden bed)

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Financial Statement**

The Report detailing expenditure to 30 June 2022 was provided.

### **Promotion of Precinct**

Precinct discussed as to how it might promote itself, being as one of the recommendations of the Precinct System Review was for greater promotion among Precincts and given 2022 is the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Precinct System.

### **Young Street / Grasmere Road Roundabout**

**Precinct asks the Director of Engineering & Property Services how he is going with the reinstatement of the roundabout. DM said he would ask TfNSW to provide a design for a roundabout which is acceptable (Precinct Minutes 9 June 2022)**

Meeting closed at 9.54pm

Next meeting will be on Thursday 8 September 2022.

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