



Parks Precinct Meeting
Wednesday March 20th 2024
Commenced 7:04pm (online via Teams)

Parks Precinct Meeting Minutes. March 20, 2024

1. Attendance and apologies.

11 Attendees and one apology as per the attendance sheet.

Visitor: Cr. Zoë Baker.

2. Confirmation of February Minutes

Moved BB, Seconded RF, passed unanimously.

3. Guest speaker: Councillor Zoë Baker, Mayor of North Sydney.

The Mayor was asked to comment on the following:

A. North Sydney Pool.

- Due for practical completion Dec 2024, estimated cost now \$100M (almost double the original budget). Council's CEO is delegated to negotiate Deed of Settlement with Builder.
- Additional funds needed will come from Capital Reserves, Capital Projects will be deferred, \$20m will be borrowed. There will be community consultation to determine which of the current council commitments will be reprioritised.
- Structural steel has failed and responsibility is yet to be determined.
- History of the Project. Three councillors (including Cr Baker) voted against the scope of the project during the previous Council initially, and as variations and costs increased.

Construct only contract was awarded before design was complete.

Independent Review in 2023 by PwC noted failure of governance and oversight of the project by the previous Council.

Mayor suggested that state governments should provide specialised advice and guidelines for capital works projects similar scale.

LP was critical of the failure of oversight by the Office of Local Government over the project.

B. Coles' proposal, Grosvenor Lane and Neutral Bay Planning Study.

NBPS will be on public exhibition until April 2. Residents are encouraged to comment.

Mayor recommended Power Point Presentation by Brightmore Precinct.

Coles DA is being amended. Independent assessor will assess it.

Woolworths Rangers' Rd, is being resubmitted with a reduced height, there will be further public exhibition. The assessment will be by Sydney North Planning Panel. NSC can only make a submission to the panel and has no role in the approval process.

ES raised the issue of a Precinct submission, the chair responded that given our next meeting would be after the deadline had passed, that would not be feasible and all residents should take the opportunity to access the information and make a submission.

C. Housing reforms "Transport Oriented Development"

One size fits all!

Recording of information session by Manager Strategic Planning is available from the council website.

- i. Planning for density around metro. Eight Precincts near Crows' Nest involved. Concerns have already been raised about the availability of water and sewerage infrastructure with Sydney Water having previously advised it could not meet the requirements outlined in the existing Master Plan.
- ii. The plan covers low to mid rise housing in R2 (low density) from Newcastle to Wollongong. Terraces, Manor homes, and two storey heights will have a height amendment to 9.5m allowing for up to 3 storeys property within 400m from Railway Station or Town Centre will be allowed up to 6 storeys.

North Sydney is the third most dense Council area in the state. We are desperately short of Green Space. The revised planning targets are now for 19, 500 additional residents by 2036.

Closing remarks:

Young Street likely to have one lane south. Council has been given money promised for plaza. Residents are encouraged to comment when it comes out for review.

Between May and June residents will be invited to comment on a number of studies (including Open Space and Recreation, Arts and Culture). These will provide vision and priorities for the next ten years.

4. New DAs under consideration -Nil

5. General Business

Concern expressed at the two sightings of a red fox in Earle St., Cremorne.

Precinct asks that the Primrose Reserve be monitored and that appropriate measures be taken to safeguard wildlife.

6. Next Meeting Wednesday 17th April 2024, 7pm