

**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**  
**CREMORNE SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF THE 88th MEETING**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 6:00PM**  
**IN THE ROS CRICHTON PAVILION, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**

**Present:** Councillor Baker Councillor Bourke and Councillor Santer.

Ulrick Funch, Cremorne Chamber of Commerce  
Fiona Gracie, Cremorne Conservation Group  
Ciaran De Bhaldraithe  
James Mullin, Resident  
Peter Ellis, Resident  
Chris Holding, Cremorne Conservation Group  
Chris Quinn, Exagym

**Council:** Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services  
Diana Mejia, Project Manager, Engineering Infrastructure  
Paul Yang, Project Manager, Engineering Infrastructure  
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

**1. Meeting opened** at 6.00pm with Councillor Baker in the chair

**2. Apologies:** M. De Solom

**3. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the 87th Meeting held on 12 July 2022 were adopted.

Moved by Ulrick Funch and Seconded by Councillor Welch.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Nil.

**5. Projects Update**

**5.1. Cremorne Plaza and Langley Place**

Council has engaged consultants to prepare concept designs for Cremorne Plaza. The Brief was distributed to this group a few months ago, it was quiet a comprehensive brief. There wasn't any feedback, so Council went out and got three different consultants to respond to the brief. Council have engaged Umbaco Landscape Architects that we haven't used before, but Council was very impressed with their response to our brief.

Council has engaged the consultants to look at three areas including Cremorne Plaza and a complete refreshing of Cremorne Plaza; Langley Place and a complete refreshing of and upgrading of Langley Place; and some opportunities for Gateway treatments into Cremorne, and how we can celebrate entering and leaving Cremorne as a suburb because Cremorne is the Gateway to North Sydney and it's an important Gateway, it's our northern gateway. It's currently got some elements that have been there for many years that just say, here you are in Cremorne.

The idea for the concept designs is to bring something to the Council meeting on the 12 December which is the last meeting of Council for the year. Hopefully a briefing to councillors will happen before the concepts are brought to Council. The concepts are in very rough format at present but are quiet exciting.

In terms of time frame it is expected that Council will adopt it, and then it will go on public exhibition in the new Year. The exhibition period would be a long period, it could be started this year and would be carried through the Christmas/New Year break. There would be a long period of consultation and come back in either February/March 2023.

## **5.2. Holt Avenue Upgrade**

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services advised that Council has done five intersection upgrades being Holt Avenue, Spencer Road, Cabramatta, Spofforth and McPherson Street was the last one which has just been completed. Those have all been completed where there has been a number of different treatments, everything from continuous footpath treatments to road narrowing at the intersections to make it safer and easier for pedestrians to cross, but also to slow traffic down before it comes in or off the Military Road corridor. In terms of traffic, they've all been landscaped and completed as of last week.

Chris Quinn mentioned that McPherson Street looks great and that he drives out of that intersection every day, and as a driver and also as a pedestrian it works so much better than it did before. It feels safer getting out onto Military Road as a motorist.

Chris Holding also advised that there is less concrete bollard which is good, and being painted white it's a bit clearer as your turn left as a motorist into there. It makes the pedestrian crossing safer as you are more aware something is going on there.

## **5.3 Parraween 30-Minute Trial**

The Parraween Street 30-Minute trial has started, and everyone was notified after the trial started last month. It's being monitored and the sensors are working. It's giving us the real time data of when cars are entering and exiting. We know exactly when how many cars go in and out, how many overstays there are. The Parking meter utilisation is now going back up, the last report received on this was that we

are heading back to where we were in 2018, which means the number of metered bays across our LGA are coming back to the same levels of usage they were in 2018, which is indicating that people are coming back and staying/visiting in our LGA longer. The parking meters and parking station are those indicators that let us know that, and parking meters particularly. This has coincided with people coming back to the villages. The capacity at our parking stations has gone right up to pre covid levels.

The trial is for 12 months and goes through to September 2023, and at the end of the trial a report will be brought to Council.

Chris Quinn advised that he had excellent feedback from a client stating how good it was being able to park longer.

## **6. Streetscape Committee Update**

Nil.

## **7. General Business**

### **Cremorne Plaza/Langley Place Update**

Chris Holding from the Cremorne Conservation Group advised that they went through the Cremorne Plaza/Langley Place update and that they did put in a submission regarding the phase before it was put into tender. It was mentioned that the main point for them was they are keen to see some of the concepts or images of the way the people will be appointed off the bridge to see the direction they are heading in. Potentially, as they had some ideas around division for that area as well as some images of the proposed site and how it would work and the articulation of it as there was talk of one being at Langley Place as well, echoing Military Road as the same thing as in Cremorne Plaza.

Chris also mentioned that it would be quite interesting to see where they are thinking from at this stage as it has been 6 months, even if they are vague ideas. Some of the other images in the brief were from previous attempts at it, and they were more disjointed as they had come from previous attempts and that this one be quiet a unified look.

Council Director Engineering and Property Services advised that they would like to try to brief the Council first on this, as the Councillors have to be the first people to see it before the community. The Council at that briefing will give us an idea as to whether they want to bring it to the 12 December Council meeting to go on exhibition or not.

The mayor advised that post the Councillor briefing, when the report becomes public it could be circulated to the committee.

Council's Project Manager advised that they will have a community engagement strategy and they will bring it to the floor.

*Ulrick Funch asked when the works are likely to be starting?*

Council Director Engineering and Property Services advised the exhibition will be from December 2022 to February/March 2023. He mentioned that after consultation we get the preferred concept designer around March 2023 that everyone agrees to after the exhibition period is over. Council will take that concept design in March to detail design documentation in April/May, and that it will commence this financial year.

There are two options they propose to put on exhibition, and then from that what people like from the two options. The options are a conversation starter and you then combine into a third option that we bring a report back to Council to say here is what everyone likes about the options.

The Mayor advised that there are two concepts that will go out to the community and that there will be a report back to council to adopt design principles or what options, and then inform the detailed design for tender and construction.

*It was asked what comments did Council receive from the owners of the properties on both sides of the plaza, and what influence did they have in the design at this stage?*

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services advised that we are about to go on exhibition and ask that question.

It was mentioned that there will be detailed consultation with the businesses.

*It was asked how long the project would take as this will affect the businesses.*

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services advised that the construction phase would take around 6 to 8 months, through until the end of 2023 and during that time Council has to maintain access for businesses. Council will do everything we can to make sure the businesses are open.

*It was asked is there any desire to encourage the landlords to look at doing something about consistent design and upgrade their shopfronts and restaurants?*

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services advised that it is hoped that the upgrade of the Plaza becomes an enabler as those buildings are 1980's maybe 1970's and don't do the plaza any favours for aesthetics. Council is hoping they could modernise the frontages, modernise possibly the buildings to reflect what you are going to see as a very refreshed vibrant plaza.

The Mayor advised that Council needs to do some character type master planning in any event in this precinct, not least because of the decision council took at its meeting which is to apply an interim heritage order and seek the listing of a number of those cottages. That is something that is already begun to be looked at by Council's Strategic Planners and it may need the Council, at the elected level, to say they have to be prioritised because there's a desire to have a vision for this area that has been discussed, but equally that vision has to be effective in the controls and there is a sense of urgency because of those actions on 23 properties.

*It was asked about the aesthetic of it, it is going to be modernised, and is it going to incorporate the older side of it, as it is an 80's style building and it goes along the side and continues down Military Road.*

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services advised that the area does have an art deco theme which is picked up in the elements that are used.

The Mayor advised that Council will very shortly have a vision for what is happening in the public domain, in the precinct, and on a very clear public exhibition that has to be informed, and what is happening elsewhere in Parraween Street.

Council's Project Manager advised that there are some actions outstanding that M. De Solom had raised that I will relay in her absence.

Langley Place poor state of the steps nearest Parraween Street.  
*Action: Council will repair these steps and make safe.*

Overgrowth in front of the Cremorne Mental health centre next to Weaver Park.  
*Action: Area maintained by others.*

TfNSW seems to be storing parts of their Tidal Flow barrier under the stairs on Hampden Ave.

*Action: The tidal flow barriers under SCECGS underbridge have been actioned by Transport for NSW and will be moved in a couple of days (as of 2 November 2022).*  
Telstra Exchange at the last committee meeting there was talk about the ugly fence.

*Action: Telstra have committed to replace that fence with a smarter black auto gate fencing that will really enhance the security of that site and stop the graffiti that keeps popping up by December 2022.*

8. Next Meeting: TBA.
9. Meeting closed at 6.45pm