

**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**

**NEUTRAL BAY SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE 160<sup>th</sup> MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, 22 August 2023 AT 5.30 PM IN THE  
ROS CRICHTON PAVILION, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Present:** Councillor Santer in the Chair

Rick Doran, Co- President Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce  
Richard O’Grady, Co- President Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce  
Nicole Robertson, Concept Events  
Samantha Carroll, Colliers International (remote)  
Christina De Polinsky, Resident

Council:

Gary Parsons, Director Open Space and Infrastructure  
Diana Mejia, Project Manager, Engineering Infrastructure  
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

**1. Meeting opened** at 5.30pm, with Councillor Santer in the chair.

**2. Apologies**

The Mayor, Councillor Zoe Baker

**3. Confirmation of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the 159th Meeting held on 4 February 2023 were adopted.

Moved by Richard O’Grady and seconded Nicole Robertson.

Voting was unanimous.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

Nil.

## 5. Projects Update

### 5.1 Streetscape upgrades for Neutral Bay

#### Footpath Upgrades –Wycombe Road



The upgrade paving works on both sides of Wycombe Road are now 50% complete and will also include new street furniture, and beautification of outdoor dining areas.

#### Upcoming Works:

Night works for paving only will commence on Tuesday, 22 August 2023 and will continue through until Thursday, 24 August 2023. This will be outside both Lime drycleaners and Cornhill Café.

Works will be completed in the first week of September 2023.

Council has been liaising with the businesses to minimise the impact on trading, providing constant access to those businesses for the customers.



Streetscape upgrade corner Wycombe Rd and Yeo St outside no. 144



Streetscape upgrade corner Wycombe Rd and Military Rd looking north outside no. 148



Streetscape upgrade near corner Wycombe Rd and Military Rd looking north



Streetscape upgrade outside 161 Wycombe Road looking north.

### **Early Site investigations – Cheal Lane**

Council have been asked to look at the Concept ideas for Cheal Lane and are planning to take early community engagement at the beginning of the next calendar year, and we are hoping we can align the proposal in Cheal Lane with the findings on the final recommendations of the new Neutral Bay Town Centre Planning Study.

Council have been asked to review and propose concept ideas for Cheal Lane beautification. The plan is to initiate early community engagement in the next calendar year. The project goal is to align the Cheal Lane proposal with the final recommendations from the new Neutral Bay Town Centre Planning Study. Council's planners and project managers are collaborating to develop a concept that suits the long-term plans for the village. The objective is to beautify the area, creating a similar space to Grosvenor Lane. It is important to note that the northern side of Cheal Lane is mixed-use, allowing for business activities, however, the southern side of Cheal Lane is residential only, with no commercial activation possible in that area.

It was advised that residents have been saying that it is too dark in Cheal Lane at night, so the street lighting needs to be looked at and be consistent with lighting in other areas, which would increase security for shoppers and shop keepers in the area.

Council's Project Manager stated that the lighting will be a part of the concepts.

### **The Neutral Bay Town Centre Planning Study (NBTCP)**

Council's Strategic Planning team is working on the draft Planning Study for The Neutral Bay Town Centre. Public exhibition on the draft document is planned for later this year and it is estimated that the final planning study will be ready to go up to Council for consideration in March/April 2024.

To access this project's information and progress visit HAVE YOUR SAY webpage, link below:  
<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/nbtcps>

## 6 Chamber of Commerce

### 6.1 Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Update

Nicole Robertson from the Chamber of Commerce advised that the banner poles have been fixed in the gateway area and the first thing they will be utilised for is the AFL Sydney Swans, and then the Neutral Bay 'shop local' banners which will stay up until December when the Christmas banners will then be put up.

*Rick Doran from the Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce asked how Young Street was going?*

The Deputy Mayor advised that Council would continue to lobby the Minister and the Department, and that they are trying to get an audience with the new government to continue the funding.

*Rick Doran asked if Young Street would continue as is, as a plaza?*

The Deputy Mayor advised it would be a modified plaza.

Rick Doran stated that when it is finished off if it can be used for events like farmers markets and kids displays etc as when they did their research every suburb on the North Shore used its main road closed off, Cremorne has Cremorne Plaza, Cammeray has Cammeraygal Place, Chatswood has the mall. Suburbs have their streets closed off from traffic so pedestrians can go through with safety as security is a big factor so that shoppers can walk around with a bit more comfort and the cosmopolitan feel as we don't want cars going through our number one retail street in the suburb.

*Nicole Robertson asked if a representative had been chosen for the Neutral Bay Alive Group?*

Council's Project Manager advised that it's on the way, but she would take that request on notice and get back to Nicole with information on what is happening with that group.

After the meeting Council's Project Manager sent an email to Nicole clarifying the status and selection process of the Neutral Bay Alive Group. Summary of the process below:

*The Expression of Interest (EOI) process closed on June 12, 2023, with a total of 25 applications. Five applications were incomplete and/or did not meet the selection criteria, leaving 20 applicants - 12 female and 8 male applicants. The selection process aimed for balanced gender representation and to ensure fairness, a random selection was conducted in Council (Names were randomly selected from two separate boxes), selecting 6 women and 4 men. All applicants were notified by email on 7 July 2023, and the group's first meeting occurred on July 25, 2023.*

*It was asked if Council had been in contact with the Neutral Bay Community Centre in regard to some space for the chamber to hold meetings?*

Nicole Robertson mentioned that she did contact the centre and was told that they were very heavily booked for the times they were wanting to use the centre.

They advised the Chamber are looking for a space in the centre around 20 metres to put tables and chairs and also somewhere they could have their executive meetings.

Council's Director Open Space and Infrastructure advised it will be look into to see what can be sourced.

## **7. General Business**

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

*Councillor Santer asked what was happening with Cremorne Plaza/Langley Place.*

Council's Project Manager advised that the consultant is currently working on the design, following initial community consultation that concluded in April 2023. Consultants are in the process of developing a preferred option. An internal review, workshops, and briefings with Councillors will be held to ensure the best project outcome. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that construction will take place this year, but the detailed design will be prepared so that the project is ready for construction when funding becomes available.

The Committee have asked for an additional meeting to be held before the end of the year. They also requested there be three to four meetings held in 2024.

**8. Next meeting:** TBC

**9. Close meeting:**

Meeting finished at 6:00pm