

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL
CROWS NEST SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE 101st MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 5.30PM
IN THE FULLER ROOM, CROWS NEST CENTRE

Present: Councillor Baker in the chair. Councillor Santer

John Meadows, Resident
John Hancox, Wollstonecraft Precinct
Anthony Melinz, Crows Nest Mainstreet
Katy Ballard, Holtermann Precinct
JoEllen Henderson, Crows Nest Mainstreet
Vince Caruso, Crows Nest Mainstreet
Laura Tilsed, Holtermann Precinct

Council Staff:
Diana Mejia, Project Manager Engineering Infrastructure
Paul Yang, Project Manager Engineering Infrastructure
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

1. Meeting opened at 5.33pm

2. Apologies:

Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services, Denise Ward, Crows Nest Centre, Sue Wadley

3. Confirmation of Minutes of 100th Meeting held on Tuesday, 5 July 2022.

Moved by John Meadows and John Hancox

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

A Motion was moved by John Hancox and seconded by Katy Ballard,

1. That the Crows Nest Mainstreet Committee congratulates the directors of Crows Nest Mainstreet Limited on the successful organisation of the Crows Nest Festival on Sunday October 16, which was an outstanding success and well supported by the Public.

2. That the Crows Nest Mainstreet Committee also thanks the staff of North Sydney Council for their excellent efforts to prepare and improve the festival streetscape area, ready for the expected crowds.

5. Projects Update

5.1. Willoughby Road Streetscape Update

Council's Engineering Project Manager conducted a presentation to the committee on the overview of the area.

It was advised that one of the reasons for the Willoughby Road upgrade is that the area is rundown and that some of the items in the area are from the mid 90's and therefore need replacing.

It was also mentioned that there is a site walk happening outside Bravo Pizza Crows Nest at 4pm on Wednesday 2 November, which gives an opportunity to walk up Willoughby Road with the designers and to get an understanding of the two design options.

It is important to know that although there is Option 1 and Option 2, you are not committed to choosing option 1 or Option 2. This is an opportunity to take from both elements and coming up with a preferred design at the end stage.

Option 1 is a curvilinear design which is a more permanent design using a robust concrete as a seating edge and incorporating some benches like seating within the wall itself. There is less maintenance and there is no loss of outdoor dining with this option.

Option 2 is more of a modular design and the advantage of this is that it is more flexible, there is change in space if a shop owner was to lease two spaces, they can combine these modular plants and have a larger space. Also the modular pieces fit in between the dining terraces.

One of the big features of both designs is activation at night. The vision is that Council's leading investment is in the public domain, and the idea there is that Council can't force businesses to upgrade their shops but Council's role is to encourage investment and we are leading it through investment in the public domain. Part of that investment is lighting at night, that is where Council is trying to get that late night time economy going with a more inviting lighted space at night, that's part of the vision of this upgrade. There will be street lights along the terraces which will help people who might be visually impaired as well as lighting in the trees and improved street lighting.

Some of the materials will be rolling out the new materials that are already in Crows Nest and making a logical rollout of new materials down towards Coles up from near the Crows Nest Hotel in Burlington Street, these are all from the public domain style manual.

It was advised that consultation closes on Sunday 20 November so you can have your say up until this date. The designers are heavily invested in this program and that they have been on board with this area since 2014, with the Crow Nest Public Domain Masterplan.

5.2 Holtermann Street Carpark Re-development

The DA Design and documentation is to be completed by November 2022, and the plan is to lodge the DA in December 2022, but that lodgement will not happen before a Councillor briefing so that Councillors will have an opportunity to view the documentation.

It is estimated that the DA assessment will take around 5 months which will commence in January through to May 2023.

It was asked if those dates include having a business case presented in time for the Council meeting in December?

The Mayor advised that would be one of the things she will be asking in the Councillor briefing, as they might know her great concern about it is, there is \$18M from the State Government but most of the designs seems to be over the \$25M mark, and that relates to underground of carparking and other things. The Mayor is very determined that if it is a gift from the state government, then we work within that budget not additional funds.

It was asked how would you seek to have the proposal amended?

The Mayor stated that Council won't have lodged it, it's Council's DA so it's within our control. It would be really reckless to put in for something that you don't have the funds to complete.

We haven't seen the proposed design following the community consultation, and it may be that it's a design that says its \$15M to \$18M complete.

The grant from the state government or the (gift) was \$18M and if we want to do something beyond that then Council has to find the funds, and those funds won't be found without a grant because there is quiet an interesting conundrum ahead of us this year with the pool and the debt there. It's already taken \$3M out of this forward open space budget and this is an open space project. Whatever happens there will be a park there.

6. Strategic Planning Update

Council's Engineering Project Manager advised that there is currently consultation, that being the draft amendment of the North Sydney DCP, this involves St Leonards and Crows Nest and that the consultation for this closes on the 15 November.

The Mayor advised this is the Council seeking to apply some further controls to improve public domain, and articulation and setbacks of any towers that are proposed under the 2036 Plan.

7. Crows Nest Mainstreet (CNMS) Update

The Mainstreet advised that the festival was a success, and the Crows Nest Mainstreet wanted to say a big thank you to Council staff, it was a great team effort in achieving what we did this year. Anthony thanked JoEllen and said that she did an excellent job.

It was a really great day and a great turnout with a lot of family involvement. There were minor incidents where people suffered from heat stroke, but there was no rowdiness.

It was advised by the Mayor that the music was great at the end of Holtermann Street which made it a beautiful atmosphere.

It was suggested that maybe some sort of program letting people know what was happening would have been good, and that the children's nursery was in a good location this year due to the shade.

The Mainstreet advised that they have sent out emails asking for feedback on the festival and that due to privacy issues they don't have a complete database of everyone.

John Hancox asked about the maintenance of the area, that all the funds have been used over the two years to do this upgrade of the mainstreet (phase 2). Do we have enough funds for Council to continue doing the maintenance of the streetscape (stage 2) which will require some and the other part of it?

Council's Engineering Project Manager advised that the levy funds go into capital works and the maintenance that is done is mostly footpaths and landscaping works. Everything that council does comes from the maintenance budget, and that there is enough allowance to continue doing what has been done for the last couple of years.

It was advised that Council went two years without doing anything, was that a financial or a covid thing?

Council's Engineering Project Manager advised that regular maintenance has always been done and that there is more improvements to the sandstone walls and also additional works that come from feedback, this is sometimes done with the levy funds which is additional improvements apart from general maintenance.

It was advised that the walk around has identified quite a lot of work that needs to be done. Does Council have enough funds to do that for the two years as there will be nothing coming from the Mainstreet Levy?

Council's Engineering Project Manager advised that there is enough funds and that Council is looking after that. Things have been done in the last few months and Council can continue doing that progressively for the next two years.

It is anticipated that the construction works will begin before the end of this financial year, that being around April/May.

It was mentioned that the works program will overlap and coincide with the festival time for next year. The Mainstreet asked if they could work with Council to consider how they could do that without staging the works, and temporary removal of what can be removed.

The Mayor advised that we may have a better idea of what TfNSW are doing towards the end of next year. They may start to slowly open parts of the site.

JoEllen advised that at present they are working on the Christmas Carols with the Northside Church, and that they will be doing a combined event with Council and are working on putting a program together for that.

8. General Business

Laura advised that there are some businesses that are concerned with their umbrella containers out during the wet weather. They were finding the takeaway food wrappings and the drinks containers in them. This may change now due to the changes to rules about drinking containers.

North Sydney Council has had this long-standing policy for good reason not to have public bins everywhere as it does create problems in Crows Nest due to the number of restaurants and takeaway places. Bins were put in Ernest Place and they are very prominent as well, as near the bus stops in Burlington Street and this outlines what councils outstanding policy and why people bring all their household waste and dump it in the Council bins, in public places which has been a problem in the past.

Some business had advised Laura that in their Council area there is a notice on the bins saying that these bins are not to be used for household rubbish and that you can be fined.

It was stated that there needs to be a notice on council's website that is explaining the bins policy.

Council's Engineering Project Manager advised that they will look into this.

9. Next Meeting: TBA

10. Close Meeting

Meeting closed at 6.10pm