

WILLOUGHBY BAY PRECINCT
PART OF NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY PRECINCT
SYSTEM



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
THURSDAY 10th August 2023
COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

ATTENDANCE: 14 people attended the meeting
APOLOGIES: 4 were recorded
GUEST SPEAKER: Tim James MP, Shadow Minister for Fair Trading,
Work Health and Safety and Building,
Member for Willoughby

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration of the minutes for the 13th July 2023 meeting was deferred to the September meeting of Precinct.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Woolworths Rangers Road Planning Proposal PP 1/23

Chair reported that Council's Manager Strategic Planning has advised that the Department of Planning says it will hold the Rezoning Review at the end of this month or early next month and reminded Precinct members they can make a submission to: information@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Planning Proposal 4/23 183-185 Military Road (adjacent Woolworths Rangers Road)

Chair reported that Council's Manager Strategic Development has advised that Council has asked for further information from the Proponent. Precinct members who wish to lodge a submission on Planning Proposal 4/23 183-185 Military Road can send an email to Council at council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Pedestrian Safety – Gerard St/MacPherson St Intersection

See discussion with Guest Speaker.

Traffic Committee Meeting 21/4 – Item 5.1 - Young St / Grosvenor St roundabout (Memorandum 4 July 2023)

Submissions can be made online: yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/yscwsu or by email: yoursay@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Brothers Memorial Park

Chair reported a meeting was held on 20/7/23 at Brothers Park with Council's Streets Alive Coordinator (HG), Sean Brothers, Chair, RL, and PW attending. Meeting confirmed preferred details for refurbishment of the memorial consistent with Precinct's preferences. HG to draw up plans for comment by a heritage contractor and budget estimate. HG will be off work for some weeks which will delay finalisation.

RL reported construction of the new fence has stopped for unknown reasons. A Precinct member expressed concern for children's safety whilst the Park is a construction site.

RL noted that planting of replacement plants and mulching has been carried out by Precinct members working with Streets Alive. RL thanks those Precinct members for their continued efforts on 9/8/23.

Precinct asks: When will the work on the fence resume?

Walkway between Ellalong Road and Fernhurst Avenue

In the Council's SOA for June, Council's Works Manager recommended that residents contact the 'Streets Alive' program to get advice and assistance on tidying up gardens that are in community shared zones. PM to follow up with Fernhurst Avenue residents.

Neutral Bay Alive Community Consultation Group

First meeting was held 25 July 2023. PM confirmed as Chair. Council is expecting Coles to lodge a DA shortly and the DA may be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next NBA meeting scheduled for 22 August 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. Council Summary of Actions Arising 2023

- Council's Response to Precinct's July 2023 Minutes

1c	<p>Brothers Park - Precinct Chair and Correspondence Secretary made a submission to Council seeking pruning of the cypress pine and planting of a native garden. Council's Supervisor Parks and Gardens has advised Parks and Gardens do not have the resources for establishing and maintaining a native garden. Regarding concerns of water runoff, he said he has not seen evidence of erosion of the embankment but perhaps the drainage channel at the bottom of the embankment needs cleaning out. A meeting on site will be held next week. RL has spoken with Bushcare and they have suggested, and RL also likes, Myoporum parviflorum which gives good ground cover and is maintenance free. RL is proposing another gardening bee (the last 3 called off due to bad weather) for 9am Tuesday 14 March.</p>	<p>UPDATE (12 July 2023) Council's Supervisor Parks and Gardens has advised that all agreed and proposed works by the Parks and Gardens team have been completed, though maintenance of Council's works will be ongoing moving forward.</p> <p>Council's Supervisor Parks & Gardens has advised that works clearing and treating weeds along and at the bottom of the steep slope (Northern end) has been completed. Works pertaining to the creation of an attempted "buffer" garden are in the pipeline and will be executed over the coming months.</p>	Closed for Council
1e	<p>Cremorne Plaza and Langley Place Upgrades: Revised Concept Designs - Correspondence Secretary made a presentation regarding the Site Walkthrough 8 March 2023. Motion 1: THAT Precinct fully supports Langley Place Upgrade - Option 2 at the Siborg (Parraween Street) end and Option 1 at the Military Road end. Motion carried: 14 in favour, 0 abstentions, 0 against Motion 2: 1. THAT Precinct has a slight preference with the Cremorne Plaza Upgrade for Option 2. 2. THAT Precinct is concerned that the temporary shade structures with wind/rain blinds ("tents") erected by business lessees will seriously detract from the proposed upgrade and urges Council to approach the relevant businesses to seek a contribution towards replacing the tents with permanent structures designed to complement the upgrade. Motion carried: 14 in favour, 0 abstentions, 0</p>	<p>UPDATE (18 July 2023) Council's Project Manager has advised that the consultation outcomes are under internal review, a consultant will be briefed on the outcomes to provide a preferred concept incorporating community feedback. The preferred design concept will be presented to Council in September 2023.</p> <p>UPDATE (13 April 2023) Council's Engineering Project Manager has advised that Precinct submission will be included in the consultation outcome report, expected mid-2023.</p>	Closed for Council

2. Development Applications

- 14 Richmond Avenue – alterations and additions including swimming pool
- 21 Wonga Rd – reconstruction of fire-damaged garage

3. Traffic Committee Meeting (21/7)

- Nil matters

4. Council Meeting (24/7)

- Item MM – Western Harbour Tunnel Modification Report – Council submission

5. Council Meeting (14/8)

- Item 10.2 – Planning Proposal 5/23: 115-125 Holt Ave Cremorne
Report by Council Officers recommending the Planning Proposal for local heritage listing of six cottages in Holt Avenue proceed to the Department of Planning for Gateway Approval.

Precinct authorises Chair to write to Councillors supporting the recommendation.

- Item 10.3 – Changes to Precinct Committees
Report to Council recommending approval of name change of Registry precinct to Anzac Park Precinct and merger of Harrison and Bennett Precincts to be called Harrison-Bennett Precinct.

6. CPC Meeting (15/8)

- CPC Agenda 15/8. Guest speaker: Council's Director Corporate Support.
Chair and PM to attend.

7. Council Memos

- 17 Jul – New Precinct Logo Draft Concepts
Precinct members reviewed the draft concepts. A collation of the responses is attached. The overwhelming majority of Precinct members would prefer to stay with the current logo. Only one Precinct member preferred another option, being Option 5. Five Precinct members indicated their preference on a logo version. All preferred Option A “North Sydney Precincts”.
- 19 Jul – Young & Grosvenor St Intersection Community Consultation
- 24 Jul – The Voice to Parliament Independent Theatre (10/8/23)
- 31 Jul – Western Harbour Tunnel Modification Report Public Exhibition
- 3 Aug – Precinct AGM Procedures
- 3 Aug – 23/24 Precinct Operational Funding
- 4 Aug – Precinct Admin Feedback
PM to organise response to survey.

GUEST SPEAKER – TIM JAMES MP, SHADOW MINISTER FOR FAIR TRADING, WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AND BUILDING, MEMBER FOR WILLOUGHBY

Tim introduced himself, saying he has a strong connection with this part of North Sydney having lived on Gerard Street for some years. He and his family know the area well. They enjoy the local parks and having pizza at Fratelli's. Tim then addressed a number of 'questions on notice' – Young Street Plaza, Gerard St / Macpherson St pedestrian crossing, heritage conservation, Beaches Link Tunnel / Warringah Freeway Upgrade / Western Harbour Tunnel projects, and over-development, answering questions from Precinct members as they arose.

Young Street Plaza, where Young Street meets Military Road, cuts across both State and local government jurisdictions. The previous State government offered North Sydney Council approximately \$2.0m to create a public square which would improve road safety, in particular for the B-line bus network which is in the public interest. A trial period commenced. There is an opportunity to make a more permanent plaza, a more green and attractive functional open space.

Q: If the Plaza is removed, do the funds have to be returned to the State government? Can funds be spent to return the plaza back to the original Young Street roadway?

A: North Sydney Council has jurisdiction over Young Street, the State Government has jurisdiction over Military Road which is responsible for safe and effective traffic flows for both vehicles and pedestrians along Military Road. Because of COVID the previous government thought that an open air plaza would be a good idea for people to come together. At the present time there is an impasse over Young Street Plaza.

Gerard St / Macpherson St Crossing – Tim supports traffic lights. He made representations to the former Minister for Main Roads but TfNSW did not at that time support traffic lights. One reason is there are traffic lights on the intersection of Gerard St / Benelong Road – approximately 100 metres further on down Gerard Street. TfNSW would look at other measures.

Q. Chair reported that Council's Manager Transport and Traffic Operations has advised that traffic lights are the appropriate solution, and he has contacted TfNSW to commence pushing for lights. He believes that the support of our local Member of Parliament would be most important. Will Tim help?

A. Very happy to help, including attending meetings with Council Officers and the Mayor as required.

Heritage Conservation – Tim supports heritage conservation and is 100% behind the Cremorne Orpheum's State heritage listing which is currently progressing. Not all landowners support having their property heritage-listed and this can lead to conflicts.

Beaches Link Tunnel – the new State Government has cancelled the Beaches Link Tunnel project as they promised before this year's election. The Government needs to suggest a suitable alternative to Beaches Link, not just cut infrastructure investment to this part of Sydney.

The Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade projects are continuing and will deliver tangible improvements once complete, but it's vital we get these projects right and working for us locally. Benefits will include a dedicated bus lane and reorganisation of lanes so that merging and lane-crossing is avoided.

The Cammeray Golf Club has reopened but has lost about 40% of the green space it formerly occupied. However, 1.8 hectares will be returned to the community. Tim has been pushing for public consultation so that the community can see the vision for this site. The consultation will start in the third quarter of this year. The facility building associated with the motorway, housing equipment, fans etc., could be integrated into the landscape where there is a 12 metre drop below Ernest Street.

Q: Realistically, will the facility building actually be integrated into the landscape if this is not already a condition of the project?

A. The government can set additional terms. The project is changing and evolving and improving. Last year in respect to the Western Harbour Tunnel a significant improvement in tunnelling technology was approved. This means the tunnel will be fully underneath Sydney Harbour and the harbour floor and sediment won't be disturbed.

Q: Is there an opportunity for the Ernest Street ramp to provide access to the Sydney Harbour Bridge?

A. Tim's view is there should be no lowering of access to the bridge for people in Willoughby Bay.

Q: What about filtration of stacks for the Western Harbour Tunnel?

A. Tim is pushing for stacks in the tunnel to be filtered. But there is no tunnel in Sydney which has filtration.

Tim talked about development. Sydney is a global city with approximately 6.0m people. The key to development is to invest in infrastructure and to demonstrate to the community a public good. The main areas in Willoughby where densification is taking place are Chatswood, St Leonards and Crows Nest. The reason for this is that there are rail and Metro stops in this area.

Q: What about Neutral Bay development? Does he have a view on the Coles site redevelopment?

A: There is room for some higher density as it is on a bus corridor. As an MP, he doesn't have a role in the approval process. Noone has sought to engage him on the Coles proposal and he is unaware of what is proposed.

Q: With homelessness, particularly for older women, a growing problem, including in our area, what is the State Government doing on this issue?

A. Agrees the problem is growing and more needs to be done. Noted that new development in Willoughby will set aside 10% of that development for affordable housing.

Q. What is happening about getting an outlet for soft plastics recycling?

A. Tim said he will check this – definitely on the agenda for State and federal governments.

Precinct thanked Tim for attending the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Labels for General Waste, Recycling & Green Bins

RL took orders for replacement labels from Precinct Members.

Conciliation Conference for 124 Benelong Road Cremorne

Conference will be held at 9.30am Friday 11 August at the above address. Precinct members can attend to reinforce that residents reject gross overdevelopment of Cremorne.

Meeting closed at 9.26pm

Next meeting will be on Thursday 14 September 2023

Council Contact Details:

Phone: 9936 8100

Fax: 9936 8177

Ranger Services 9936 8100

WEB: www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Attachment - Precinct System Logo

Precinct members were given a sheet with logos to mark up their preferences and comments. The reverse side showed the three versions of the Option 2 concept.



Results

Attendee	Existing	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	A/B/C
1	1	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
2	1+	6	6	6	6	6	6	A
3	1	6	6	6	6	6	6	A
4	1	6	6	6	6	6	6	-
5						1		-
6	1	6	6	6	6	6	6	-
7 (1)	4	1	5	2	3	6	4	-
8	1	No	No	No	No	No	No	-
9	1		2			6		A
10	1							
11	1	"Don't like any of these"						A
12	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	A
13	1		2			6		-
Guest	1			2		6		A

(1) Comments: Existing "Status Quo Fine", Option 1 "Folk together OK", Option 2 "Mollusc", Option 3 "OK", Option 4 "Kindy geometry", Option 5 "Alien", Option 6 "Industrial"